

My side of the controversy with EIPOA Units 4,5,6 lack of funding for 2019-Alice Anastasi

In 2017 I was elected President of the Parkway Association and the board members that came together at that time were tired of the horrible fighting for total funding from Units 1 & 2 that went on for 4 years. The new Parkway group included Lewis Stogner, Tom Komisak, Fred Nelson, Mike Booth, Linda Garcia, Barb MacIntosh, Bill Rowell, Frank Collins and Rob Holborn.

One of the first votes taken by this board was to take the monies designated for well, pump repair and replacement out of the Operating Account and set up a separate account named Irrigation Fund. That account was voted to be capped at \$13,000 and currently there is \$9,887. It was voted at the April 2019 Parkway meeting to postpone further funding of the account to complete the payments of the entrance renovation project.

From 2014-2017 not much was accomplished on the Parkway due to the lack of full funding with the exception of replacing the landscape vendor with Jeff Gible of Bayview Lawn and Landscape. He does an excellent job of making sure the shrub beds are edged on the interior as well as edging the entire ½ mile of grass along the roadway. The landscaping has been meticulously maintained since 2014. People forget what a mess it was prior to Jeff coming onboard. Those who are new to the neighborhood since that time didn't witness the mess he had to clean up.

My husband and I started volunteering on the Parkway when I joined the board in 2014. The landscaping was established but we felt it lacked color at the intersections and we could purchase annuals for a low cost and add that pop of color at the intersections. Through trial and error and extreme hot and cold, we have found that Vinca or Periwinkle are the longest lasting flowers. We added Dusty Miller (the silver colored plants) for a contrast with a few petunias in early fall for even more color. We experimented with Coleus in the fall but those die with the first cold snap. My husband checks the sprinklers in between the bi-monthly contract with Lang Irrigation to ensure proper watering. This is all on a voluntary basis.

The trees and shrubs are professionally trimmed in March and the hedges are maintained monthly by Jeff Gible. Jeff also does weed control according to his contract and my husband, Gene sprays in between. The weeds grow faster than they are sprayed in the summer months. Those who don't live here in the hot summer season, have no idea of the plant and weed growth. The grass areas and shrubs are fertilized twice a year under Jeff's contract. The shrubs bloom regularly now that they are fertilized properly. My husband and I have been accused of being dishonest regarding our work on the Parkway. I can't imagine how anyone would think us dishonest for caring about our community and showing it by the work that is clearly visible to everyone who drives along the median called Englewood Isles Parkway.

The cost to maintain the Parkway is \$41,000 per year but is divided by 700 homes which works out to \$59 per year or \$4.92 monthly!! It's true that the median called The Parkway is owned by Sarasota County but what an asset they and the residents of Englewood Isles have. We who choose to live in Englewood Isles can turn the corner off 776 and drive down the driveway to our homes with flowers and color and the feeling of being alive for \$4.92 per month.

Please fight to keep our little piece of beauty in an ugly world!!

Alice Anastasi

May 8, 2019

