

IBSSA Semi-Annual Neighborhood Meeting
May 9, 2023
Light of the World Church

Directors present:

Joanne Gonet, President; Henry Bausback, Vice President; John Olenski, Treasurer; Kate Bloomquist, Recorder; Don Farr, Richard Parlato, Kevin Spence, Shelly Watson, Kelsie Shy, Joey O'Mahoney

Directors absent: Rita Mann, Jessica McVay, David Jennings

Distinguished guests: Jay Patel, SPD Sergeant Robert Morrison, Nancy Kelley (City), Jen Ahearn-Koch

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Code of Conduct read.

Monica Neligon passed away last week. She was always involved in the neighborhood with the yard sale, picnics, Board of Directors. She will be missed. Remember her when you take walks in our lovely neighborhood.

Successful neighborhood events held this year: Picnic/Ice Cream Social. Looking forward to more events in 2023.

Speakers this evening: Jay Patel, SPD Sergeant Robert Morrison

Jay Patel: Vision for the North Trail

First meeting in 2007. Topics included 3 main issues on the Trail. Crime, zoning, and communication and information. Met monthly, 30 or 40 members. Formed a Zoning Committee working with City and neighbors. It took 4 years to draft the North Trail Overlay District, completed in 2009. Biggest concern was that there were not enough people on the NT to sustain business. Several apartment projects have now been approved. Steve Roskamp, Jay Patel and David Morriss have been involved since 2009. They now meet quarterly. The carwash proposal was well underway before we were able to let the community know. We prefer to have guidance out ahead of time so realtors and developers can succeed. Jay would like more people to be on this committee. He hopes that everyone is able to support the NT businesses. Try to at least once a week to support one local North Trail business! If there are recommendations for businesses that would fit in our neighborhood, please recommend to Jay.

Q and A, Comments:

North Trail Plaza business signs could be bigger (Bacres, etc) Neighbor only found out via newsletter.

Ringling is hoping to lease to more businesses in the plaza.

The Mel-O-Dee is hoping to bring a business there. Marina Solo (commercial leasing agent)

One of the ideas is to bring a test kitchen there, so chefs could try out their operation there.

The Mel-O-Dee building is now simply a shell at this point. Would require some investment to improve it for a business.

Submit questions to Joanne.

SPD Sgt. Robert Morrison: Community Action Team

Goal is to address variations in local crime. For example, the current Anti-gun Violence Initiative. He applauded our crime statistics, we have 6% of total crime and we are the 2nd largest community in the city. Crime Stats:

IBSS Month of April: 3 Burglaries, 3 Auto Burglaries and 1 Vehicle Theft.

IBSS 2023 YTD: 1 Agg. Assault, 2 Robberies, 1 Sex Crime, 9 Burglaries, 9 Auto Burglaries, 1 Vehicle Theft

Citywide Statistics 2023 YTD:

5 Murders, 76 Agg. Assaults, 16 Robberies, 10 Sex Crimes, 75 Burglaries, 107 Auto Burglaries, 71 Vehicle Thefts

Biggest occurring crime is vehicle theft. 98% of cars that are burglarized are not locked.

Q and A, Comments:

What crimes are drug-related or drug-driven? We don't classify general crimes in that category, so hard to track. What number is the best to call? 911, non-emergency 941-316-1199, Social network, neighborhood watch coordinators

What was the helicopter in Bayou Oaks last week? There was a homicide suspect barricaded in a home. The police did find him and arrested him.

Official Business Meeting

Approval of the Minutes for the December 6, 2022 Semi-Annual meeting:

- Motion to approve by Pat Moore
- Seconded by David Morriss
- Approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report for period ending April 30, 2023:

- **YTD income:** \$ 12,763.90 Memberships: \$7,710. Advertising: \$2,324.
- **Donations:** Greenspace \$1,210. General \$397. Doggie Bags \$367. Other \$500. Garage Sale \$255.
- **YTD expenses** were \$16,041.15 Picnic \$2,755.78 Insurance \$926. Printing/postage \$6,057.41

Chris Shamsey moved to accept report. All in favor.

Committee Reports

Neighborhood Watch: Debbie Mueller: Sgt. Morrison covered this topic.

Membership Committee: Rita Mann: (Read by Shelley Watson) 1200 homes in IBSS, approximately 50% owner occupied. 30% of neighbors have joined. You can join at the member table here tonight. (see Rita's email) Please join committees, ask a neighbor to join.

Beautification/GreenSpace: Joey O'Mahoney: I started in January. We have held several cleanups. The Greenway, Hegener Trail, the Island on North Shore. Bay Haven is getting spruced up by some neighbors. Most 2nd Saturdays will be a cleanup. Join by emailing Joey.

Informational Meeting Session

The Greenway Update: Kate Bloomquist: Following the grant approval for \$10,000, the committee began soliciting bids for the work; which includes locating utilities, removing and disposing of old asphalt, installing silt fence protection around the site, grading and adding fill to return the area to surrounding grade, and hydro-seeding. Out of 7 companies contacted, 3 returned written estimates. The only estimate that met all of the requirements was submitted by Graber Excavating (who also does work for the City of Sarasota). The BoD reviewed the contract and approved the bid. The total is \$15,000. The work should begin in June or July and finish in time to submit all paperwork for reimbursement in August. Donations are welcome to help pay for the amount over the grant and to continue beautification efforts on the Greenway.

Florida Right to Clean Water campaign: Kafi Benz

I am working on a campaign called Florida Right to Clean Water. We have, for years, been asking the state to write legislation to protect clean water. The state will not allow local governments to create rules, etc. in this area. The only recourse is to get an amendment on the ballot. We need 900,000 signatures by November. Petitions can be collected by Joanne and then passed to Kafi. If you would like to help get signatures Kafi can give you extra petitions and then collect them once completed. If you know anyone with a good sign placement, let Kafi know. ronaturek@gmail.com

Open Member Comments:

How can we protect our grand trees? Is there a law? **Nicole Nagess? sp**

Jen Ahearn-Koch: The City has added several trees to our grand tree protection, oaks and pines, and lowered the girth measurements.. Unfortunately, there are many exceptions to rules protecting grand trees. When the ordinance comes up again, attend meetings, talk to your commissioner.

O'Leary's is being revamped, and trees have to be removed to raise the playground. The state has, unfortunately, made it very difficult to strengthen our tree regulations.

Julie Morris: Are there areas near Marlin Square that can be used to assist in water drainage? Yes, one way we are helping is the cleanup of the Greenway and the removal of the old asphalt.

Arthur White: He saw the project proposals down by Indian Beach. Are those plans possible? Yes, the City Commissioners will be keeping them in mind and voting on them for future consideration.

Ringling Plaza, what is going on there? Larry Thompson of Ringling is the one to make decisions, and this Thursday there is a forum at the Ringling about their new building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Bloomquist
Recorder