


Memo

Tara Master Association Communications Committee

To: Members-Lynne Hudson (Chair), Jeanie Benson, Karen LeBarre, Carolyn Primus, John Schmidt, Sally Shuford, Susan Spielberg

From: Carolyn Primus, secretary 

cc: Andy Cotsanas, Tony Greising, Lee Ann Hall

Date: November 13, 2011

Re: Minutes from the Meeting held November 7, 2011 @ the Preserve Community Center

Attachments: Comcast info

The 2011-2012 Communications Committee had its second meeting on November 7, 2011, 3:30 to 5:10 PM.

- I. TMA Members speaking for 3 minutes on any agenda item before the meeting: none
- II. Attendees:
 - Members: Lynne Hudson (Chair), Jeanie Benson, Karen LeBarre, Carolyn Primus, Sally Shuford, Susan Spielberg
 - Board Liaison: Andy Cotsanas
 - TMA Staff: Tony Greising, LeeAnn Hall
 - Guests: Beth Bond, Rod Tait, Nancy Breo, Bob Dellasandro
 - Absent: John Schmidt
- III. Minutes Approval: Motions to approve the 10/3/11 and 10/11/11 meeting minutes were made by Susan Spielberg and seconded. Both were approved by consensus.
- IV. Chair's remarks: Pertinent information that was relayed by the Chair is listed below for its impact on the committee activities.
 - The TMA Board of Directors approved posting committee meeting minutes on the TMA website.
 - The TMA Board did not approve our recommendation for an evening annual meeting.
 - Lynne has worked with the webmaster to update the TMA website, a duty for which he is paid quarterly.
 - The Preserve residents' directory can be issued in January, along with the TGCC directory. The Preserve directory will include both alphabetical and street listings, as well as a map of the community. Due to changes in FL statues, signed releases are required now to include phone numbers and alternative addresses.

These forms were mailed to all residents and are being returned to the TGCC office. The release form has also been distributed via Friends of TMA and can be downloaded from the website.

- Tony Greising added that with permission slips are being sent to the 152 unaffiliated Tara residents (non TGCC members not living in the Preserve), for their inclusion in the TGCC directory. Whether the names will be interspersed or separate has not been determined by TGCC. He noted that both directories (TGCC & Preserve) are under the purview of the TMA.
 - A special committee meeting may be called for the website discussion.
 - Comcast information from Tony will be posted on the website with the addition of a customer service representative. Final info attached.
 - A ¼ page of the forthcoming Preserve CDD newsletter is available for TMA news. Submissions are due in less than 2 weeks.
 - A motion was made by Sally Shuford and seconded: A subcommittee of Preserve residents will be responsible for creation of the Preserve residents' directory and the TGCC Communications Committee will manage the publication of the TGCC directory. After discussion, the motion failed in a 3:3 vote.
 - A motion was made by Susan and seconded: The chair of the TMA Communications Committee will appoint a sub-committee of Preserve residents to complete the information for the Preserve residents' directory. The motion passed with 5 votes and 1 abstention.
 - Lynne noted that based on earlier discussions at both our 10/11/11 special meeting and a subsequent meeting that she and Tony had with the owner of PCI, the current publisher, she had already organized such a sub-committee composed of John, Susan, and two other Preserve residents. At the publisher's request, they are planning to complete their work no later than mid-December.
- V. Committee Handbook: Karen LeBarre agreed to create a first draft of the reference handbook with the assistance of Jeanie Benson.
- VI. Audiotape Posting: Sally made a motion which was seconded: The TMA Communications Committee will recommend to the TMA Board of Directors to post audiotapes of the TMA board meetings on the web, taking into consideration the precautions of the TMA attorney and designating an individual to produce the recording and identify the length of time the recording is to remain on the website." The motion passed 6:0.
- VII. Cable Contract: The present bulk TV cable contract expires April 30, 2013. Discussion ensued about how the Communication Committee might contribute to the process of developing a new contract, with a focus on surveying members to learn their views about a bulk contract and what particular features are most important to them. Tony indicated that to be useful in shaping the process, a survey would need to be done during the spring of 2012. Susan made a motion, which was seconded, to recommend to the TMA Board that a survey of the community be conducted on the bulk TV contract. The motion passed 6:0.
- VIII. NEXT MEETING: Thursday December 8, 2011, 3:30 to 5 PM at Preserve Community

Center.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT: 5:10 PM Motion made by Susan and seconded.
- X. POST-MEETING SPEAKERS ON ANY TOPIC: None

COMCAST

COMCAST MEETING
Monday, November 14, 2011
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
at
Tara Golf & Country Club

MEETING

The TMA Communications Committee has contacted Comcast to clarify conflicting perceptions about features of our bulk cable contract. Comcast representatives will be at the TGCC on November 14th between 10 am and 1 pm to distribute adapters and answer questions. However, many of you already have your adapters and/or will be unable to attend this meeting, so Lynne Hudson, the Chairperson of the Communications Committee, has asked that FTMA distribute the following information about our Comcast service.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COMCAST & THE TMA

The Tara Master Association (TMA) has a bulk rate service contract with Comcast that is in effect until May, 2013. The cost of this service is included in the annual TMA assessment fee. Under this contract, Comcast provides 100 channels of standard programming, 46 music channels, two closed-circuit community information channels (195 for Tara and 196 for the Preserve), as well as Pay-Per-View and On Demand services. Comcast also provides eight HBO channels at no charge to TMA residents, although these could be deleted depending upon the cost to the cable provider. Reception on all channels requires either a Set Top Box (STB) or a digital adapter. TMA residents are entitled to one STB (non-HD) and two adapters or three adapters at no charge.

The specific channels provided are listed under the following headings in the Comcast channel lineup (copies available at the TMA office): Limited Basic; Expanded Basic; Value Pack (NOTE: channel 58 is Oprah Winfrey (OWN) not Discovery Health as listed); Digital Starter (channels 54-179); Digital Classic (channels 105 CSPAN3, 111 Discovery International, 115 Biography, 116 History International, 128 KIDS, 149 MoviePlex, 162 G4, 186 Shop NBC, 243 EWTN, and 251

Bloomberg TV only). In addition, there are six channels not listed in the lineup. These are 21 WRMD (Spanish language), 79 SNBC, 127 Smithsonian, 179 GSN (Game Show Network), 226 Cool (golden oldies music), and 248 Gospel. Residents who purchase additional programming from Comcast, e.g. optional sports or movie packages, will be billed individually for these services.

Seasonal Rates. Residents who purchase optional services and are away from Tara for extended periods of time may save money by having those services discontinued during their absence. The seasonal period varies somewhat from year to year but typically begins in April and ends in December. Guidelines, too, vary from year to year but typically include restrictions such as the following: a limit of two start/stops per year, services must be off at least two consecutive months before restarting, and services must be on at least one month before turning off again.

If you have questions about your service, contact Comcast at (941) 371-6700. Be sure that the customer service representative knows you reside in a community with a bulk service contract. (This should be displayed in the Alerts and Warning section of the screen the representative pulls up when accessing your account.) It has come to our attention that some owners are being billed for the eight HBO channels as an optional service. If this applies to you, call Comcast and ask the customer service representative to remove this charge from your account. Comcast is making a system wide correction of this problem, but it is still possible that the representative may need to refer the matter to a different department. In that case, you should receive a follow up call from a different Comcast representative. But you should not be charged thereafter for the eight HBO channels that are a part of our bulk cable contract.