

Burnt Store Isles Association, Inc.

Annual Membership Meeting

November 10, 2015

The meeting was held at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church and was called to order by President Doug Rhees at 7:00 P.M. Members were welcomed. There were 105 member households present out of 508 members, establishing a quorum (10% required). The total number of people in attendance was 176.

Doug said he has enjoyed his third year as president and expressed appreciation to all of the volunteers who have supported BSIA efforts this year.

In observance of Veteran's Day, which is tomorrow, Doug expressed his appreciation to all those who have served our country and asked those members present who are veterans to stand and be recognized.

The Pledge of Allegiance, led by our veterans, was recited by all.

Doug introduced our special Guest speaker, Acting Punta Gorda Police Chief Tom Lewis. Chief Lewis, who has had 18 years of experience here, gave us an overview of the police department and its operations. He emphasized that the police department's priority is customer service and noted the force's quick response time (less than 5 minutes) to calls from residents. The department has high standards for transparency and accountability. He pointed out that Punta Gorda, especially BSI, is a very safe place to live, but Chief Lewis is in favor of security cameras. He suggested that we take advantage of the department's Away from Home program in which they will monitor your home in your absence free of charge.

Gary Brewster, BSI Canal Advisory Committee Chairman, was introduced next by President Doug. Gary noted that speeding in the canals is a problem. He suggested that if you witness a speeding boat, please photograph or record the registration number of the vessel and report it to the police. The owner of the boat will receive a visit from the police regarding the incident. There is a need to find locations or a different system in which to store and/or transport materials for seawall maintenance and repairs. City Council would like to have suggestions from the public as to how to address this future issue as vacant lots disappear in BSI. Gary then updated our group on the approved perimeter canal dredge project, which is to bring the canal to its original design shape in 2017 by removing the "hard stuff" to a 6-foot depth – work that was not performed in the initial work on the perimeter canal. Annual maintenance dredging of silt from this canal is currently performed. Permitting for this project should be simple at this point since all engineering studies are complete. The proposal increases each waterfront property owner's assessment by \$120 per year for 6 years. There is a community meeting tentatively scheduled for January 14 regarding this major dredge project. Doug urged us to attend and provide input to the Canal Advisory Committee regarding timing of the work.

Doug next asked Chick Petrosino, Chairman of the Underground Wiring Feasibility Committee, to address our group and explain the status of this committee's discovery work. This Committee was

established a year ago after the Association as a whole expressed a desire to explore the possibility again of burying power lines in BSI to continue improvement of our community. The initial work on this project was done by another group 8 years ago. Members of this committee are Buzz Dressel, Ed Minzer, Bill Hughes, Doug Holmes, John Forr, Larry Wickes and Chick. The Committee has spent countless hours gathering information and working with FP&L representatives. The initial step would be an engineering study to be performed by FP&L which would cost our community \$88,000 to determine if we wish to proceed with the project. The group is meeting in December to plan an informational meeting for all residents of BSI to explain the full proposed project to both BSIA members and non-members. Representatives from FP&L will also be in attendance at that community-wide gathering to answer questions.

President Doug then updated us regarding the Alligator Creek dredge. This project to dredge to a 6-foot depth is scheduled to begin by late spring or mid-summer 2016. He also spoke about the approved PGI Bird Cut project, which is still in the early planning stages. The engineer studying the project says that it will be years before the Bird Cut comes to fruition. Doug addressed the need for BSIA to be aware of construction plans on the lots on Monaco and Tripoli which were purchased earlier this year. This property is zoned for multi-family housing, and we need to encourage the building of single family or condominiums on this land. We would like to maintain the integrity of our community, which is free of apartment buildings. We should be prepared to defend our position legally if necessary.

Doug next introduced Chet Sliski, Chairman of the 2016 Nominating Committee, who announced the proposed slate of candidates for Officers and Directors (positions for which terms expire 12/31/15). He thanked the members of his committee: Steve Fox, Jean Ritter, Les Totten, and Chuck Zajicek. Chet introduced each of the candidates and gave our group some biographical information about each one. The slate is as follows:

President: John Gruca

Vice President: Ian Milne

Secretary: Peggy Modglin

E-Communications Director: Don Hallman

Social Director: Su Miscia

Chet mentioned that during this process, he has acquired the names a number of other people who are not assuming a Board position who would like to be included in some capacity as BSIA volunteers.

Doug thanked Chet and his committee for his hard work in finding a full slate of candidates. Doug asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Richard Dressel moved that we accept the proposed slate of officers in its entirety in one vote. Bob Armstrong seconded the motion. Vote was taken by raised index cards and the motion carried unanimously.

Doug's goal this year was to increase our membership numbers. He spoke about the free memberships that the Board decided this year to award to new homeowners in BSIA: a two-year membership to owners of new homes and a one-year membership to new owners of existing homes. They will receive a directory and the quarterly BSIA newsletters. He thinks this might be a start on promoting and

encouraging membership in our organization. Doug would like to see major growth in our membership numbers, and we can only do that by making residents aware of our role in the community.

Lori Gurr, Membership director, said that we now have 507 household/property-owner memberships. Lori reminded us that we are all members of our welcome committee. 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. Membership renewals are due now for next year. Your payment needs to be received by Jan. 31 for your information to be included in the membership directory.

Jayne Perkins, Vice President, reported that 24 new homes have been approved for construction thus far in 2015, and there is no indication of slowing. She welcomed Ian to the Board as her replacement. The number of available lots in our community is dwindling because of all of the new home construction.

Mary Drummond, Secretary, encouraged members to become involved in the Association. It is a great way to meet people if you are new in the community.

Don Hallman says that this year he worked to keep our website running smoothly and capable of accepting credit cards for payment for dues and certain events.

BSIA Social Director, Judy Vanderweele, expressed her appreciation to Don for making her job much easier with online information and registrations for social events. She reminded members to participate in the revived Christmas decorating contest and to attend the upcoming social events around Christmas (BSIA Christmas party Dec. 10 and BSIBC Boat Parades). The annual Darts party is planned again for first of February. Our annual picnic will occur in March as always. It is always a popular gathering. She wants to thank those who made the community-wide yard sale a success. We are planning to have another yard sale in February. Judy also mentioned that this summer, John Forr spearheaded an effort to inform local realtors about BSI. This was a joint effort with Twin Isles Country Club, and the realtors were given lunch at the club and ample information about our community, the waterways, and our deed restrictions. If you have any ideas for new functions, please bring them to the attention of the Social Committee.

Doug Paquin, Special Projects Director, stated that it is incumbent upon residents who live around the cul-de-sacs in the community to maintain them to keep BSI looking beautiful and to keep the city from stripping the cul-de-sacs and declaring them abandoned. These residents can call the city for additional mulch, spraying or replacement plants for those that have died. Some of our entry island plantings are not thriving. Before spending money to replant them, Doug will determine what plants can tolerate the extreme heat around our entry islands because of the great amount of pavement surrounding a small amount of land.

Doug presented \$50 gift certificates to Limoncello's to two winners of the contest which was held earlier this year for a new BSI logo to be used in conjunction with renovation of our entry monuments.

Kathy Williamson presented information about a proposed security system for BSI that uses cameras which would be mounted on top of our monuments at each entrance and at the entryway to Alligator Creek. There is already electricity available at each of these locations for running the 5 cameras and boxes for the DVRs cameras. They would photograph license plates of vehicles coming in and exiting. The cost would be approximately an initial \$8500 plus maintenance as an ongoing expense if we wish to

contract for that. After a number of questions, a vote was taken to see if members in attendance were in favor of purchasing these cameras. There were 49 in favor and 24 against. Since there was enough interest expressed in having these cameras, approval was given to the Board to purchase security cameras during 2016.

Treasurer Connie Higgins presented the BSIA's financial report as of 10/31/15. The current total funds balance is \$68,463. Of the balance, \$35,000, is restricted for legal expenses. Expenses and income are even to date. Another \$1,500 (10% of membership dues paid in 2015), will be added to the legal fund at the beginning of 2016.

Connie also presented the proposed 2016 budget for BSIA. Connie noted that if we purchase security cameras for the community, the funds will come out of our savings. It would not be a budgeted item because it is a special project. Richard Dressel moved that the budget be approved and Bob Armstrong seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Doug commented that he would like to approach the entire BSI community to request contributions toward the purchase of security cameras since all residents would benefit from having them. He thinks sending postcards to non-members asking for might be effective in collecting money and increasing community awareness of BSIA. Please notify Doug if you have any ideas as to how to approach all non-members in BSI about helping with camera costs.

The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for the evening of March 8, 2016 at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Drummond, Secretary