

BSIA Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, May 6, 2016

Officers Present: John Gruca, President Ian Milne, Vice President Janie Dunn, Secretary

Connie Higgins, Treasurer

Directors/Committees Present: Kathy Williamson, Security Doug Paquin, Special Projects

Don Hallman, E-Communication Nancy Granum, Membership

Joanne Ziemer, Newsletter Mirko Vlcko, Legal Liaison

Not Present: Doug Rhees, Past President Su Miscia, Social

John Forr, Planning Melissa Lockhart, Standards

Visitors: Bob Armstrong Chuck Modglin

The BSIA Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, May 6, 2016 was called to order by President John Gruca at 9:00am. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John G. and recited by all.

A roll call was held to account for Officers and Directors present, as noted above. John G. asked for any objections to the April 1, 2016 minutes; there were no objections. Kathy W. moved to accept the minutes and Doug P. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved and Don H. will publish them on the BSIA website.

President's Report

John G. announced the landscaping project is moving ahead, 80 plants are in the ground, along with new lighting. John is working with Art Brewster from the City of Punta Gorda to regulate the lights and allow power 24 hours a day to operate the cameras. Maintenance of the landscape will be done by a MOT permit contractor and, in the future, input from a landscape architect will be considered if funds are available, because keeping the islands attractive is beneficial to all in BSI.

John G. asked the board to consider purchasing a 10-person bike rack to be installed at the corner of Madrid and Monaco, the sight of a school bus stop; presently students are chaining their bikes to the road signs. A 10-person bike rack costs \$334 and a 6-person is \$298 with \$46 to secure the rack to the ground. A motion to purchase the 10-person bike rack was made by Nancy G. and seconded by Connie H. and approved by the Board. John G. will consult with the city staff on best placement for the bike rack.

Vice President's Report

Ian M. reports no new applications for construction have been filed; there have been 2 requests for changes: paint color and installation of a 4-foot fence to conceal garbage cans; both requests were approved. A complaint was received regarding garbage cans being left in view at a neighbor's house; the house has recently sold. Mirko V. suggested contacting the realtor to inform the new owners of rule #16.

Security's Report

Kathy W. stated poles for the cameras are up and the installation of the cameras will come next. John G. discussed the agreement made with the neighbor closest to the lock camera to supply power for \$48 a year. A city owned electric box could be considered later on, but it's location is not as accessible.

There was a discussion concerning use of the BSI entrance by delivery trucks servicing Publix and Home Depot; and the question of adding a stop sign on Monaco at Tripoli, where no stop sign is posted; it was decided to drop this issue. Doug P. asked about the BSI Boat Club sign with an arrow pointing down Tripoli. Kathy W., a former commodore, said those signs were redone 5 years ago. Pete Worthington is the new commodore and he could address questions about the condition of the signs and any concerns related to the Boat Club. John G. will contact Pete W., as well as, David Myers at the City of Punta Gorda regarding appropriate signage.

Membership 's Report

Nancy G. reported there are 544 members in BSIA; with 9 new members. She thanked Don H. for his work on simplifying the application process via the web-site. Nancy G. asked for feed-back regarding deletion of names and addresses of people stored in the database who are no longer members of BSIA; something not done since 2011. The database currently has about 1000 names and addresses (nearly double the actual membership), which is an added expense. Mirko V. said there would be no legal problem with deleting the inactive data. A motion to allow the Membership Chairman to update the list and delete obsolete information at his/her direction was made by Mirko V., seconded by Ian M. and approved by all. A suggestion was made that names of former members who are still located in BSI not be deleted for two years from the date they ceased their membership.

Treasurer's Report

Connie H. provided everyone a copy of the Treasurer's Report; she pointed out \$5,000 was paid toward the cameras. A current \$10,000 short-fall is due to the time of year; renewal membership dues are expected in November and December. Kathy W. asked about contents of the BSIA storage unit; Doug P. reported the unit contains flags, Christmas ornaments, games and records. Mirko V. suggested disposing of paper records older than 7 years at the upcoming Shredder Day. John G. offered to go through some of the boxes for that purpose.

Members discussed possible revision to the Directory next year, using binders that would be kept year-to-year; a new insert with current information would be provided annually, with errata updates to be emailed to all members periodically. Nancy G. agreed to look at costs involved in making changes and report back. A question about extra money available from the Social events was addressed by Connie H., who explained participants pay for the events and the money just passes through our account, so no money is really made or is available for other purposes.

Mirko V. asked about the legal fund and wondered if BSIA had ever spent money for legal fees with respect to actual litigation. He explained the two ways those funds could be used: for legal advice, which is a small expense, or litigation, a major expense. The current legal fund is \$36,267, with \$1500, or 10% of the income from membership dues, added every year. Connie knew of an incident with a home owner building a garage, that required legal expenditure. John G. said we may want to consider limiting the growth of the legal fund in the future.

Connie H. announced she will be leaving her position on the Board at the end of the year, and asked for suggestions as to her replacement; also a new auditor needs to be recruited.

Special Projects' Report

Doug P. reported Shredder Day is set for May 14 and is free to all BSIA and TICC members; others are charged \$10. He suggested this could be an opportunity to get new members for BSIA and Nancy G. agreed to provide him with applications to have on-hand.

E-Communication's Report

Don H. asked for pictures of the cameras once they are installed and an article to put in the weekly bulletin to keep people informed. He also pointed out a provision in state code regarding sharing of the Board Minutes within 10 days, if so requested by a member; at present the minutes are not published until approved by the Board the following month. He has had 7 or 8 people say they want to see the minutes to know what the Board is doing, sooner than a month after the fact. It was pointed out that visitors may attend the Board Meetings. Mirko V. asked Don H. to send him the code for review and he will make a recommendation regarding the obligations of BSIA with respect to storing minutes, and making minutes available to members for inspection.

Newsletter's Report

Joanne Z. had concerns about members not receiving the Newsletter if they have only first class mail forwarded. In order for newsletters to be forwarded, the members have to designate that all mail be forwarded, not just first class mail. Nancy G. said the new members packet includes information about forwarding options.

Social Director's Report

Su M., although not present for the meeting, sent a report about the Fat Point Brewery Tour; 33 members participated. Committee members, along with John G. and Don H. are continuing the work of the Social Committee. Future events include a School Supply Drive beginning in June till the 3rd week of July, and an August 5 Mixer and Pool party at TICC. Su is grateful for the support and hopes to be in town mid-July to mid-August.

Additional Questions/Comments

Bob Armstrong, visitor, long-time BSI resident and former BSIA President, informed the Board of recent break-ins and attempted break-ins, by unknown persons using a crowbar to open sliders. Jewelry has been stolen in the last month. He expressed appreciation for the cameras and encouraged the Board to let it be known the cameras are in place. John G. said signs will be posted with that information. Bob A. also asked about a situation where up to 6 cars are parked on the front lawn of a house. John G. was aware of the problem and knows code enforcement has been to the house at least twice. Mirko V. pointed out enforcement is up to the city. John G. agreed to keep in touch with Melissa L. and added if problems occur on weekends, code enforcement is not available, but the police will come out if a complaint is made. Bob A. suggested getting new information out sooner than later would be helpful. Joanne Z. thanked him for his support of BSIA over many years.

The new use of “sharrows” was discussed, which involves bikes and cars sharing the roads. Don H. felt sharrow was an ambiguous term. John G. pointed out the city is currently working on bike safety and awareness.

Chuck Modglin, another visitor and volunteer with the police department, expressed concern about delivery trucks on Tripoli; he has contacted 15 different companies about their use of the residential street. The Police Chief told him the City Council needs to address the wording on the current ordinance to say “local deliveries only”. Chuck complimented the Board on the work being done to better BSI.

John G. recently completed the Citizens Academy, a 3-month program meeting 9 or 10 times, giving 35 participants the opportunity to learn more about how the city works. He encouraged everyone to consider taking the course. John G. also reported from Chick Petrosini, the letters to property owners regarding the underground wiring survey will be mailed by the city 5/16/16 and due back by 6/16; 50% plus 1 vote will carry the measure.

Mirko V. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ian M. and approved by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Janie Dunn