

## **BSIA General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 15, 2016**

Officers Present: John Gruca, President; Ian Milne, Vice President; Connie Higgins, Treasurer

Directors/Committees Present: Doug Paquin, Special Projects; Nancy Granum, Membership; Su Miscia, Social; Melissa Lockhart, Standards.

Membership Present: 87 household memberships signed in upon arrival. This number exceeded the by-law requirement of 10% (57) of the membership to constitute a quorum. Each household membership was given a voting card for election of officers and budget approval.

The BSIA Annual Membership Meeting was called to order by President John Gruca at 6:35 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John G.

### **Election of Officers**

John Gruca introduced Len Harris, Chair of the nominating committee. Mr. Harris presented the following nominations:

Libby Strong-Secretary; Bill Courtney-Treasurer; Faith Ferris-Planning; Ralph McCarty-Security.

After each individual nomination Mr. Harris called, three times, for nominations from the floor. After no additional nominations were presented a vote was called and each candidate was elected unanimously except for Ralph McCarty who, in jest, voted against himself.

### **Director Reports to the Membership**

**Membership:** Nancy Granum reported 570 active memberships. Nancy noted that introductory memberships are free to introduce new people to the homeowner's association and start providing them information about our neighborhood. She encouraged anyone

with a new neighbor to have them look at the website, bsia.net, to sign up.

Nancy also noted that 2017 dues would remain at \$30. However, the budget was tight to meet expenses so the board had decided to eliminate the discount for 2 year memberships and the directory will start, in 2017, transitioning to electronic format. It was noted that the electronic format would look very similar to the printed and that members could print out a copy or save it to their computer. A limited number of print directories will be available and advertisers will continue to be recruited to offset the cost of the directories. The information that does not change year-to-year, such as by-laws and deed restrictions, will be provided in print one time if a member desires but these documents are always available on the bsia.net website.

Nancy discussed the accomplishments of the association in 2016:

- Cleaned up & replanted entrance islands and monuments
- Installed security cameras at entrances
- Installed bicycle racks at school bus stops
- Facilitated several member information meetings regarding canal dredging, underground wiring, and proposed Madrid apartment complex
- Facilitated the City of Punta Gorda providing sidewalk trimming on empty lots
- Reviewed new construction plans for compliance with deed restrictions
- Social events including Christmas decoration contest, mixers, picnics, community-wide garage sale, dart night at the pub.
- Provided the annual shredding service in April.
- Provided timely community and neighborhood information by electronic bulletin board and emails.

These accomplishments were a good value for \$30 in dues and were possible because of the volunteer work in BSIA.

**Vice President:** Ian Milne reported 19 new home starts so far this year. Ian also noted that PGPD had, on 5 occasions, asked us for

video evidence due to crimes committed in BSI. At least one of those recordings will be used in court to prosecute a suspect in a vehicle break in.

**Guest Speaker:** At this point in the meeting John Gruca introduced the guest speaker Marine Officer, John Kennedy of the Punta Gorda Police Dept. He talked about boating safety and protecting our boating items, small motors tools etc. He also took questions from the members.

The meeting then returned to director reports.

**Special Projects:** Doug noted the upcoming shredder day in April.

**Standards:** Melissa discussed the process for communicating concerns about neighborhood standards to her and she is in contact with the city of Punta Gorda.

**Treasurer:** Connie reviewed the major budget items and explained about cutting back on income from ads due to going to electronic newsletters and directory. She noted that our goal is for the newsletters and directory is to be funded completely by ad income but that we were not sure how that would go in 2017; the figure for membership dues income was based on the average from the last four years. Connie explained that the amount spent on social events is dependent upon the number of events and that the members actually pay in for the events and the money just flows through the account except for approximately \$2K that is paid by the association for the Ponce Picnic, Board Appreciation Dinner, General Meeting expenses, and things like the holiday decorating project and the yard sale. She estimated the same amount of income from new construction; and explained that we put 10% of member dues paid each year aside for legal/litigation needs.

A vote to approve the budget was requested and the 2017 budget, as presented, was approved by the membership.

Connie asked for a volunteer to audit the books for 2016. BSIA pays a stipend to the person who does it; an accountant or CPA is needed.

**Social:** Su Miscia reported the following:

1. 11/17 CPR for Family and Friends class set up-- a free service of Punta Gorda EMS.
2. Holiday Xmas party 12/12 at 6 PM at Burnt Store Villas cabana on Tripoli
3. Holiday Xmas light contest with 5 specific award areas: Entry was, cul-de-sac neighborhood project, Griswold House, theme house lights, and lights/music sync.
4. 2 dart nights for 2017 in Jan and March to give more people a chance to join, February yard sale, March Ponce Picnic, and more to be decided.
5. According to Don H., only an average of 50% of members read their Tuesday online newsletter...We should all make it a habit to know upcoming events and what is going on about us.

**Underground Wiring:** 'Chick' Petrosino gave an update on the Underground Wiring study. He felt it would be 9-12 months before the study is completed. He and his committee will meet with key players in the initiative (FPL, Comcast, CenturyLink) next month.

**Canal Dredging:** John G mentioned that all requested documents have been submitted and we are now waiting for the approval to proceed. Dredging should start early 2017.

**Other Items:** John G. gave a brief report on the property at 156 Madrid, that has been considered for apartment development. He noted that it still showed active on the MLS. He had spoken to the realtor for the property and reported that the developer who wanted to erect apartments on the property has not approached the realtor with an offer. John also mention that he and Ian met with a second developer who was interested in building duplex villas on the land.

There was also information regarding the Muscle Car property being developed as a storage facility. This project is proceeding thru the city.

**Comments or questions from members:**

- A resident cautioned us not to call the cameras "security cameras" but "surveillance cameras."
- A resident mentioned that wires installed by Comcast on the existing telephone poles were unsightly. Chick Petrosino said that would be a topic of discussion at his meeting with the Underground Wiring players next month.
- Another resident mentioned that the traffic light at the intersection of US 41 and Monaco has been changed so that traffic on Monaco wishing to enter US 41 must wait over 1 minute and 40 seconds. Was there something we could do about it?

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm