

**BURNT STORE ISLES ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 5, 2014**

Officers Present

Directors Present

President – Gene Murtha	Security – Donald Clark
Secretary – Mary Drummond	Special Projects – Doug Paquin
	Membership – Lori Gurr
	E-Communications – Don Hallman

Officers Absent

Directors Absent

Vice-President – Frank Wiechec	Past President – Doug Rhees
Treasurer – Connie Higgins	Legal Liaison – Mirko Vlcko
	Social – Judy Vanderweele
	Community Standards – Jayne Perkins
	Planning – Brian Stirling

The BSIA Board meeting held on September 5, 2014 at Twin Isles Country Club was called to order by President Gene Murtha at 9:05 am. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was held to account for Officers and Directors present. Additionally, three BSIA members attended the meeting.

The minutes of the August 1, 2014 Board meeting were approved and accepted. Motion to approve was made by Don C. and seconded by Don H. All approved. *The minutes will be posted on the Burnt Store Isles Association website.*

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Gene. Connie’s September 3 financial report was accepted as submitted and filed for audit.

GENERAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

Review of Macedonia Sidewalk Project

The Punta Gorda City Council at its August 13 meeting voted unanimously to remove the Macedonia sidewalk project from the 1% Optional Sales Tax Extension Project list.

Nominating Committee for 2015 Board

Richard Coates is the only person who has stepped forward to volunteer to assume the role of Nominating Committee Chairperson for next year's Board, and the board approved his appointment. Richard is currently in the U.K., and Gene will notify him that he has been appointed Chairman of the 2015 Nominating Committee. He will let Richard know that he needs to assemble his own committee of four (4) members promptly to fill BSIA board positions which are open for next year. At this point, the open positions are President, Vice President, Planning Director, Community Security Director, and Community Standards Director. We would like to make a proposal to amend the Bylaws at our November General Membership meeting to extend Officers' terms from 1 year to 2 years. Another suggestion that was made was that we stagger the terms of Officers and Directors so that they are going off the board in different years to maintain BSIA experience on the board.

Establishment of a "BSIA Underground Wiring Feasibility Committee"

There was an initiative in 2003 to install underground wiring in BSI. Sides were drawn because there would be an initial cost per household just for FPL to perform the survey so FPL and the community would know the project plan figures. It failed miserably because of the survey cost, but that was pre-Hurricane Charley, after which it took 10 days to restore power in BSI. If we had had buried cables, power in BSI would have been restored in 4-5 hours. PGI had discussions with FPL last year regarding underground wiring there, but PGI has not yet committed to any action. Richard Dressel (who lives on Macedonia), was in attendance at the meeting. He has had experience with utilities on many levels and says that the benefits of having buried cable are unbelievable. It might take 10 years to complete an underground wiring project here, but it would improve property values in addition to aesthetics. Gene and the Board think it is time for BSI to explore underground wiring again. He thinks a team of 5 people is what we need for leadership, with the group choosing the best person for chairman. BSIA would be the voice for BSI – 65% of members completing last winter's survey showed interest in pursuing this project. Richard agreed to serve on this committee, and the other four members will be solicited through the weekly newsletter. Gene will also call members who served on the 2003 committee to see if there is any interest from those people in serving on the committee again.

November Annual Meeting

Gene noted that Nov. 11, the scheduled date for our Annual membership meeting, is Veteran's Day. The consensus is that we should do something special – such as a flags, Color Guard and some patriotic songs (perhaps performed by a local high school chorus). Doug P. will purchase flags for the monuments at both entrances to BSI. The holders are already on those monuments but there are no flags. Don H. pointed out that the flags would need to be illuminated at night. At that meeting, we need to have a membership vote for increasing the legal reserve fund and for changing the bylaws to allow for 2-year terms for BSIA Board Officers.

Credit Card Processing Update

Don H., and Lori, say that we are now ready to accept credit cards in addition to checks for payment of annual membership dues. Dues billing will be set to all active (and inactive) members whose dues payments are expiring via the Internet. The 30 members who do not have access to the Internet or have email addresses will receive a hard copy of their invoice by mail. Mark Shubel, who is in the computer software business, questioned the security of our process for accepting dues payments. After some discussion, Mark noted that we were doing the right thing by going outside our website through Constant Contact for dues payments in an effort to keep credit card information secure.

Condition of Entrance Islands and Maintenance Discussion with the City

Doug P. spoke to someone at the City who told him that it is the City's responsibility to maintain the landscaping on the islands at the Monaco and Madrid entrances. The City will install new materials (or replacements) when a request is made. Trimming needs to be done immediately at the second island of the Monaco entrance. A member in attendance at the meeting said the height of the shrubbery there is now a safety factor.

Cul-de-Sac Condition and Strategy Update

The cul-de-sacs will be provided by the City with mulch, 6 shrubs (if needed), and spraying twice a year upon request from a cul-de-sac representative. The mulch will be delivered and the bags will be cut so that no one can remove the bags of mulch for personal use. Lori questioned why the cul-de-sacs are maintained but not the entrances. Each cul-de-sac needs to be assigned a contact person for the City. Doug P. will write up a newsletter request for people to volunteer to be contacts for each of the cul-de-sacs.

Standards Issues

The question of whether or not residents are allowed to park vehicles on their lawns overnight has been answered – City code prohibits this if it is done on a consistent basis during the day and is not allowed at all overnight. The other question was the definition of “truck”, but the meaning is clarified by city code – regular pick-up trucks are allowed.

Membership Drive and Initiatives

We are hoping that the ability to use a credit card as a form of payment for membership dues will be a positive change for BSIA.

Software Licensing Challenge

We are in receipt of a letter from Getty Images that we have infringed on a copyright of an image that we began using on our website when it was set up a couple of years ago. No one realized at the time that it was a copyrighted image. Don H. immediately removed the image from our website as soon as he became aware of the legal issue. Getty has requested that we pay them \$555 for the infringement. After some discussion, the Board decided that we unknowingly violated the copyright laws, and we need to pay the fine before their September 15 deadline by certified check. Mark Shubel suggested that payment should also be to a physical address with proof of delivery in case any question would ever come up later regarding timely payment. A motion to send the payment was made by Don H. and seconded by Doug P. Motion passed unanimously.

Motorcycle Noise Complaint Update

Gene said that a couple of months ago Frank, and later Gene, received a call from a potential BSI property-owner complaining about noise emitted from a motorcycle. A suggestion was made to call the City and notify them, that this type of complaint is not the Association's to deal with. Recently, Gene received a request from a property management company that we take action against a resident's family member who has a noisy car muffler – that it was destroying peace in the neighborhood. Our position is that this is not the Association's job but is the resident's place to file a complaint with the City or City Police Department, who will investigate.

Lecture and/or Travel Club

Gene and his wife, Theresa, are planning to begin a lecture and/or travel club in BSI, either in conjunction with the BSIA Social Committee or outside it. He thinks that there would be substantial interest in a travel club here in BSI because many of our residents enjoy travelling, and it would be an avenue for those who have travelled near or afar to share their knowledge and experience with other residents.

Review of Planning Director Position proposed description

Brian, current Planning Director, made an attempt at rewriting his position description because it was not redone when all of the other job duty descriptions were modified a couple of years ago. Brian was unable to attend this meeting, so this item is tabled until Brian is able to attend a meeting for discussion of the wide scope of this position.

Establishment of On-going Review Process of the Policies and Procedures Manual

In an attempt to organize and update the Policies and Procedures Manual, Gene suggested that we should take one page or guideline per month, review it, and update it if necessary. We should all bring our Manuals to the meetings from now on to expedite this process.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Membership:

Lori reported that we currently have 505 members (accounting for 948 people) and 57 inactive records. Lori recently attended a noise mitigation meeting (at the request of City Council Member Nancy Prafke) at the airport. The Airport Authority has invested \$40,000 in flight tracking software and \$24,000 annually to maintain software. They are doing what they can to mitigate noise over the residential areas of BSI and surrounding communities of Seminole Lakes and Burnt Store Meadows. The latter two get the brunt of most of the take-off noise. Unless weather causes changes in necessary flight patterns, we should not be affected too much by noises in BSI. It is possible for an individual to file a noise complaint with the Punta Gorda airport via the Internet.

Security:

Don C. is trying to arrange a safety seminar on scams in October. The Punta Gorda City Police Dept. would present it at the police department building if a suitable time and date can be worked out.

E-communications:

Don H. says that he received notice from Constant Contact that our email site fee will be increasing by \$5/month.

The next meeting will be Oct. 3rd at 9:00 at Twin Isles Country Club.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary C. Drummond
Secretary