

Bay Harbor Improvement Association
Minutes of Board Meeting
Saturday, March 13, 2010

President Bill Hand called the board meeting of Bay Harbor Improvement Association to order Saturday, March 13, 2010, 10:00 AM, at the home of Carl Finney, 3814 Tradewinds.

Bill welcomed members and guests.

A quorum was established with eight members attending. Attending members were: Bill Hand, Carl Finney, Gail Choate, Betsy Redfield, Pam Williams, Rob Traugott, Annette Moore and Pat Jackson. Absent were Sheryl Liskow and Sam Criswell. Guests included: Gail Finney, Gene Gansky and Randy Choate.

The minutes of the past meeting, February 13, 2010, and the treasurer's report for the same period had been distributed. A motion to accept the minutes and treasurer's report as distributed was made by Rob Traugott and seconded by Annette Moore. Motion carried

Old Business:

- St. Patty's Golf Cart Parade and party today. There was discussion about the food, beer and crawfish. Rob Traugott volunteered to take care of the crawfish. The time for the parade would be 3 PM, starting at the boat basin and ending there for food.
- Bulletin Board – There were a few questions about the bulletin board. Pam needed some help in installing the board.
- Sewers – John Halsey had sent e-mails about the status of the sewers. The sewer situation has not changed much. The property in the zone for the lift station is for sale though.
- Golf carts – Bill Hand gave a report on the new golf cart regulations. There was discussion on financial responsibility. Annette Moore brought up the subject of golf carts on the beach. She had learned that the 5500 association is asking to open the Beach Access Plan and amend it to prohibit all vehicles on the beach at all times. She wanted Bill Hand, as president of BHIA, to e-mail Karen Mahoney with a cc to the mayor, to ask that BHIA also would like to amend the Beach Access plan to allow golf carts on the beach. After discussion, a motion to have Bill send that e-mail was made by Rob Traugott and seconded by Annette Moore. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

Finance – Gail - The secretary asked about an external hard drive or other back up solution to keep Bay Harbor records safe. There was some discussion. Bill Hand volunteered to ask his son, who is very knowledgeable about computers, which would be the best method.

Marina – Carl/Rob – Carl will put up bulletin board. Noted was the fact that there are 3 boards missing off one of the piers. Bill Hand said he had some.

Newsletter – John Halsey – Bill Hand said we would try e-mailing the Heron for a year.

Restoration Project – Betsy Redfield - Included in Betsy's report was the following: At a meeting on March 5th with representatives from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Galveston Bay Foundation, NOAA, US Department of Agriculture, and Gahagan & Bryant Associates, Bay Harbor representatives presented the status of the project including significant increases in the private funds of the budget. Information from the engineer that the post-storm survey work had been completed and that the Texas General Land Office coastal easement permit was in process, spurred the support and interest of the agencies. The project's permit received an extension from the Corps of Engineers. Also, cooperation on requests for extensions from previously announced grants by the Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation continued to maintain the project in a "shovel ready" position.

This strong position of the Bay Harbor Habitat Restoration Project was recognized as follows:

From the Habitat Restoration Coordinator, **Galveston Bay Foundation**: “I am happy to inform you that **GBF** through a partnership with **RAE (Restore America’s Estuaries)** and **NOAA**, will be contributing \$66,500 of federal funds to the project.” These funds require matching non-federal funds which are now available in the Bay Harbor budget.

GBF will be involved, along with **USFWS**, USDA-**NRCS**, and Bay Harbor volunteers in “Marsh Mania” planting events that will occur at the back end of the project.

With the significant status report of the Habitat Restoration Project, the **US Fish & Wildlife Service** increased its funding by \$15,000 through the **Coastal Beach & Bay Foundation**, which recently supported the Project with a \$10,000 grant.

Engineering activities will proceed with final plans and the letting of bids with a target construction start date in June this year. The Bay Harbor Annual Meeting will be held on June 12th with a big celebration and ribbon cutting event at this time. Representatives from all supporting agencies and city, county and state organizations will be invited to participate.

All the board members applauded Betsy for her exceptional work on the restoration project.

Annual Meeting – Pam - Pam reported that she has the list of donors for the silent auction and will send letters to donors next week.

New Business:

- Street signs- A report was made that the sign a Tradewinds at Galceran is missing, also some signs need straightening. There could be more speed limit signs.
- Abandon property – There was discussion of some properties that have not been repaired.
- Rush Development – The specific use permit has been withdrawn for Rush Development.

Next board meeting: April 10, 2010 – at the home of Pam Williams, 3917 First Street.

A motion to adjourn was made by Annette Moore and seconded by Carl Finney. Meeting adjourned.

Gail Choate
Secretary/Treasurer
BHIA