

Burnt Store Isles Association, Inc.

Annual Membership Meeting

November 11, 2014

The meeting was held at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church and was called to order by President Gene Murtha at 7:00 P.M. Members were welcomed. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

In observance of Veteran's Day, which is today, Gene expressed his appreciation to all those who have served our country and asked those members present who are veterans to stand and be recognized. The very talented Marcella Brown, who lives in Burnt Store Lakes, sang two songs honoring our veterans. She was presented with a lovely vase of fresh flowers for her special performance.

Gene introduced our special Guest speaker, Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell. Sheriff Prummell spoke regarding the Sheriff's office projects which were included in the Optional 1% Sales Tax extension which was just approved by voters last week. Projects are a District One Office (Englewood), a Headquarter building, and a jail infirmary (needed because of increasing inmate mental health issues). The Fire/EMS project to switch communication towers from analog to digital is necessary for many county administrative systems operations, and the sheriff's office is the biggest user with their radios. Sheriff Prummel also spoke regarding the proposed Medical Marijuana Amendment which was barely voted down in Florida. This constitutional amendment was opposed by all Florida Sheriffs because of the fear of quick escalation to recreational use and abuse. Sheriff Prummel is doing research to determine whether there is a valid need for certain strains of marijuana in the medical area.

Punta Gorda offers a Citizens Academy to educate residents about the City's different departments. This program is highly recommended by Gene, who attended recently. The program is taking applications from people who would like to enroll in the class which begins in January. If any members are interested, there is also an 8-week Citizens Academy that is offered by the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office.

Gene asked the BSIA board members who were present to introduce themselves and thanked them for their service to our community. Board members in attendance were Gene Murtha, Connie Higgins, Mary Drummond, Don Clark, Don Hallman, Lori Gurr, Judy Vanderweele, and Doug Paquin.

Gene spoke regarding the existence of the Manual of Policies and Procedures for BSIA that is being reviewed by the Board. It has not been updated since 2005, and needs to be culled for items that are currently covered by City Code. After this process is complete, the entire Manual will be posted to the website. He thanked Don H. for the excellent job he has done maintaining and updating the BSIA website this past year and for allowing credit card payment of dues to be available online.

Gene suggested that members attend the BSIA Board meetings, which are held on the first Friday of each month at 9:00 at Twin Isles Country Club for informational purposes and recommended that people become involved in our Association. He also suggested that BSI residents attend the Canal Advisory Committee meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 at City Hall.

Gene addressed the need for a few more members for the Underground Wiring Feasibility Committee which the Board is trying to establish. The Association as a whole expressed a desire to explore this possibility again of burying power lines through the member survey which was taken last winter. Current members of the committee are Richard Dressel and Ed Minzer, but we need at least three more people because of the enormous amount of work which will need to be done by this committee. Four people volunteered to participate: Chick Petrosino, Bill Hughes, Doug Holmes, and John Forr. This committee, which will elect its own chairman, will kick off in a couple of week when Gene is available to organize the group.

The Board voted at its October meeting to remove the list of recommended contractors from the BSIA website because there was a perception by some members that the Association was approving these contractors. There was no way for the Board to maintain this list and be informed about the performance of these contractors. The Board decided that a member-to-member recommendation is a better way to disseminate this information as to who is doing good quality work.

Gene introduced Gary Brewster, BSI Canal Advisory Committee Chairman. Gary said that the City Council has now approved the project of widening the canal lock to 21 feet (from the current 17-foot width) by the removal of two pilings. The city has put the work out for bids. The results of the survey earlier this year showed 63% were in favor of the project, and work is scheduled to be done in 2015. He also spoke about the potential redesign of the rim (perimeter) canal by dredging. The project is in the study stage at this point. The BSI CAC has authorized studies to determine if bedrock or silt is causing the issue. It is expected that it will take 2-3 years to change the canal design and obtain the necessary permitting to get the project done. Gary also spoke about the use of vacant lots for staging seawall maintenance. City code allows this now, but at the rate of build-out in BSI, there will be no vacant lots in 10 years. If there are no vacant lots, seawall maintenance costs will rise 4-5 times because of the need to tote repair materials in by barge. City Council is desirous of any suggestions from the public as to how to address this future issue. The lot directly across from the lock is owned by BSI by transfer from the city, which was deeded the lot by the developer of BSI. One option is to have ownership of lots on the NE and SW ends of BSI, which would require significant landscaping to camouflage the use of these lots. Some suggestions are to pour the seawalls rather than use panels, or purchase lots on Mandalay or purchase the bay near Walgreens for material and equipment storage.

Gene reiterated the need for our Legal Reserve Fund because of the possibility of the board's need to legally enforce BSI deed restrictions. The Board feels there is a need to increase the amount in our legal reserve fund because it would only take one lawsuit to deplete the fund because of the current cost of litigation. The Board voted at a prior meeting to increase the fund by \$5,000 annually so the Association will be better prepared to pay legal fees if the need arises. The Board also voted to set aside 10% of paid membership dues annually to augment the legal fund. A motion was made to transfer \$5000 from the BSIA General Fund annually to the Association's Legal Fund and to set aside 10% of dues revenue to be transferred annually to the Legal Fund until a reasonable balance such as \$50,000 is reached. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Gene asked that we have a moment of silence to recognize Rose Braatz, a valued member of our Association who passed away last week. A memorial service is set for Wednesday. He would like to see a good turnout of BSIA members.

Gene presented to Charlie Council and Cynthia Council certificates of appreciation (and a vase of flowers for Cynthia) for their dedication to and hard work done on behalf of the Association. Their services have been (and still are) very important over the years.

Treasurer Connie Higgins presented the BSIA's financial report as of 10/30/14. The current total funds balance is \$58,816.18. Of the balance, \$33,000 is restricted: \$30,000 for legal and \$3,000 for landscaping. Expenses are greater than income to date, but Connie expects that we will be close to being in the black after year-end dues income is taken into account.

Connie also presented the proposed 2015 budget for BSIA. Richard Dressel moved that the budget be approved and Bob Armstrong seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jayne Perkins, Standards Director, said that 20 new homes have been approved for construction thus far in 2014. The City responds quickly to any complaints regarding code violations. We have a good working relationship with that department.

Doug Paquin, Special Projects Director, stated that it is incumbent upon residents who live around the cul-de-sacs in the community to maintain them to keep BSI looking beautiful and to keep the city from stripping the cul-de-sacs and declaring them abandoned. These residents can call the city for additional mulch, spraying or replacement plants for those that have died. Doug is working with the city for replanting dead areas and repair of lights of the Monaco entry island. We are required to supply the plants, and the city will do the planting and maintenance. The Board needs to decide how much money is to be spent for plants.

BSIA Social Director, Judy Vanderweele, reminded members to attend the nice upcoming social events around Christmas. The annual Darts party is planned again for first of February. It is always a popular gathering. If you have any ideas for new functions, please bring to the attention of the Social Committee. Judy's committee meets the first Monday of each month, and they would welcome additions to their committee. If anyone is interested, please contact Judy.

Lori Gurr, Membership director, said that we now have 514 household/property-owner memberships. She introduced our newest members, two couples who had joined the Association at the meeting this evening. It is wonderful to have the credit card payment option. She said that the owner of Burnt Store Grille is offering a free dinner to any new member of BSIA (not renewals or re-joiners) to encourage people to become members. Please let Lori know if you have changes in your information for the directory. If you need a directory, just ask. Let Lori know if you have new neighbors and she will deliver a welcome packet to you to give the new resident, or she will deliver a packet directly to your neighbor.

Gene mentioned that Don Hallman has made the Board aware of a social media Nextdoor Burnt Store Isles, bsi.nextdoor.com, a blog being used by a limited number of residents at this point. We are going to ask Winston Rake, a member who manages the blog to give a better explanation of the site. It has potential to be a very good networking tool for the community.

Gene introduced Richard Coates, Chairman of the 2015 Nominating Committee, to announce the proposed slate of candidates for Officers and Directors (positions for which terms expire 12/31/14):

Vice President: Jayne Perkins

Community Security Director: Kathy Williamson

Planning Director: John Forr

Community Standards Director: Melissa Lockhart

Treasurer: Connie Higgins

Secretary: Mary Drummond

Membership Director: Lori Gurr

President: Doug Rhees

Rick Doll thanked Richard Coates for his hard work in finding a full slate of candidates. Having had the job before, he knows how difficult it can be. Rick asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Richard Dressel moved that we accept the proposed slate of officers in its entirety in one vote. Bob Armstrong seconded the motion. Vote was taken by yellow card and the motion carried unanimously.

Gene mentioned that Bob, owner of Burnt Store Grille, has offered to give a free dinner to newly joining members of BSIA. Lori has certificates for these meals.

A member suggested that meeting dates and times for the Board, committees, etc. be displayed on the BSIA website.

Kathy Kruth thanked Gene for all of his hard work this year. Gene said that he and Theresa would like to organize a travel group with a lecture series next year.

Jim Townsend encouraged members to volunteer for the Board positions and committees so that each member does his share and makes a contribution to the Association.

The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for the evening of March 10, 2015 at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Drummond, Secretary