

MINUTES of  
BELLE ISLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (BIRA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
February 24, 2009  
Meeting Room at 20 Island Avenue

Board Members Present

David Ballard  
Barbara Cowen  
Scott Diffenderfer  
Josh Fisher  
Barbara Frank  
Herb Frank  
Keith Hark  
Nancy Liebman  
Sandra Money  
Rosemary Ravinal  
Irene Sperber

Scott called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Scott noted that the January Board and the Annual meeting Minutes had been revised. It was agreed that the corrected Minutes would be distributed to the Board and approval of the January Board meeting deferred until the next Board meeting.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Irene described Gail Limburg, who's Application she distributed to the Board earlier in the day. She made a motion to approve Gail. Sandy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that BIRA received a contribution of \$216.00 from Costa Brava, representing \$1 for each of the building's units.

**By-Laws Change**

Herb reviewed the change to By Laws Article 1 indicating the name change when BIRA was incorporated in January 17, 2008. He moved that Article 1 should read:

ARTICLE I. NAME AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA: The name of the organization shall be the Belle Isle Residents Association, Inc. Its geographic area is Belle Isle, Miami Beach, FL (Amendment by the Board on 2/24/09 changing the name as of 1/17/08 to reflect the change to a Not for Profit Corporation.)

Sandy seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

**Set Time and Day for the Next BIRA Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, at 3 Island Avenue.

**Old Business**

The status of BIRA concerns about the park was discussed. It is understood that Lynn Bernstein is to be included/consulted for all requests with the City. After discussion, Herb was

authorized by Scott to work with Domingo Macias and John Oldenberg of the Parks Department as the BIRA representative and Scott would notify these gentlemen of this decision.

### **New Business**

It was noted that some people bring large dogs to the park and allow them to run free. It is known that at least one dog has been mauled. It appears that the police do not enforce the ordinance that dogs must be on a leash outside of the dog park. It was suggested that signs be posted in the park, a notice posted in all buildings on Belle Isle and a letter sent to the City Manager about police enforcement. Barbara Cowan agreed to draft these communications and Irene to provide final presentations.

A member of the audience questioned the 3 parking spaces next to the pump, which have strange signage and where he was ticketed for parking. Nancy and Scott agreed to research the issue.

### **Presentation of 31 Venetian Way**

Scott described the fact that BIRA was not notified of the project prior to some residents receiving a notice from the City about the plans to demolish and redo 31 Venetian Way and the Design Review Board hearing on the matter on February 3. At that meeting, the Review Board suggested that those representing the building get input from Belle Isle residents before they re-design the new building to take into account comments from the Review Board in anticipation of the next meeting with them in April. Andrew Frey, their attorney, introduced Luis Revuelta, Barbara Pederzoll, and Hernando Marim and noted that the property is zoned for a 5 story building, which this will be. It will have 179 units and enclosed parking structure with 1.5 spaces/unit, a bay walk that is a minimum of 15 feet wide and open to the public from dawn to dusk, a bridge for access from one unit to the other which contains 4 rental units in it. He indicated the time line is to start as soon as permits are obtained and noted that, since the building was changed 10 to 15 years ago, it has no historic significance.

Members of the audience expressed concerns and made the following recommendations:

- the bridge between the buildings impedes the view corridor and should be reduced in size or eliminated; residents believe view corridors should be unimpeded;
- if the bridge is eliminated, the buildings could be combined into one building with the southeast side curving, eliminating the central view corridor and providing one large view corridor on the southeast corner side of the property
- the area provided for truck and garbage pick-up is very small and certain to result in vehicles blocking the street;
- the density of 179 units will bring traffic and the building appearance which is very different from all of the others on that side of Belle Island;
- the loss of trees will be noticeable; and
- the shiny facade will stand apart from the other buildings on that side of Belle Island.

There being no further business, Herb made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Keith seconded. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Prepared by: Sandra K. Money, Secretary