PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OCTOBER 24, 2020

PENSACOLA BEACH ADVOCATES SET AGENDA FOR 2021

PENSACOLA BEACH, FLORIDA - The Pensacola Beach Advocates held their annual meeting a little over a week ago. In addition to summing up their achievements from last year, they surveyed their members and elected a new board of directors. Rhonda Dorfman will serve as President and Glenn Windham continues as Treasurer and board member. Newly elected board members Jack Womack will serve as Vice-President, Bill Ray as Secretary and Lynn Castel as Director at Large. Terry Preston will serve as Chair of Unregulated Real Estate and Development, Liz Hewson will Chair Spring Break and Jaimie Crittenden will Chair Traffic and Parking.

Hot topics like parking and traffic, food trucks, Hurricane evacuation policies, Bahamas Rock and follow up on the Rights of Way citations were some of the items discussed. The main grievance 80% of the attendees had were concerns about living next to short term rentals and the problems that stem from them. In addition to the noise, trash and parking problems questions were asked of SRIA Representative Thomas Campanella, and District 4 Commissioner Robert Bender as to why SRIA does not enforce provisions that they have jurisdiction over, and why they allow the construction of "mega homes" or hometels that are clearly intended for commercial use only. Many zoning, land use, and enforcement questions arose and residents stressed that they were tired of complaining with nothing to show for it by way of enforcement or change.

"This is the main reason PBA created the 'unregulated real estate and development committee'," Rhonda Dorfman stated. "There are over 3000 register voters on Pensacola Beach. We deserve the same quality of life in our neighborhoods that other Escambia residents receive. We do not understand how a commercial operation can be allowed to operate in a neighborhood zoned residential." Our board will be engaging our elected officials and enforcement agencies to try and rectify these and other problems. We thank Commissioner Bender for listening to us on our traffic problems and look forward to working with him on these other items.

Engagement is another goal for PBA this year. We are looking to engage more residents through our Street Rep Committee and are asking members to speak out in your neighborhood and in your condo association. You can contact Rhonda Dorfman for more information on how to represent YOUR street or HOA in PBA. We want those 3000 registered voters on Pensacola Beach to join our organization and to speak out with us as issues arise. Members should look for more communication from the PBA board on what is coming up at both SRIA and the Board of County Commissioners meetings.