

## **BEACH CLUB COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**May 12, 2016**

**Present:** Ruth Mosca, Sherri McKinney, and Bridget Fraser. By phone: John Puzine, Ann Cea, Sheri Klein, Dan Klein, Kyle Mustin.

Doug Campbell from the CDD was present, and Molly Meadow from Severn Trent was on the phone.

Ruth Mosca called the meeting to order and - a quorum present - the minutes of the BC Committee meeting of 3/16/16 were approved.

### **Project Reports:**

Brad McKnight from Severn Trent reported on the progress of several projects:

-Two of the grills have been repaired and reinstalled. The repairs are of high quality. The remaining two grills have been removed for repairs. This work will cost between \$100. and \$150. each.

-Two irrigation companies will review the irrigation system at the BC and give recommendations for usage. Meanwhile, the irrigation line has been shut off since Brad suspects a leak in the system.

-The ceiling fan with the burned out motor has been removed from the west pavilion. The ceiling fan that had been donated has been found to be not compatible. Brad recommended that the fans in both pavilions be replaced with a model that also contains a light kit. These fans will cost about \$430. total. The BC recommended they be bought and installed.

-Because of the severe beach erosion, it may soon be impossible to sit on the sand on the beach. A stairway down to the crushed shell area will enable members to access this area. After some discussion, the BC recommended that Brad solicit bids from two construction companies to build a staircase from the ramp to the crushed shell area in front of the west pavilion and that the chairs be placed there for convenience. Members who are disabled can access this area from the path along the north boundary.

-Stakes and string have been placed to demark the dune area in order to protect the dunes from intrusion.

-Discussion about a contingency plan to protect the Truex and the ramp that was installed this year. Brad, Molly Meadow and Cal Teague will meet to discuss this and what conditions need to be present before any dismantling takes place.

Discussion followed on the serious erosion that has occurred at the BC and along the southern end of Manasota Key. Ruth Mosca reported on her conversation with a representative from Tigner Engineering Co. also gave information from meetings she attended held by representatives from Charlotte County.

-Permitting for beach renourishment will take 2 to 2 1/2 years and will require

permits from Federal, State and County agencies. This process has begun and requests for expediting have been made.

-The erosion is part of a larger erosion problem which extends down from the St. Petersburg area. The erosion has been running about 2-3 feet in 2001 to 2003, and has been about 8 to 10 feet each year since then.

-Requests for the placement of sand bags or boulders on beach front property will be expedited by Charlotte County if a building is in imminent danger, not if land area is in jeopardy. If permits are granted to the homes or condos north of the BC, this will quicken the pace of erosion of properties to the south.

-Beach renourishment on Manasota Key can result in an 80 foot deep beach which would then be eligible for renourishment on an 8 year cycle.

Financing would come from taxation of waterfront properties and other sources.

Further information can be found on Charlotte County's web site under Beaches and Shores.

### **Committee Reports:**

Several committee issues were previously covered but in addition, Security reported that the cameras were now fully connected to the guardhouse and are being monitored on a rotating basis. Al Rybicki of the Finance Committee was not present but Doug Campbell presented his latest figures showing the BC continues to operate in the black, and will continue to do so into the future if the membership goes to 370 members and the dues rise to \$375 yearly. Sherry McKinney reported that currently there 358 paid members and 33 households on the waiting list. She recently sent a letter to people on the wait list advising them that the CDD has put out a notice advertising a public meeting to be held June 21. No changes to dues or membership can take place without this hearing.

The discussion continued among Board members, the CDD representatives present, and with audience participation, on the pros and cons of changing the membership numbers and the yearly dues with the goal of continuing to provide a pleasurable experience for members. The need to balance the use of the BC as a Riverwood amenity, with the financial needs of the Club, and the present reality of a severely eroded beach was emphasized and recognized. A motion to raise the number of members to 370 was made and seconded and passed by a vote of 6 to 1. The dissenting member was of the opinion that the membership and the dues should be frozen at present levels and expenses should be sharply curtailed until the beach is replenished.

A recommendation to maintain dues at \$350 was agreed upon. However, raising dues to \$375 will need to be considered once the Committee has a better understanding of anticipated 2017 expenses.

It was noted that in future years, adjustments to both membership numbers and dues can be made. It was also noted that these recommendations from the BC to the CDD are not binding, and the CDD as owners of the BC, have the final word.

A BC member in the audience raised the question about the amount of money paid in fees and salary to Severn Trent as managers of the BC. There was discussion about the accuracy of various figures. Ruth Mosca told of efforts of the Board to cut expenses. A subcommittee of the BC Board will meet with Severn Trent representatives on 5/16 to discuss the Board assuming some responsibilities currently performed by Severn Trent.

To answer a query from the audience, Sherry McKinney reported that during the last season, the parking lot was full two times, and several times all the chairs were in use.