1-3. A scheduled meeting of the Santa Rosa Island Authority was held on Wednesday February 12, 2020, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Members in attendance were: Dr. Thomas Campanella, Mr. Jerry Watson, Mr. Bubba Peters, Ms. Karen Sindel, and Ms. Brigette Brooks, Chair. Ms. Liz Callahan was absent. Ms. Brooks led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of meditation. She reminded all to turn off their phones and turn on and off their microphones when they speak.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Regular Board Meeting – 1/8/2020)

Upon motion of Ms. Karen Sindel seconded by Mr. Jerry Watson, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting (1/8/2020) as presented. (5-0)

5. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

6. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Upon motion of Mr. Jerry Watson seconded by Ms. Karen Sindel, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented. (5-0)

7. CHAIR’S COMMENTS

Ms. Brooks welcomed everyone. She asked anyone that wished to speak to fill out a request form and return it to staff. She stated they would have 3 minutes to speak.

8. COMMISSIONER BENDER’S COMMENTS

The Commissioner was not present.

9. PENSACOLA BEACH VISITOR’S INFORMATION CENTER

Ms. Alison Westmoreland presented this month’s report for the VIC.
Ms. Brooks asked Ms. Westmoreland her opinion on why there were more tourists for the month of January 2020 vs. January 2019, being that the weather was more severe in 2020.

Ms. Westmoreland stated that she believes the Snow Birds Beach Bash may have had an impact on the numbers, as there was a bigger turnout of participants in 2020.

10. UPDATE BY LESLIE PERINO, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, E.W.BULLOCK

Ms. Perino gave a power point presentation highlighting events and tourism numbers for Pensacola Beach. She stated that the Visit Pensacola Beach webpage, as well as the SRIA webpage are becoming more ADA compliant and that it is an ongoing process. Ms. Perino then stated that the Spring Break campaign is going great and that they are advertising it on many social media platforms, as well as 100,000 handouts being given at the toll plaza.

Ms. Schrock added that the informational pamphlets and magnets were being hand delivered to the HOA and property management companies, as well as emailed so that it can be uploaded to their websites should they wish to do so.

11. UPDATE BY DAVID FORTE, TRAFFIC OPERATIONS AND PLANNING DIVISION MANAGER, ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Mr. Forte stated that his report was before the Board, if they had any questions. He said that this would be his last meeting as he has accepted a position with the City of Pensacola, and that he appreciated his time working with staff and the Board.

Ms. Sindel expressed her thanks to Mr. Forte for his hard work and dedication.

All of the members wished Mr. Forte good luck in his new position and thanked him for his years of service for Pensacola Beach.

Ms. Brooks inquired about the status of the Congestion Management plans. Mr. Forte stated that they have full design plans, and are awaiting the Commissioners' direction on how to proceed with the project.

Ms. Brooks then asked about the Quietwater Beach Pier and the Ferry Landing improvements funding shortfall. Mr. Forte stated that the plans to widen the pier and make improvements to the landing exceeded the budget allotted for these projects.
12. AUDIT UPDATE BY ALAN JOWERS, CARR, RIGGS AND INGRAM

Mr. Jowers participated via teleconference, and gave his report to the Board. He said it was good to work with Ms. Johnson for the first time, and said that we received a “clean audit opinion”.

There was a brief discussion.

Upon motion of Dr. Thomas Campanella seconded by Mr. Jerry Watson, the Board unanimously approved to accept the audit report by Carr, Riggs, and Ingram for the 2019 FY. (5-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ARCHITECTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE, KAREN SINDEL, CHAIR, MS. LIZ CALLAHAN AND MR. BUBBA PETERS, MEMBERS

Item #1 – Request by De Luna Capitol, LLC – 20 Via de Luna – Proposal for new Hotel. (Staff report by Paolo Ghio)

The Committee took no action on this item, it was discussion only.

Item #2 – Discussion concerning the Escambia County LDC Sign Ordinance for Pensacola Beach in reference to murals. (Staff report by Paolo Ghio)

The Committee took no action on this item, it was discussion only.

Item #3 - Request by 1036 Ft. Pickens Rd, LLC – Approval of an Amendment to Single-Family Residential Lease Agreement Substantial Improvements to Post Firm Structure located at Lot 23, Lafitte Cove II, 1036 Ft. Pickens Rd. (Staff report by Paolo Ghio)

The Committee unanimously approved staff’s recommendation.

B. DEVELOPMENT & LEASING COMMITTEE, MS. LIZ CALLAHAN, CHAIR, DR. THOMAS CAMPANELLA AND MR. JERRY WATSON, MEMBERS

Item #1 – Approval of a three (3) year renewal of the contract with EW Bullock for advertising and public relations. (Staff report by Robbie Schrock)

The Committee unanimously approved staff’s recommendation.
Item # 2 - Advisement of a name change for from Sandbox Restaurant to Laguna's Beach Bar and Grill, and Premier Adventure Park to Laguna's Adventure Park- 460 Pensacola Beach Blvd. (Staff report by Robbie Schrock)

No action was required for this item.

Item # 3 - Request by Pier One Marina – 655 Pensacola Beach Blvd. – to sublease to Betsy Walker d/b/a Pensacola Beach Charters, to book fishing charters, dolphin cruises, sailing adventures, snorkel trips and pontoon rentals. (Staff report by Robbie Schrock)

The Committee unanimously approved staff's recommendation.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION AT A LATER DATE.

Item # 4 - Request by Vedelu, LLC – 1591 Via de Luna – to sell, rent and service Pedego electric bicycles. (Staff report by Robbie Schrock)

C. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, MS. KAREN SINDEL, CHAIR, MR. BUBBA PETERS AND MS. BRIGETTE BROOKS, MEMBERS

Item # 1 - Report on Financial Statements and Expenditures. (Staff report by Vickie Johnson)

The Committee unanimously accepted the report on Financial Statements and Expenditures as presented.

Upon motion of Mr. Bubba Peters seconded by Ms. Karen Sindel, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as presented. (5-0)

REGULAR AGENDA

14. REPORTS

A. ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Mr. Stebbins presented his report for the review of the Board and requested action on page 3 – section “G” of his report, regarding the Nowells. He explained the suit had not yet been filed, and recommended no change to the SRIA settlement offer.

Ms. Brooks asked about item “G” on page 4, under “other matters pending”. The item is a request for Mr. Stebbins to participate in a meeting at the County Attorney's Office regarding the proposed construction of a pier on Pensacola Beach.

Mr. Stebbins explained that the item is a request by a Mr. Kerrigan, to construct a
pier on his “T-shaped” lot, on Pensacola Beach. Mr. Kerrigan is inquiring about the setback requirements for this pier, and Mr. Stebbins stated that they are working with Escambia County on this matter.

Upon motion of Ms. Karen Sindel seconded by Mr. Bubba Peters, the Board unanimously accepted the Attorneys report as presented. (5-0)

B. ENGINEER’S REPORT

Mr. Huggins submitted his report for the review of the Board, and gave a presentation of phases 1 & 2 of the dune walkover project.

He stated the project began 5 years ago. Phase 1 which started in 2015 was to replace dune walkovers with new ADA compliant dune walkovers while protecting natural resources during the process. He stated that the FWC & FDEP permitting was timely, but that they were very helpful along the way. In phase 1, they are nearing substantial completion of the nine (9) dune walkovers on Ariola Dr. Once those are complete, they will have replaced twenty (20) dune walkovers thus far. As part of phase 2, two (2) mobi-mats have been placed on Casino Beach. To date, phase 1 has cost $1,300,000, and phase 2 has cost $122,000. The costs include planning, permitting, and construction.

Mr. Huggins showed an aerial view of the new walkover at parking lot “B”. This walkover, as well as a majority of the new ones, required more switchbacks. This is due to the ADA regulations for the slope of the ramps.

Mr. Ghio asked Mr. Huggins to elaborate on the new safe harbor/observation deck that was included with the walkover near the Gulf Pier. Mr. Huggins explained that they constructed a 7’x7’ area, as a new innovation to the walkovers so that people could move off of the main path as people were passing. This platform has enough space for two (2) wheelchairs to easily maneuver, and is the first to be constructed within the communities covered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Ms. Sindel asked Mr. Huggins if DEP comes out to inspect after permitting. Mr. Huggins stated that there is a pre-discussion meeting on site for the construction.

A brief discussion followed regarding dune walkovers and the upkeep of the mobi-mats included in phase 2.

C. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Ghio submitted his monthly report for the review of the Board.

15. VISITOR’S FORUM
Ms. Joann Pearson, 3600 N. Pace Blvd, an ADA Advocate with CIL of Pensacola, stated that the trolley maps are hard to understand, and asked that two (2) maps be provided, with one specifically showing the ADA accessibility points for the Island.

Ms. Perino stated that she would work on that with staff.

Ms. Sally Chamberlain, 1767 Ensenada Dos, Pensacola Beach- Spoke about her concerns regarding the length of residential piers that are being built in the Santa Rosa Sound. She encouraged the Board to consider amending the Ordinance that allows them.

Mr. Ghio stated that the piers in question meet all standards of the DEP and LDC.

Mr. Jay Brown, 113 Avenida 23 - Expressed his concern and frustration for the unfinished seawall at Avenida 23 on the sound side. He stated that he has lived at this property for two (2) years, and this has been an issue ever since. He said his property is directly impacted by the lack of protection provided. He said he has not gotten any response to his inquiries and asked if anything could be done.

Mr. Ghio stated that he has been in contact with Escambia County and there is an ongoing discussion as to what should be done.

Ms. Sindel suggested that Mr. Brown send a letter on behalf of the HOA to Mr. Ghio for him to forward onto the county, to put the Board on notice that this is creating a public hazard and that remedy needs to occur sooner rather than later.

Ms. Darlene Richards, 1129 Park Ln, Gulf Breeze – Speaking on behalf of the Krewe of Vixens regarding the Mardi Gras parade on Pensacola Beach. She stated that her organization had missed both safety meetings, and is requesting that a make-up meeting be organized, and offered to pay for the officers’ time within reason.

Mr. Ghio stated that on the application, the safety meeting is mandatory. Out of the 45 applicants, 41 of the Krewes attended the meetings.

Ms. Stephanie Bryant, 2 Via De Luna Dr, assistant general manager of the Hampton Inn, stated that she was unable to make it to the mandatory safety meetings and asked the board to reconsider their decision of denying entry to the parade to the Krewes who were unable to attend the meetings.

Ms. Sindel stated that this is not a decision for the board to make.
16. BOARD MEMBER’S FORUM

17. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairwoman Ms. Brooks declared the Regular Board Meeting of the SRIA Board adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

(Secretary)

(Vice Chair)

(Please note that the Santa Rosa Island Authority does not make verbatim transcripts of its meetings, although the meetings are tape-recorded. Any person desiring a verbatim transcript of a meeting of the Santa Rosa Island Authority will need to independently secure such verbatim transcript.)