

ST. ARMANDS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**April 3, 2007 Board Meeting
Lido Grill, St. Armands Circle
Private Meeting Room
4:30 6:30 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Rex - President, Hytham Bakr, Manuel Chepote, David Day, Buck Fry, Jan Haynes, Marlene Lancaster, Jim Grace, Joanna Grace, Michael Losey, Ed Pinto and Earl Scott.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Deb Cusano, Ron Hermann, Ken Pippin and Martin Wilhelm (All excused)

GUEST: Michelle Mician NPO, Commissioner Ken Shelin and Wayne Freed, (Lido Shores).

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Bill Rex called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES Minutes were approved as submitted by e-mail.

3. TREASURY REPORT Buck Fry, treasurer, presented the treasury report.

All accounts total \$14,914.30. There is a Checking balance of \$6,405 with deposits this month of \$100.00 for four new memberships which now total 61, and no expenditures, Savings totaled \$2,433.66 giving a total available balance of \$8,839.35. There is a balance of \$6,074.95 in the CD @ 5.05% interest thru 10/09/07. A check for \$300.00 to the Lido Beach Resort was requested to cover the deposit for the annual Breakfast to be held April 14th. Marlene Lancaster moved to approve the report, seconded by Jan Haynes.

4. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Michele Mician distributed information on the City Wide Clean up (May 19) and the Florida Neighborhood Conference (June 14-16). She is seeking presenters and volunteers and Bill Rex encouraged participation. The SOS Project could be a possible presentation from our neighborhood. St. Armands also has two scholarships available for The National Florida Neighborhoods Conference in Baton Rouge (May 23-25). Scholarships cover air travel, food and lodging and will be granted to the first to apply for them.

B. Jim Grace reported on progress being made to sink the power lines on Coon Key. He has been working to gain support from neighborhoods affected by safety issues that exist during hurricanes and flooding conditions which can endanger the evacuation process from Longboat, Lido and St. Armands Keys. A letter has been sent to the Mayor and City Commission requesting funding for the project. Since this letter went beyond the safety issues alone and included landscaping and use of the median on Coon Key, support for parts of that request by the Commission and our neighboring Keys has been declining. A new letter and revised presentation will be prepared by Jim and approved by the Executive Board that will be limited to the safety issues only. It is the Boards intention to take the process one step at a time and work in cooperation with all of the neighborhood associations affected. This message will be carried to members of the Lido Key Residents Association at their next meeting. Jim was thanked for all of his hard work on this challenging assignment.

C. Joanna Grace reported that she is still awaiting a determination from the Tree Canopy Program on the types of trees they will make available for St. Armands. Royal Palms have been requested since they are indigenous and consistent with existing trees here along with other palm and shade varieties. PWD has responded to our request and begun to clean up the Mangrove area at the west canal. A request for PWD to landscape the median on S. Blvd. of the Presidents awaits their response. Existing power lines and lack of irrigation will be limiting factors. Joanna is working on plans to spruce up traffic islands with help from the PWD.

D. SOS (Save our Statues) Ed Pinto will be meeting on Apr. 10th with the Historic Preservation Board to sort out the value of statues on St. Armands. He has visited and was impressed by the Beijing Statue facility chosen to do the replacement pieces. Pledges now exceed \$80,000.00. Donations to the fund will be managed by The Community Foundation of Sarasota since they are an IRS Code 501 (c)(3) which necessitated the following resolution:

The St. Armands Residents Association resolves to:

i) Request the Community Foundation of Sarasota County to establish the Beautify St. Armands Fund (the fund) and authorized Edward Pinto to take such steps as are necessary to accomplish same.

ii) Authorize the establishment of an advisory committee to provide advice and guidance to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with respect to expenditures to be made from the Fund and other issues relating to the operation of the Fund.

iii) Appoint William Rex, Michael Losey and Edward Pinto as the initial advisory committee members.

Motion to approve Chepote, seconded Lancaster.

It is expected that the City will approve the project in late April with installation in the fall. See Eds full report under the Committees Link for details.

E. Earl Scott (Traffic Calming) reported City Engineers met on March 20 with citizens to consider changes to the traffic calming plan due to resident dissention. A new plan should be ready for approval within 60 days.

F. Web Site Jim Grace requested an additional one time \$50.00 fee to pay the web master to develop a newsletter link for the site. Committee heads are asked to contribute concise reports of developments for the Committee Link and all are asked to contribute photos and stories about events of interest. The site is updated on the 15th of each month so be sure to have them to him well in advance. The sale of advertising to help defray the cost of the site was discussed.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Note of thanks from Gwen DeMichele for Bill Rexs explanation of the standing water in front of her home

B. Letter from Sandy Bower, LK Residents Association, withdrawing their support on the Coon Key Beautification Project due to disagreement over the scope of the project which exceeded the burial of power lines.

6. COMMITTEE AND PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2007 The sign-up sheet was re-circulated so that all committee and representative positions could be filled.

7. REPORTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. Deb Cusano- (Social) Annual Breakfast will be held at Lido Beach Resort on April 14, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunset Terrace Room. Get your reservations in and encourage your neighbors to attend.

B. Marlene Lancaster (Membership) is awaiting the list of current members to target the mailing campaign. (BIG) BIG has withdrawn support for underground power lines but will support it again if only the power lines are included in the plan

C. Bill Rex (BID) and (LMR) stated the BID, Bank and City have co-operated to assemble the funds to proceed with work this summer on building the two neck-outs and upgrading three cross walks . A landowner Committee is assembling to work on a Master Plan Proposal for St. Armands Key.

8. OLD BUSINESS None

9. NEW BUSINESS Guest, Wayne Freed ((Lido Shores Pres.) expressed support for the Beautification efforts of our board inclusive of the Underground Power Line Project.

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN : Ed Pinto, seconded, Mike Losey 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Haynes, Secretary