

EXCELSIOR -- BOARD PRESIDENTS MESSAGE -- FOR 2021

Another year in the record books, and one can certainly look at it either way –

- a. A very tough year financially for Excelsior w/bumps along the way, OR -
- b. We're on the road to a much brighter/better future!

Obviously, I'm going to pick option B, and can only hope you folks do also (or will with the results we are hoping to achieve)

EXCELSIOR – who knows the definition of that word? - It is Latin for “Higher”. That’s always been my vision for our complex. We were not founded to be “just another run of the mill” condo complex on Siesta Key. In our name, should be our goal. Make Excelsior stand out amongst the crowd. In so many ways – don’t accept mediocracy, but strive for perfection! Reach HIGHER! Do we do that -

- a. Beautiful grounds - check
- b. Beautiful buildings – now we’re valiantly working to ensure just that for decades to come. Check
- c. Beautiful bank balances (kinda my favorite one!) - check
- c. Beautiful people – a constant struggle simply because like any condo complex we have 166 unit owners, and 166 different reasons for owning here. I still believe it’s one of the board’s responsibilities to try and get us all “rowing in the same direction” (as best as can be). Condo living ain’t for everyone, it ain’t easy all the time, but some have heard me in the past cite was has become my motto – it was a ruling passed down by the Florida Supreme court in 1971 in response to disagreements at one specific condo complex – (note – this decision is from 1971 so please excuse the gender referencing)

“Every man may justly consider his home his castle and himself as the king thereof; nonetheless his sovereign fiat to use his property as he pleases must yield, at least in some degree, where ownership is in common or cooperation with others. The benefits of condominium living and ownership demand no less. The individual ought not to be permitted to disrupt the integrity of the common scheme through his desire for change, personal belief, or personal gain however laudable that change might be.”

I know in the last year that the China virus has caused a lot of disruption, and with it the lack of social interactions. I know increases in costs of ownership adds more stress/strain. I know I “take ownership” that I directed the board to bid out our insurance, and it cost us a lot of money. A good or a bad decision? – a lot of info needs to be considered to answer that question! I know, as a country even, the words “stagflation” and “the misery index” (both last used during the Carter years) are rearing their ugly heads once again. I know there are more owners than ever using Excelsior as “income property” (I fully understand and accept that is 100% permissible per our docs). But I will continue to push out the theme (and the TRUTH as per above court decision) that we must try to understand each other, believe in building toward a complex wide better goal, and set aside (whenever possible) our individual, and perhaps short-sighted, beliefs and goals. This has always been a great place, this is a great place, and God willing can continue to be that for decades to come.

Some interesting slides –

- a. Excelsior quarterly reserve study
- b. Condos for sale on Siesta Key & their quarterly assessments
- c. Total operating costs for 2020 and 2021 sorted from largest to smallest
- d. Save Siesta Key memo

To the paid staff – we ain't nothing without you. I remember a movie about mob bosses that were running the Vegas casinos, and how one of the Cook county commissioners was meeting with them and says – “*you'll never understand – you're only here because we allow you to be*” I understand boards come and go, employees truly run the joint and for that I say thanks.

This years board has had several “minor fires” to deal with. Kept many of us up at night – or at least in front of our computers emailing more hours a day than our spouses would have liked! But think we worked very well together. While not always agreeing, still being cordial about it, and understanding that the vote of 4 out of 7 gets their way – its' just that simple! My thanks to each of you for the time and trouble you've put in this year – again probably a lot more than any of us anticipated!

To our members, I'll close with my annual plea - I just know we have a wealth of talent out there across the spectrum – engineers, bankers, accountants, lawyers, handymen, etc... Your talent is always welcome, and is always needed! The seven board members silly enough to run for office can take the “slings and arrows” from disgruntled folk, but if you are willing to help out “behind the scenes” just contact any board member. Because I also believe in another quote –

“It is not the critic that counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of good deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes up short again and again, because there is no victory without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he should fail, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat”.

I'm confident I speak for the whole board, and most assuredly for myself personally – when I say THANKS to all who have supported us in 2021. It was, and still is, more appreciated than you'll ever know. I will continue to have Pride in our past, push for Performance in the present, and continue to Pray for the future of Excelsior!

