

MINUTES of
BELLE ISLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (BIRA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 13, 2005
Card Room at 3 Island Avenue

Board Members Present

Josh Fisher
Barbara Frank (by Proxy to Herb Frank)
Herb Frank
Keith Hack
Nancy Liebman
Toby Maxwell
Sandra Paul Money

Other Attendees

None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President Herb Frank.

Introduction of Toby Maxwell

New Board member Toby Maxwell was announced and welcomed upon his arrival later in the meeting.

Approval of the March 9, 2005 Board Minutes

Sandy made a motion to approve the Minutes; Keith seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Parking Permit Update

Herb has been informed that the Commission meeting time for this Agenda Item is 5 p.m. on April 20. He will deliver the letter (previously sent to all Board members) to each of the Commissioners personally on Monday, April 18. All Board members are urged to post the time in their buildings and get as many people as possible to attend that meeting.

Crosswalk at 17th & Bay

The need to install a push button to stop traffic in all directions and allow pedestrians to cross the road has been stressed by a number of Belle Island residents. They have been urged to send a letter to the Board which can be the basis for a request to Fred Beckmann. Although this is a county function, Fred, the director of public works, is the city's point of contact.

Herb noted that he has created a list of all of his contact people in each of the areas of concern to BIRA. It is attached to these minutes, as is a copy of his April 13 e-mail to Ronnie Singer about a variety of issues of concern to BIRA.

Park Timing

Herb reported that he was told one month ago that the new Pumping Station would be completed in 2 to 3 months. Nancy noted that we have not seen the plans for the new Station and agreed to call Fred Beckmann to obtain one.

Herb reported that Diana Trettin had a meeting with the engineers responsible for the revisions to the plan. He will follow-up with her on the timing of the stages ahead.

Moored Boats in the Neighborhood

Nancy reported that the committee voted to send the Commissioners a Draft Ordinance providing some controls over the boats. She believes it may be placed on the same Agenda as the Residential Parking item.

Special Events on Belle Isle

Herb and others from BIRA met with Max Sklar; Victor Diaz listened at this first meeting. There is another meeting scheduled the coming Friday. Special Events must be licensed, but Major Events are not and no licenses have been applied for by the Spa. He read a letter (attached) to Max Sklar. Sandy made a motion to approve it; Nancy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Website Activities

Josh was told what an outstanding job he is doing. He reported increases in the number of hits after the site appears in newsletters and newspapers.

Summer Absence

Since many members of the Board will not be here during the summer, it was agreed that no Board Meetings will be held, but we would continue communication through e-mail and arrange a telephone meeting if something urgent develops.

Schedule Next General Membership Meeting (GMM) (or not)

After discussion, it was agreed that a GMM should be held at the end of November, but before the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

New Business

There was none. It was noted that the opening schedule for the Spa is not known but management has been moved out of the Spar Building, so that building inspections can be held by the City.

Next BIRA Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 in the Card Room at 3 Island Avenue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Prepared by:

Sandra K. Money, Secretary

----- Original Message -----

From: Gessdog@aol.com

To: Sandy@SKPAssociates.com

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2005 10:07 PM

Subject: email to Ronnie Singer

Following email was sent to Ronnie Singer at Miami Beach C I P department on 4 13 05.

Hi Ronnie...this may seem silly but I am trying to get a handle on the various projects which are going to be worked on here on B I by the City. I realize that you must be bugged by everyone as most of the C I P plans are running late.

The newly formed Belle Isle Residents Association Board of Directors are meeting tonight and I know they will be asking me questions about timing of the projects.

1. Park renovations last we heard Diana Trettin was going to be meeting with the engineers to find out about a starting date. It was supposed to be this coming summer (rescheduled after not getting started last summer). Included in this project, as I understand it, is installing a new storm water runoff system to correct the flooding after big rains.
2. Caroline Defreze was working with Fred Beckman to see what can be done to improve the pedestrian crossing problem over 17th street at Bay. There is really no way people can cross the road safely and we were thinking that a brick paver path could be put in place and tied into the existing traffic light, a push button light control installed for pedestrians when needed. Or some other plan. Is there a way to make this happen?
3. Jordana Rubin was going to be advising when the work on Collins Canal will get started. Parts of the fencing along the canal have been knocked over and need repair and some beautification is seriously needed from the Dade Blvd intersection with 17th St to the first white bridge of the Venetian Causeway. This could be attractive but now is UGLY.
4. Hiram Siaba told me that the pumping station in the Belle Isle park is being replaced within the next few months and that it would be surrounded by shrubbery after complete. Is this happening? I know they worked in that area a while ago but it appears that work has stopped.

Your thoughts on these topics would be appreciated.

Thanks, Herb

HERB FRANK
EMAIL: GESSDOG@AOL.COM
PHONE: 305 674 9296
FAX: 305 674 1247

----- Original Message -----

From: Gessdog@aol.com
To: Sandy@SKPAssociates.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2005 9:37 PM
Subject: email to Max Sklar

Following was sent to Max Sklar on 4 13 05 after the BIRA Board Meeting

To Max Sklar, Special Events Director:

Dear Max, below is what I sent to Frank Delvecchio for his minutes at our April 8, 2005 meeting. Although the words may vary slightly, this is the intent of my comments at the meeting.

"Belle Isle is a residential community of approximately 2500 residents. On Belle Isle there is one non conforming commercial property....now called THE STANDARD SPA. The Board of Directors of The Belle Isle Residents Association has officially adopted the position that no "SPECIAL EVENTS" be permitted to be held at this venue which is a non conforming use facility. We request that no license be issued which will enable an increase in occupancy through the issuance of a temporary occupancy permit. The traffic and parking impacts of Special Events at the Standard Spa would be severe on Belle Isle. Island Ave and the Venetian Causeway, on Belle Isle, do not have the capacity to handle the traffic, parking and/or the number of people who would attend a Special Event. The Standard Spa has no parking space connected with it. The Belle Isle Residents Association requests that the Planning Department and Special Events Regulation Department formally adapt this position as well."

Max, you commented that it is important for the Planning Department and the Special Events Department to know that there is a Residential Association in the community where a Special Event is requested. I would appreciate your reflecting the following information in your notes. The Belle Isle Residents Association is very active and it's Board of Directors has regular monthly meetings and has established the practice of having General Membership Meetings as needed.

It is easy to reach the Board of Directors by either sending me an email or writing to "The Board" on the Belle Isle website which is www.belle-isle-residents.org

If I can be of any help, please let me know.

Thank you,

HERB FRANK, President
Belle Isle Residents Association
EMAIL: GESSDOG@AOL.COM
PHONE: 305 674 9296
FAX: 305 674 1247

B.I.R.A

PARK RENOVATIONS + STORM WATER RUN OFF

DON SHOCKEY - PLANNING 305 673 7071 DONALD SHOCKEY @ MIAMI BEACH FL. GOV

DIANA TRETIN, CAPITAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR + CONSTRUCTION
305 673 7071 DIANA TRETIN @ MIAMI BEACH FL. GOV

MOORED BOATS + CAUSEWAY BEAUTIFICATION

NANCY LIEBMAN + BARBARA BISNO 305 374 2566
B BISNO @ COMCAST. NET
+ MATT LIEBOWITZ
M LIEBOWITZ @ BROADLAW. COM

TRAFFIC CONCERNS

FRED BECKMANN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS 305 673 6012
FRED BECKMANN @ MIAMI BEACH FL. GOV
CAROLINE DEFREZE - CITY REPRESENTATIVE

PARKING

SAUL FRANCES 305 673 7505 X 6483 or CAL 786 412 6001
SAULFRANCES @ MIAMI BEACH FL. GOV

COLLINS CANAL REPAIRS

JORDANA RUBIN - PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. 305 673 7080 X 6121
JRUBIN @ MIAMI BEACH FL. GOV

PUMPING STATION

HIRAM SIABA 305 673 7071
HIRAM SIABA @ MIAMI BEACH FL. GOV

OTHER CONTACTS:

CAROLINE DEFREZE - CAROLINE DEFREZE @ MIAMI BEACH FL. GOV
305 673 7580

RONNIE SINGER - COMMUNITY INFORMATION OFFICER
305 673 7071 RONNIE SINGER @ MIAMI BEACH FL. GOV