

Surfside POA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM – 4:26 PM

Location: Villa Corina

Attendees: Arturo S, Sarah C, Jeff M, Jeff G, John M, Paul G, Mark W, Melanie W

Absent: Charles R

1. Call to Order

- Arturo called the meeting at **3:06 PM**

2. Reports

Financials

- Sarah to be added to the bank account as Treasurer.
- John's last financial report, departed at 3:38 pm.
- Financial Overview:
 - Current balance: **\$30,000**
 - Expected new memberships: **30-40 more in the next month**
 - Annual bingo: **\$3,500**
 - With donations, projected total funds: **\$43,000**
 - Monthly expenses: **\$1,700 (approx. \$24,000 per year)**
 - Available for community projects: **\$19,000** (road repairs, community initiatives, etc.)
- Membership Status:
 - **117 members**, expecting **30-40 more**.
 - **19 business members**, potential for more.

Membership & Marketing

- **Membership Updates:**
 - Businesses that have not paid their dues have been removed from POA chat.
 - 40 unpaid members will be removed from the POA chat by February 15.
 - Efforts to engage property managers to encourage renewals with their clients.
 - Efforts to encourage businesses in plaza where Nita Coffee is, the new commercial spaces across the street from there and on the main road.

- **Outreach & Promotion Ideas:**
 - Flyers for other WhatsApp groups (e.g., Guanacaste Women's Chat, etc).
 - Poster for ASADA office to encourage sign-ups.
 - Reorganizing and cleaning up the bulletin board at Merkdo for POA info.
 - Property Managers targeted for outreach (Jeff has a list).
 - Jesus & Marta will distribute POA membership packages to non-member properties and businesses.
- **Website & Social Media:**
 - Plan to upload PDFs (membership guidelines, meeting minutes, etc.) to the website instead of sending as attachments.
 - When sharing information in chats, links to the website will be used.
 - Increasing engagement by encouraging members to submit photos for social media growth.

Infrastructure & Maintenance

- **Signage & Road Repairs:**
 - Outdated POA signs (2022-2023) to be removed and reused for new members.
 - Welcome to Surfside sign near Paseo Surfside and Av. Seis is faded—Jesus & Marta will replace it.
 - Pave entrance of road beside new commercial building.
- **Road & Drainage Issues:**
 - Calle Coco—boulders dumped there could be reused or stored at the ASADA property.
 - Road grading needed before the rainy season—Arturo & Jeff G to determine priority roads.
 - Roads identified for grading: Tres, Mango, Mariposa, Aguacate.
 - Marta to provide an itinerary of ASADA's pipeline work—POA will avoid grading roads where work is ongoing.
 - Calle Piña culvert needs to be fixed, Jesus getting quotes.
 - Playa Central flooding issue—needs drainage solutions.
 - Playa Sur issues—garbage accumulation and drainage problems.
 - Municipality involvement: Arturo to meet with the mayor to discuss how POA can assist with municipal responsibilities, including road maintenance and beach access repairs.

Community Issues & Initiatives

- **Beach Access Maintenance & Safety:**
 - Repairs needed for multiple beach access points, including:
 - Calle Quetzal entrance.
 - Access between the condos off Calle Playa Central.

- Entrance beside the Sailing Center.
 - Plans to add lights, stone paths, and safety improvements.
 - POA to take a more proactive role in improving and maintaining beach access.
- **Illegal Dumping & Burning at beach entrance on Calle Quetzal (Casa Taj):**
 - Workers have been dumping garbage at the beach entrance and burning it.
 - Arturo has spoken with the property manager, who is trying to address the issue.
 - A large fire required the fire department to intervene—if the problem continues, authorities will be involved.
- **Police Station Proposal:**
 - Funding is available to build the police station—the key issue is securing land.
 - A proposed location: Calle Naranja
 - A donation would be ideal, but if not possible, fundraising may be needed.
 - A property is available for purchase for \$90,000 on Calle Naranja.
 - Las Catalinas meeting completed—goal is to involve them in the project, as they will also benefit.
- **Stop Sign Issue across from Perlas:**
 - Concerns about safety at this intersection were discussed.
 - While dangerous, luckily there have not been many accidents.
 - The stop sign is on a national road, not under municipal control.
 - If the proposed 50-bed hospital is built across from La Forketta, a traffic light is expected.
- **Environmental Conservation Tips:**
 - POA will share weekly conservation tips in partnership with ASADA (e.g., checking for leaks, planting local trees, water conservation strategies).
 - Marta has existing educational materials that need to be translated and turned into flyers.
 - These tips will be shared via social media and WhatsApp.

3. New Business

Maintenance & Municipal Relations

- General maintenance needed rather than major replacements.
- Municipality is in a difficult position with large-scale problems.
- Arturo to meet with the mayor to offer POA's help where needed.

Community Events & Safety

- **Mardi Gras Parade & Safety:**
 - Police will be involved to **monitor and ensure safety**.
 - POA invited to meetings with event organizers.
- **Bingo Fundraiser:**
 - Originally planned for **March 29**—may need to move to **April 5** due to a potential conflict with another fundraiser.
 - No announcement yet, until we see how things go.

ASADA Collaboration

- Agreement with ASADA to share conservation information with the community.
- Marta has valuable info that needs to be translated and shared.
- Looking for volunteers to help create materials—Sarah may assist.

4. Action Items & Follow-Ups

- Confirm details on potential police station land donation.
- Verify ASADA conservation materials for translation and sharing with POA.
- Finalize road grading schedule based on ASADA's pipeline work.
- Improve social media and website traffic.
- Sign up new members

5. Adjournment

- Meeting ended at **4:26 PM**
- **Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

Prepared by: Melanie Winnicki
Secretary, Surfside POA