Russell Saray



I am a long-time resident of the Pines, renting my first share in 1992. For the past 20 years I've lived with my husband, Steve Foster on Nautilus Walk. We look forward to opening up the house in early March every year and spending as much time as possible here at the beach until late fall. Over the last 18 months our Pines home has served as a refuge from Covid, making it an even more important part of our lives.

I am long retired from a career in marketing, sales and education but I remain committed to the joy of coaching, inspiring and motivating those who join me in the causes I promote. Since retiring, in addition to my work here on the island with FIPPOA, I serve as secretary for The Pines Conservation Society. In the city, I am vice chair of the Abingdon Square Conservancy.

Nine years ago, after previously approaching FIPPOA with a new idea for raising money for the Pines Foundation, I was asked to revive the Seashore Defense Fund (SDF). Its funds were exhausted after responding to Hurricane Irene. I launched the first educational and fund raising campaign for the SDF which has been repeated every summer since then. We have consistently kept its coffers filled at over $150,000 while financing many important projects critical to the never-ending needs of our fragile beach. When the dune was in danger of collapse after Superstorm Sandy, SDF helped pay for maintenance of the TrapBags that were our temporary wall protecting us from the ocean. We've repeatedly underwritten new sand fencing, planting of sea grass and general clean ups of the beach. Most recently, SDF paid the cost of Beach Bins at each public access walk. I'm not surprised that more $100 donations are made to the SDF annually than to any other initiative of the Pines Foundation.

I chaired the Membership committee for a year and continue to work with the team – initially bringing the Community Map in the harbor to life. I led the work to create the Sandbook and this year oversaw its conversion into an online, digital resource for the community. I created and launched the first digital Community Bulletin Board.

I remain firmly convinced that in this time of climate change our beaches are our most important asset and our most endangered resource. If elected I will dedicate my service with FIPPOA to preparing, preserving and protecting our beaches from the challenges Mother Nature will most assuredly throw our way.

I would be honored to serve a third term on the FIPPOA board so that I could continue to bring my skills, my energy and my enthusiasm to both on-going projects and new projects that may be needed to benefit our community.

Thank you!

Russell