P.I.E. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 13, 2017

Held at Tom Roth’s Home

**Present:** Jeff Bisgrove, Linda Cotherman Gary Galloway, Vicki Millette-Riley, Tom Roth, Heather Stout, Dave Witters, Lindsay Yates.

**Absent:** Sally B Johnson, Gerri Illiano, Cori Hane Palmere, Wayne Ratajack

**PIE Members Present:** Scott Rockoff, Lou Ellen Wilson, Dave Mulvaney

Prior to commencing the meeting, Vice President Heather Stout introduced PIE member Scott Rockoff. Scott has had a conversation with Chris Shepard, manager at Palm Island Transit, and has requested the opportunity for a group of island residents to have a meeting with Chris to discuss current barge operations, rates and other matters of interest. Chris is agreeable to such a meeting and has asked that he be supplied in advance with an agenda. Scott wanted the Board to know that this opportunity exists. Heather thanked him for bringing the information to the Board’s attention and said that it would be put on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Vice President Heather Stout.

Heather made a statement concerning past conduct at the Board meetings. In her opinion they have at times been contentious and she suggested that we pay more attention to conducting the meetings in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and recommended that attention be paid to Chapter 15 concerning conduct and adherence to those precepts which may help the meeting to run more smoothly.

Heather then read a letter from President Wayne Ratajack thanking the Board for its patience during his extended absence.

Vicki Millette-Riley then made a motion that the meeting agenda be approved. Gary Galloway seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Meeting Minutes**:

Linda Cotherman moved for approval of the October 9, 2017 minutes. Gary seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Treasurer Lindsay Yates presented the October 31, 2017 treasurer’s report. Upon a motion made by Linda, seconded by Gary, the report was approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

Social: Jeff Bisgrove told the Board that there are two island events planned for December – The Gasparilla Marina Lighted Boat Parade on December 9th which goes from the Marina to Palm Island Marina and back. Jeff owns property in The Preserve and will be extending an invitation for islanders to watch the boats from the Preserve’s docks and there will be a bonfire. The second event is on December 16th – “Santicon” – People will be asked to decorate houses and carts and meet between the bridges to tour the holiday decorations and spread Christmas cheer. There was discussion concerning the difference between a PIE-sponsored event and a PIE-promoted event and it was decided that PIE would promote private, island-wide events, but not be involved in any capacity beyond that.

Vicki reported that plans for the New Year’s Day parade and the Street Dance in February are under consideration. Vicki and Rose Malone have not yet set the date for the Street Dance. A discussion ensued concerning whether to restrict the Street Dance to PIE members – including members joining/renewing that night – or to publicize it island-wide. Linda moved that the event be open to the public and that the details be left to the committee to present at the next meeting. Vicki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Island Watch:Linda reported on the most recent meeting of the Don Pedro & Knight Islands Street and Drainage MSTU Citizens Advisory Committee (commonly known as “Roads and Bridges Committee”). The committee has been discussing ways to make the roads, especially N. Gulf Boulevard, safer for multi-use (pedestrians, bicyclists, golf carts and vehicles) and is planning a community meeting on January 29, 2018, at a location to be determined, to gather input from the island community as to what a future vision for the roads might be.

Lindsay told the Board that during the committee’s July meeting the committee voted to recommend to the County Commissioners a 20 percent millage reduction rate for the MSTU’s property-tax-funded budget. The decrease was approved by the Commissioners and is reflected on the current tax bills.

Membership Committee:Heather informed the Board that pursuant to the every-other-year schedule, this is the year that a PIE membership mailing will be sent to all island property owners. In the off years, it goes only to PIE members. The mailing will include the annual letter highlighting the year’s successes and challenges, a membership application/renewal, the voting ballot and a proxy form. There is a mailing list of approximately 1,122 property owners (some of which are duplicates and will be weeded out) and Heather requested that the current approved budget be increased for postage, printing and envelopes. Tom moved that an amount not to exceed $1,200 be approved for the annual mailing. Vicki seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee:Jeff and Sally are the members and have not yet had a chance to meet.

**Old Business:**

Barrier Island Species Grant: There has been difficulty in locating the website for this subject.

Police Patrol: Sheriff’s Deputy Ed Trentacosta will attend the December 11 meeting. Any questions for the Deputy should be given to Jeff who will pass them on.

**New Business:**

Bocilla Islands Conservancy Fundraiser: It was suggested that PIE support the Bocilla Islands Conservancy by purchasing tickets for the 11/18 fundraiser. When it was established that the event had been sold out and no tickets were available, it was suggested that PIE still make a donation. Heather moved that PIE donate $800, what the cost would have been for tickets at two tables. Dave Witters seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Change Annual Meeting Date and Time: A request had been made to reconsider the date and time set for the Annual Meeting because two of the Board members will be out of town for the holidays on January 2nd and because there was some thought that many of the PIE members would also be out of town for the holidays. Another view was that more PIE members would be here FOR the holidays and that we could reach more part-time people by scheduling the meeting over the holidays. There was also discussion of weekday attendance vs. weekend attendance. Heather made a motion that the Annual Meeting date be changed to Saturday, January 21st. Gary seconded the motion. Voting in favor: Lindsay, Vicki. Voting against: Jeff, Tom, Heather, Dave. Abstaining: Linda, Gary. The motion failed and the original motion stands. The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2nd.

**Comments and Announcements:**

Scott Rockoff requested that the public have an opportunity to provide input on agenda items prior to voting. He would like to have this matter added to a future agenda. Scott plans to run for a Board seat.

Lou Ellen Wilson introduced herself to the Board and expressed her thanks for the assistance given to the new island church by posting its Sunday evening services on the PIE calendar. Additionally, Lou Ellen told the Board that she is a former owner of a property management company who has had experience with conducting homeowners’ meetings. She suggested that the Board review Florida Statute 720.303(2)(b) which outlines procedures for the orderly inclusion of members’ comments.

Dave Mulvaney introduced himself to the Board as an interested potential Board member.

It was brought to the Board’s attention that Ashton Boyer had been providing services to the island gratis (work at the ferry garden this past summer and hauling away loads of trimmings during the island cleanup among others). Heather moved that PIE present Ashton with a $300 gift card from Publix in a show of appreciation. Lindsay seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Tom moved that the meeting be adjourned. Lindsay seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Yates, Acting Secretary