

ST. ARMANDS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

February 6, 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 – Ex-officio, Buck Fry, Jim Grace, Joanna Grace, Jan Haynes, Michael Losey, Ed Pinto, Earl Scott, Martin Welheim

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Debbie Cusano, David Day, Ron Herman, Marlene Lancaster, Ken Pippin

GUEST: Jesse Hannan, Rebecca Anderson, Michelle Mician – NPO, and Commissioners Mary Ann Servian and Ken Shelin

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Bill Rex called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. introducing guest and new members of the board. He also thanked Dale Rohde, General Manager of the Lido Grill, for the wonderful food they prepared for us.

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

3. TREASURY REPORT – Buck Fry, treasurer, presented the treasury report. Checking \$9188.02, Savings \$2432.67, CD \$6035.63 for a total of \$17,656.32. (The report includes expenses for Annual Dinner that have not been paid yet. Buck also gave an Annual Dinner and Membership report. 57 annual memberships \$1425.00, 79 Dinners \$2607.00, and cash bar of \$926.00. Total revenue from annual dinner \$3533.00. Cost were Entertainment \$400.00, Dinner \$3816.00 for a total cost of \$4216. Treasury report was approved as submitted.

4. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Annual Dinner Comments: Bill Rex, president, commented on the drop in attendance at the Annual Dinner as well as the past few functions and asked for comments and suggestion that might increase interest and membership. Jim Grace pointed out that the dinner and membership go hand-in-hand. If residents don't attend the dinner they usually don't join the association. Jan Haynes suggested small neighborhood cocktail parties might possibly generate interest. Commissioner Shelin suggested personal follow up calls before an event as well as personal contact when there is no event involved. Commissioner Servian, who was the originator of the New Years Eve "toast to the last sunset of the year" on Lido Beach, suggested that we make this a big event since this year will be the 10th anniversary.

B. SOS (Save our Statues) – Ed Pinto reported that \$25,000.00 has been raised for this project. He passed out a list of all the statues on the Key. (Copy filed with minutes) Michael Losey made a motion that the Board adopt the Statue project and present it to the city. Seconded by Hytham Bakr and approved by a unanimous

vote. Michael Losey stated he is applying for a Grant that could help out with this project. He plans to meet the February 25th deadline. Hytham Bakr made a motion to contribute \$3,000.00 from our treasury to the SOS Project. Seconded by Michael Losey and passing by 9 yes, 1 no and 1 abstained.

C. Neighborhood Watch – Jesse Hannan submitted minutes from the Neighborhood Watch committee meeting held on January 25, 2007. Lt. McVay attended this meeting and presented a complete report of incidents in the area for the past year. Most were traffic violations. There were several car burglaries with most of them at the beach or in public parking places and three burglaries of residences on St. Armands. His recommendations were: (1) do not leave houses or cars unlocked at any time, and (2) leave lights on when possible. Earl Scott stated the results of the St. Armands Traffic Calming study are tentatively scheduled for presentation to the City Commission on Tuesday, February 20, 2007. Once confirmed that Traffic Calming is included on the agenda he will notify St. Armands residents.

D. Follow up on the STAR newsletter issue – Jim Grace commended Bill Rex on his president's message which was very nice and very educational.

E. Update on Fire Station Project – Bill Rex informed us that the new fire station is close to going out to bid. He passed around the latest drawings.

F. Web Site – Jim Grace reported that the new person we hired is re-creating and making all necessary changes we needed on our web site. It should be up and running by next week. Jim made a motion to budget \$600.00 in order to make current the web site maintenance. Seconded by Jan Haynes and passed unanimously. (Note: \$100.00 per month maintenance was approved last year but up until now has not been spent.)

5. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Coon Key Median Letter – Bill Rex had a letter signed by all groups for the clean up of the median at Coon Key approaching St. Armands. This letter will be send to the City and County Commissioners requesting their support in order that in first phase the power lines be buried and power poles be removed.

B. Other Correspondence – None

6. COMMITTEE AND PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2007 – A list of all committees and projects was given to each board member. Each board member is to let Bill Rex know before the next board meeting which committee or project they want to serve on. If you want to continue to work on the same project (that is great) just let Bill know.

7. REPORTS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED

A. CCNA – Manuel Chepote reported that he attended the last CCNA meeting at which time Police Chief Abbot made a power point presentation of the proposed new police station. He reminded us that the vote is coming up in March.

A. Tree Canopy Report – Joanna Grace has spoken with the city arborist about the Tree Canopy Program regarding the Royal Palms. He is not sure if we can sign up for royal palms this time. He is hesitant to inundate an area with one type of palm. Joanna will be meeting and discussing tree options with him for this year.

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS – None

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN – 6:30 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Anderson
For Jan Haynes, Secretary**