

Burnt Store Isles Association, Inc.

General Membership Meeting

July 29, 2014

The meeting was held at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church and was called to order by President Gene Murtha at 7:45 P.M. after the Meet the Candidates portion of the gathering. Members were welcomed.

Gene noted which BSIA board members were absent from the meeting and 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 presented the BSIA's financial report. The current total funds balance is \$60,340.69. Of the balance, \$33,000 is restricted: \$30,000 for legal and \$3,000 for landscaping. Gene reiterated the need for the legal reserve fund because of the possibility of the board's need to legally enforce BSI deed restrictions. Our attorney, Ed Wotitsky, in a meeting earlier this year, informed the board that BSIA has the right to enforce deed restrictions even if a BSI property-owner is not a member of BSIA. He presented details of year-to-date income and expense figures and their comparison to 2014 budget numbers. There was a question regarding money spent on donations, and Treasurer Connie named the local organizations that have benefitted from our contributions – Police Jammer Youth Basketball, Yellow Bike, Elks Club, School Supply Drive, and Peace River Wildlife Ctr.

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, as reported by Gene. The Board voted at its last meeting to increase the fund by \$5,000 so the Association will be better prepared for legal fees if the need arises.

Gene stated that BSIA needs a member who is willing to serve as Nominating Committee Chairperson for the 2015 Board of Directors. There will be several positions to fill for next year's board, but it is not yet definite what positions will be open. That will be determined within the next couple of weeks. Please let a board member know if you are interested in running for a position on the board.

Gene asked Lori Gurr, membership director to speak regarding the status of Association membership. There are currently 500 properties (which accounts for 963 people) who have membership in BSIA. 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. A number of 2014 BSIA directories were returned to her because of incorrect mailing addresses, so please let her know if you did not receive yours in the mail. In addition, please let her know if you are not receiving BSIA emails and did not knowingly unsubscribe.

Gene introduced our first guest speaker for the evening, 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 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 dredging of the rim (perimeter) canal. The project is in the study stage at this point. The canal is about 5 feet deep, but narrow, v-shaped, and not symmetrical, so determination needs to be made about the difficulty of removing material from the canal. 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.

The next guest speaker introduced by Gene was City Council member Nancy Prafke. Nancy presented information regarding the 1% optional sales tax, its history, and demonstrated projects completed with the funds generated. She pointed out the stewardship of the City in the use of the funds, that the projects are community-driven, and the partnership we have with tourists and visitors in completed projects enjoyed by them. The 1% tax was first instituted in 1994 and has generated \$324 million over the past 20 years. The money is used for infrastructure rather than operational items. Over 87% of counties in Florida have this type of tax, ranging from ½% to 1 ½%.

Gene asked Doug Paquin, Special Projects Director, to speak regarding the BSI monuments. They have recently been powerwashed and repainted. Doug is beginning to investigate cul-de-sac maintenance and says that we need resident ownership of care of each cul-de-sac in the community to keep BSI looking well-maintained.

BSIA Social Director, Judy Vanderweele, took the floor to remind members of upcoming social events. The committee is working on a wine dinner event at Trabue and possibly one at another venue this summer. 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. Please note BSIA/BSIBC mixer at Twin Isles this Friday, Aug. 1.

Don Clark, Security and Safety Director, was asked to make any comments pertinent to his area. Don reminded members to register for the Code Red Alert system (reverse 911, where a resident is automatically contacted by phone if there is an emergency situation in the community). A person is able to sign up online or at the Punta Gorda Police dept. A resident may use home or cell phone or both as contact numbers in the system. Don recommends that you register for this community service or update your information if you have previously registered.

Gene made an announcement relayed to him by Bob Armstrong that there will be a public presentation on Aug. 5 at the PGI Auditorium where residents can relive Hurricane Charley.

Gene reviewed the history and status of the Macedonia sidewalk project. There will be a vote at City Council's scheduled meeting on Aug. 13 regarding whether to retain or delete the sidewalk as a project on the 1% Optional sales tax list of projects. There were several comments from members in opposition to the sidewalk stating that polling of members (particularly those homes affected) should have been done before placing the item on the list. We should have gotten the members involved in the process. Also there should have been immediate and significant communication to the membership regarding the placement on the City's list. One member recommended a straw poll at the meeting. Admit there

was a mistake made. One resident of Tripoli said there was extreme opposition to the sidewalk constructed there, but now the residents love having it.

The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for the evening of Nov. 11 at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Drummond, Secretary