

**BURNT STORE ISLES ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 6, 2015**

Officers Present

Directors Present

President – Doug Rhees	Special Projects – Doug Paquin
Vice-President – Jayne Perkins	Membership – Lori Gurr
Secretary – Mary Drummond	E-Communications – Don Hallman
	Social – Judy Vanderweele
	Standards – Melissa Lockhart
	Planning – John Forr
	Security – Kathy Williamson
	Legal Liaison – Mirko Vlcko
	Past President – Gene Murtha

Officers Absent

Directors Absent

Treasurer – Connie Higgins	

The BSIA Board meeting held on February 6, 2015 at Twin Isles Country Club was called to order by President Doug Rhees at 9:00 am. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don and recited by all present.

Roll call was held to account for Officers and Directors present. Also in attendance were several visiting members: Bob Fritz, Winston Rigg, Joanne Ziemer, Doug Holmes, Chick Petrosino, Buzz Dressel, and Nancy Prafke.

The minutes of the January 2, 2015 Board meeting were approved and accepted unanimously. Motion to approve was made by Jayne and was seconded by Kathy. ***The minutes will be posted on the Burnt Store Isles Association website.***

President's report

Doug R. reported that he spoke with the Punta Gorda police chief, and he is very much in favor of cameras at entrances to BSI. Kathy and Doug R. will work on this project within the next month and meet with the police chief to determine possible sources and costs of security cameras.

Vice President's report

Jayne presented a gift certificate from the former Board to Gene for his service to BSIA as President last year, a small token of appreciation for the work he did and continues to do for the Association.

Jayne reports that she is having difficulty with one builder who refuses to pay the \$150 fee to the Association for construction of a new home. It is not in our deed restrictions that this fee is required. Mirko says there is nothing in the deed restrictions that prevents us from charging a contractor. The contractor will have to post a performance bond for the entire job if he does not pay the \$150 fee to BSIA. Mirko suggests that Jayne put this in writing to the builder. Do we want to continue to charge the fee since we are not paying anyone to review the plans? This review is done by a Board member. Discussion followed, and a suggestion was made that we could give a one- or two-year membership to those people who have built a new home in BSI after the contractor has paid the plan review fee. This would encourage interest in the Association and its activities and would hopefully build membership numbers. We will discuss this further at our March meeting.

Treasurer's report

Doug R. presented the Treasurer's report as of 2/5/15 provided by Connie. Cash balance is \$70,816. \$39,800 of this is restricted for legal and landscape funds. Don made a motion that we accept the report as submitted. Jayne seconded. The Treasurer's report was accepted and filed for audit.

Social report

Judy noted that she had received a nice thank you letter from Vincent St. Paul. She will put something in our next newsletter summarizing those things that the BSIA has done for the community. She is finalizing arrangements with Twin Isles for the Mar. 10 General Membership Meeting. The Board has agreed to contribute up to \$6/person for those wishing to attend the buffet dinner beforehand. The buffet will be at 6:00 and the meeting time is 7:00. The picnic at Ponce Park is also coming up on Mar. 28, and that cost the Association \$589 last year, close to \$5/person. Judy moved that we cover similar expenses for this year's picnic gathering. Doug asked if there were comments or objections. There were none. Judy had a question about advertising rates for the BSIA newsletter. She was told that they are posted on the website. Judy would like to encourage Twin Isles to advertise or place an insert in our quarterly newsletter.

Past President report

Gene commented that he is eager to hear the Underground Wiring Committee's report.

Special Projects report

Doug P. reports that he would like to motivate residents to care for all cul-de-sacs. Doug R. suggested that for each quarterly newsletter Doug P. should submit a photo of one of our beautiful cul-de-sacs to commend those caring for that specific area and also to send a message to those residents who are not attending to their street's cul-de-sac.

Community Standards report

Melissa is primarily dealing with paint color approvals. She has also had a request for approval of a fence installation. Jayne is still doing the new home plan approvals.

Membership report

BSIA now has 437 household members as of today, and those are really good numbers for February, according to Lori. She reports that the 2015 directory is on its way. Those members who paid their dues by Feb. 1 are included in the publication. She is adamant about having a deadline rather than dragging on the opportunity to be in the directory. Membership dues are accepted all year. Doug R. asked Lori what we should do to expand our membership since this is a goal of BSIA. What kind of membership drive might work? Welcome packets and verbal communications work well. Lori stated that this is a very fluid community. A phone call committee to encourage people to join BSIA might be successful also. Gene said that there are benefits to making phone calls – he found this to be the case when he called last year reminding members without email about membership meetings. It is interesting that all of the people whose dues invoices were mailed to them (rather than emailed) paid their dues. Doug R. is willing to set up a phone committee and ask each committee member to call 10 or 12 non-renewed memberships. From these calls, we might be able to determine why memberships are not being renewed. They could also be reminded about the Mar. 10 general meeting and the free picnic on Mar. 28. If members pay dues on or before the day of the General meeting, they will be allowed to vote at the meeting.

E-Communications report

Don has provided very detailed membership numbers to the Board. Don says he thinks that we are a little ahead of last year's numbers, but BSIA membership is still a small percentage of total properties (over 1500) in BSI. Many have yet to renew their memberships or have moved. There have been inadvertent "unsubscribes" from the website, causing some members not to receive their dues invoices. There have been 4 individual emailings to attempt to collect membership dues. Some people do not ever open any emails from BSIA, but some opened the dues reminder and then dues were not paid. There was some discussion about removing non-renewed members from the email list so that they would no longer receive communications. Some people change internet providers or change their email addresses and fail to inform BSIA. There have been problems with people being unsubscribed. If a member sends a BSIA email and the recipient hits "unsubscribe" at the bottom of the email, the member is unknowingly unsubscribed from BSAI emailings. This has happened in a few instances. It is difficult to "undo" this. The individual must then re-enroll to be able to receive our emails. Some internet providers are tightening up their systems so that mass mailings such as ours are sometimes rejected. Don is doing what he can to straighten out some of these issues.

Planning Director report

John reports that the bid has been drafted for the lock widening and should go out soon. The bathymetric survey for the perimeter canal dredging needs has been physically completed. It shouldn't take as long for Alligator Creek. John is adding a couple of goals to our list – one being neighborhood security and the other to post a picture of an attractive cul-de-sac in each quarterly newsletter or monthly.

Community Security report

Kathy will have a report next month.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaw Changes

Mirko drafted and presented the wording for proposed changes to two of our BSIA bylaws and an addition to the bylaws. The addition to the bylaws is to allow communication with the membership by email rather than mail if the Board chooses and the member approves that method. The first change makes the terms of officers two years. The second change allows Board members to attend meetings and vote electronically. Mary asked the question about how we define a Board quorum for voting purposes. Mirko recommended that we acquire a copy of Roberts Rules of Order for answering this question. Discussion followed. Lori made the motion that we submit these recommended bylaw changes to the membership for a vote at the next general meeting. The motion was seconded by Judy. The motion passed unanimously. We will present these proposed changes for a vote at the General Membership meeting to be held on March 10, 2015. The entire membership will be notified by mail of the proposed changes according to the requirements of our bylaws.

March Membership meeting

Doug R. has asked Gary Brewster to give us a brief BSI Canal Advisory Committee update at the March meeting. We will also hear the status of Alligator Creek dredging plans from Ed Minzer, a member of the Advisory Committee. Doug R. has asked Nancy Prafke to introduce our speaker, City Manager Howard Kunik, who will talk about the City Plan and be open for other questions.

Monument Redesign

Doug R. has put this on hold for the time being.

Realtors meeting

Doug R. has asked John to try to organize a wine and cheese event at the club for local realtors and established builders for us to make them aware of BSIA and BSI and its deed restrictions. Lori says she can provide BSIA welcome packets for new homeowners to be disbursed through realtors and builders for increased awareness of BSIA and deed restrictions.

NEW BUSINESS

Tripoli Traffic Issue

City Councilwoman Nancy Prafke spoke to the Board regarding traffic issues on Tripoli. Access to 41 Northbound from BSI has changed in the last 20 years because of physical changes to intersections. There is speeding on Tripoli and use of Tripoli between Madrid and Monaco by tractor trailers trying to gain access to the traffic light to go north onto 41 from BSI. FDOT inadvertently created this issue by limiting access to 41 north from our community. We cannot ask for continuous patrol by the police. Nancy is asking for BSIA Board support for a solution to the problem that primarily is a quality of life issue for residents of that section of Tripoli. She would like to do traffic counts and gather other information to take this issue to City Council. Mirko moved that we support Nancy in her efforts to research a permanent solution to the Tripoli traffic issue. Mary seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Newsletter

Joanne Ziemer was introduced by Doug R. as the newly appointed editor of our quarterly newsletter. She has some new and interesting ideas for the publication. Joanne solicited any suggestions that Board members might have for the newsletter.

Underground Wiring Committee

Chick Petrosino from our Underground Wiring Feasibility committee came to the Board with a status update and request for funding. The committee is in an information gathering stage so they can move forward. When an underground wiring movement was begun in 2003, a straw ballot was sent out to 1269 property owners in BSI (those without underground wiring) to determine if there was enough interest to go forward with a feasibility study which would cost each property owner an amount around \$70/property. This effort failed by a small margin. The cost estimate for doing the same study today is about the same (\$88,000). If the underground wiring would occur, the total cost to the residents would be in the neighborhood of \$7 million. Work would need to be done and decisions made on how to fund such a project. Right now FPL is “hardening the system” because of Hurricane Charlie and continuing new construction in our community – that is the reason for the towering power poles that we see being erected concurrently. This

project has been in FPL's plans for several years. Charlotte Miller, External Affairs Mgr. for FPL, has made herself available to our committee for meetings.

Doug R. presented a motion:

I move that funding be granted to the Underground Utility Committee sufficient to process a "Straw Ballot of Property Owners within Burnt Store Isles" to determine if said owners would approve a feasibility study, conducted by Florida Power and Light, to determine actual costs for underground wiring for those properties presently not having underground wiring. This funding would be the *actual cost* of stationary, envelopes, and ballot, printing, and mailing expense to and from the recipient.

There were numerous questions and ample discussion regarding this suggested motion. Discussion centered around the actual cost of the straw ballot, who would receive ballots, and how billing of residents would be accomplished.

Doug R. suggested that we amend the motion to add "Said ballot will be mailed after Board approval, cost not to exceed \$3000."

Mirko moved to amend the motion as stated by Doug, and it was seconded by Melissa.

The motion passed unanimously.

Melissa moved that we accept the motion as amended, and it was seconded by Jayne.

Motion passed with one opposing vote by Judy.

Member comments:

Bob Fritz attended the meeting and voiced his opinion that we press the city to do something about deteriorating water lines before it is a major issue. We have had some breaks on Monaco and Macedonia that are due to aging water lines from the street to homes.

The next meeting will be Mar. 6th at 9:00 at Twin Isles Country Club. The BSIA and BSIBC mixer will be held that evening at the Club.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Doug R. and seconded by Mary. Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary C. Drummond
Secretary