

Tamiami Amateur Radio Club
Board of Directors AERDN Mesh Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2021

The meeting was held via video conference. President Phillips called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Officers:

Steve Phillips, NS4P, President
Tom Babcock, KN4ONE, Vice President
Patti Phillips, N4IGI, Recording Secretary
Frank Wroblewski, W2XYZ, Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Peter Boers, KV4LR - absent	Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR
Andy Durette, KB1HIP	Jim Shortill, KJ4NDO - absent
Chet Fennell, KG4IYS	San Yoder, K3SY
Gary Hagens, K6OC - absent	

Summary of discussion:

The main purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the installation of Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (ARDEN) equipment on the Englewood repeater tower. The proposed project consists of installation of 2.4 GHz wireless networking equipment to provide wireless data service for an approximate 23 mile radius around the tower. If installed, this would be part of a mesh networking system that will extend to North Sarasota County with the next link North being equipment to be installed on the new Sarasota Memorial Hospital at the intersection of I-75 and Laurel Rd. This mesh network is a key component of the Sarasota County ARES emergency plan, and can provide significant utility for hams in South Sarasota County. The Englewood node will initially run as an "island" until the SMH node is installed. Computer modeling indicates that this node can provide near-broadband speeds for much of the Venice, North Port and Englewood area.

After a lively discussion, the Board unanimously approved the following course of action:

- Three "sector" antennas will be procured by Paul – KN4BAR to be installed by the tower climbers at their upcoming visit (anticipated next week).
- The Board will propose to the club membership that Paul be reimbursed (approx. \$1500) out of the "repeater reserve fund" at the September club meeting.
- In the event the membership does not approve the expenditure, the Board will "pass the hat" to raise funds to reimburse Paul. Several Board members indicated a willingness to provide donations as needed.

Paul will work to prepare material lists and instructions for how to access the network in the near future.

The next BOD meeting will be on August 28, 2021 at 1:00 PM. If a club member is interested in attending, please email secretary@tamiamiarc.org and Patti, N4IGI, will send you the meeting information.