

**BURNT STORE ISLES ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 11, 2014**

Officers Present

Directors Present

President – Gene Murtha	Social – Judy Vanderweele
Vice-President – Frank Wiechec	Membership – Lori Gurr
Secretary – Mary Drummond	Security – Donald Clark
Treasurer – Connie Higgins	

Officers Absent

Directors Absent

	Past President – Doug Rhees
	Legal Liaison – Mirko Vlcko
	Special Projects – Doug Paquin
	Community Standards – Jayne Perkins
	Planning – Brian Stirling
	E-Communications – Don Hallman

The BSIA Board meeting held on July 11, 2014 was called to order by President Gene Murtha at 9:00 a.m. at Twin Isles Country Club. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance. Roll call was held to account for Officers and Directors present.

The minutes of the June 6, 2014 Board meeting were approved and accepted. Motion to approve was made by Frank and seconded by Don C. *The minutes will be posted on the Burnt Store Isles Association website.*

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Connie Higgins. There were a few donations made last month from BSIA funds. Contributions were made to the Yellow Bike Program (\$300), the Charlotte Co. school supplies fund (\$221), and the Elks Club (\$70), where a BSIA function was held. On the positive side of the balance sheet, we collected \$750 in construction fees during the past month. The Shredder Day fee has been paid. Total funds balance was \$61,989 as of June 27. Connie’s financial report was accepted as submitted and was to be filed for audit.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

BSIA Legal Reserve

Gene has some concern that our legal reserves are not sufficient to defend the Association in more than one lawsuit, in the event litigation would occur. \$30,000 was allocated to

our restricted fund for legal fees about four years ago, and Gene is suggesting that we beef up the fund by perhaps \$5,000 every couple of years. Discussion followed, and the consensus was that we should have more money in the legal reserve fund. Connie made a motion that we move \$5,000 from our current funds and set aside 10% of all dues going forward to be allocated to the BSIA legal reserve fund. Motion was seconded by Frank. This recommendation will be presented at the General Membership meeting on July 29.

Response to City of Punta Gorda – proposed Macedonia sidewalk

Gene reviewed the history of the 1% sales tax extension and BSIA's role in the recommended Macedonia sidewalk. Bill Hughes, our representative on the Punta Gorda Citizens Committee, was asked by Gene to attend the Board's March meeting to explain the list that was being compiled by that committee. The BSIA Board recommended at its March 2014 meeting that the sidewalk project be placed on the list for sales tax expenditures because of the volume of traffic, numbers of recreational walkers, bicycles, and assumed safety issues on Macedonia Dr. The sidewalk was already on the City's Comp Plan. We need to respond to the City Council's request to the BSIA to leave the sidewalk on the project list or remove it from the list. Gene recommended that the Board take a neutral position because of the political nature of the proposed sales tax extension. Board discussion followed. Don C. said that he inquired at the City Police Dept. and found that there had been two accidents on Macedonia in the last two years, neither of which involved a pedestrian or cyclist. The Board agreed that our reply to the City Council is that we will remain neutral on construction of a sidewalk on Macedonia Dr. Gene read to all in attendance the response letter that the Board is planning to send to the City.

There were a number of residents of BSI, particularly residents of Macedonia Dr. that were in attendance at the meeting. Each resident who spoke was strongly opposed to constructing a sidewalk on Macedonia Dr. There were also a number of people in attendance who made no comment.

A time of three minutes was allotted for anyone who wished to speak.

Nancy Prafke, City Councilwoman, said that BSIA started this process, and we need to finish it so that the City Council can make a decision at their meeting on Aug. 13. She said that the great majority of Macedonia residents who have expressed their opinions to her through emails are opposed to the sidewalk project. She said that the board should not remain neutral on this topic.

Dotti Vaivoda, 413 Macedonia, thinks a sidewalk would destroy the front yards and create a parking problem. She commented that the width of the street and speeding are real issues. She would like to see the city reduce the speed limit and control speeding on the street. Perhaps a bike lane would be a good alternative to sidewalk. The Board should take a position since it requested that the project be on the 1% sales tax list because the people in attendance are against the project.

Steve Turner, 539 Macedonia, does not like the sidewalk proposal because of aesthetics, lawn and sprinkler issues, and potential liability issues if someone were to be injured on his property. He encouraged everyone, members and non-members, to email Nancy Prafke to express unhappiness with the proposed sidewalk project.

Bob Stewart, Macedonia Dr., thinks a sidewalk would destroy our properties and the EPA would have to become involved because of drainage issues that would arise from new sidewalk construction. He was upset about not being informed of the project earlier.

Richard Dressel, 401 Macedonia, took photos and does not see a dangerous situation, but feels that our speed limit is not low enough and needs to be reduced. He was not aware of the sidewalk being placed on the list of 1% sales tax projects and is not in favor. He thinks the Board cannot take a neutral position.

Monica Peterson, 723 Macedonia, a walker and cyclist, says speeding is a problem and we need to have speed bumps installed on the street. People need to use proper safety rules.

Stan Fox, 425 Macedonia Dr., is a cyclist and cautioned that riders need to use helmets and mirrors, follow safety rules and be aware of vehicle traffic.

Frank Churka, 407 Macedonia, says that we just need to use safely rules and is not in favor of speed bumps. He has been a water pollution engineer and recommends that we improve our water quality in BSI before it affects home values. He thinks we need to be concerned about standing water on Monaco, a real safety issue for vehicles. Suggest a different project because he is not in favor of a sidewalk.

Judy Briggs, 717 Macedonia, says we need to have a “No Outlet” sign at the intersection of Monaco and Macedonia – there was a sign there at one point. Use the money for another project, as she is not in favor of a sidewalk.

Elaine Barone, 648 Macedonia, walks her dog on Macedonia and has never had a safety issue. She is opposed to the sidewalk.

Chris Teeter, 618 Macedonia, wants to be assured that Nancy Prafke assigns importance to the fact that a great percentage of Macedonia residents are opposed to a sidewalk.

Betty Novick, 563 Macedonia, is 100% against a sidewalk. She has homeowner liability concerns in addition to a number of other reasons for her opposition. There is a lack of information and no survey has been taken.

Nancy Prafke mentioned that the City is being sued by a resident of BSI who fell on a sidewalk on Monaco. She thinks that only the city is liable for sidewalk issues.

Lorraine Hudak, 472 Macedonia, says that because lawns on Macedonia are elevated, it would be difficult to build a flat sidewalk, so it is not a good plan. She thinks only the City would have liability for sidewalk injuries because of the City right-of-way.

Bill Hughes, Tripoli Blvd., who was rep from BSI to the city project list committee, thinks that the Board needs to give the city an answer.

Maxine Fishman, 637 Macedonia, thinks that there needs to be better communication. Contractors are as issue as drivers. Safety is the individual's responsibility – sidewalks are not going to do it.

Charlie Council, former BSIA board president, says that our letter to the City should include information regarding the proportion of people who are against a sidewalk.

Norma Villeno, 489 Macedonia, is opposed to a sidewalk and thinks that a survey should be done and the Board's response to the City should be by BSIA vote. She suggested that the Board's reply to the City state that our decision is pending until a survey is done.

Carl Dimidio, 461 Macedonia, is upset because he did not receive notification of the project and is totally opposed because all driveways would have to be reconstructed because of ADA regulations. Name another project, such as resurfacing the street.

Mary Reichel, 702 Macedonia, would like to see a "No" vote from the Board. She will vote against the 1% tax if the sidewalk remains on the list.

Nancy Turner, 539 Macedonia, requested that the board include in their response to the City that people in attendance at the last two board meetings are not in favor of construction of a sidewalk on Macedonia.

Bob and Joanne Fritz, 571 Macedonia, addressed the Board by email and requested that their opposition to a sidewalk be noted in the minutes since they were not able to attend.

There were several comments from those attending the meeting regarding poor communication with the BSI community. Several of the Board members also made comments.

Gene thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

After lengthy discussion, the Board decided to amend the response that had previously been prepared to send to the City. We added to the letter that all residents who spoke at the meeting were opposed to a sidewalk on Macedonia and that no one spoke in favor of a sidewalk. The Board also stated that the recommendation to add a sidewalk to the 1% sales tax project list would never have been made if we had known that we would have to make a firm decision without project details and time to survey our membership.

Palm rat problem

Gene has noted that palm rats (fruit rats) are a problem because of standing water and rotting fruit. This is a problem everywhere there are unattended fruit trees, and it is not specific to any particular area, community, or neighborhood. He will ask Don H. to publish a notice on the website to be sent to BSIA membership to be aware of these rats and to ask residents to please pick up fruit that falls to the ground to keep the rat population down. The notice will also be published in the newsletter which will soon be mailed. Palm rats can and will get into attics and vehicles and cause problems. The City might be of some help with control of these pests.

General Membership Meeting July 29

A General Membership Meeting will be held on July 29 at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church at beginning 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend because of the Meet the Candidates opportunity from 6:30 to 7:00 to informally ask questions of candidates for various local office elected positions. At 7:00, each candidate there will be allowed 3-4 minutes to state his or her goals if elected. At 8:00, we will hold the business portion of our meeting. Agenda topics will be Canal Advisory Committee, proposed Macedonia sidewalk project, palm rats, and the Reverse Osmosis plant status. A final agenda needs to be developed.

Nominating Committee for 2015 Board

Gene needs to appoint and obtain Board approval for a nominating committee chairperson by Sept. 15 (per our bylaws) to determine candidates for the several positions that will be open for next year on the BSIA Board of Directors. Frank Wiechec and Rick Doll were suggested as possible chairmen for this committee. There was discussion about the possibility of holding some Board meetings in the evenings so that people who are employed would have the opportunity to hold positions on the Board and attend meetings regularly.

November Annual meeting

The social committee has made arrangements for Burnt Store Presbyterian Church to be reserved for the evening of Nov. 11 for us to hold our Annual meeting. Connie made a motion that we hold our BSIA Annual meeting at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church on November 11. Motion was seconded by Lori. Judy made a motion that we pay the required \$200 to the Church for each date for the use of their facilities: for the July 29

General Membership meeting and for the Nov. 11 Annual meeting. Motion was seconded by Don C.

Credit Card update

Connie says that she, Lori and Don H. will meet when Don H. returns from his travels at the beginning of August. They will discuss the specifics of credit card use on the BSIA website for payment of membership dues. Connie presented an invoice from Constant Contact which includes the annual charge for use of the website for credit card dues payments. This is a previously budgeted item.

Monuments painting

Doug was not in attendance. This will be discussed at a later time. We need also to have signs made for the Meet the Candidates/General Membership meeting. There was a question whether there will be a food drive associated with this July 29 gathering.

Standards issues discussion

This discussion is delayed until our next meeting.

Properties in bank foreclosure and property appearance

To be discussed at next meeting.

Membership Initiatives

Lori says membership is at 499. Her goal is 520 members. There was discussion about the amount of money being spent for name tags for new members. Some of this expense is for existing members who say they never received a name tag when they first became BSIA members. Lori does her best to place bulk orders to reduce the cost per badge.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Secretary:

Mary handed out copies of current board position descriptions. The corresponding pages in each member's BSIA Policies and Procedures Manual need to be replaced with these pages. Mary is planning to update the Manual at the end of this year with motions passed in 2014 by the Board and any changes to policies and procedures made during 2014. She

is also planning to bring prior year information regarding motions and policies and procedure changes according to available information.

Security:

Don C. reports that he wrote a letter of commendation to the City Manager regarding Police Chief Arenal and the outstanding job that he does and suggested that the City honor him in a special manner. He suggested that the Board should consider giving out certificates of appreciation to worthy individuals to recognize their service to BSIA or to the community. It was decided that it would be a nice thing to honor a speaker or a member at the generally-well-attended November Annual meeting. He also mentioned that there is an IRS phone scam causing some consternation and that people need to be aware of this.

Social:

Judy reports that the social committee is busy making plans and has some new ideas for activities. She had some concern that the gathering at the Elks Club had not gone as well as expected. There was discussion about contracts.

The Board established a new policy: All contracts to be entered into on behalf of BSIA must be approved by the Board before commitment is made.

There was also discussion about the link to recommended vendors that is on our website. The Board discussed removing that link from the BSIA website so there are no disappointments or misconceptions that occur from members relying on that information. Word of mouth is the best way for people to find service people. This topic will be addressed at the next board meeting.

The next meeting will be Friday, August 1st at 9:00 at Twin Isles Country Club.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary C. Drummond
Secretary