

Brierwood Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 20, 2006, 7:00 p.m. EDT
 Location: Baymeadows Community Church

Meeting frequency: monthly
 Third Thurs. of each month

Brierwood Association Officers

Steve Spickelmier	Chairman
Mike Hartell	Vice Chairman
Liz Yadon	Secretary
Karen Heesch	Treasurer
Board Members	Ray Balaguer, Donna Barcia, Al Carter, Sue Mueller, Cy Sherwood, Kevin Shivar, Steve Spivey, Charles Staton

- Handouts: Meeting Agenda & Website information
- The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:05 p.m. EDT. There were forty-four [44] residents in attendance.
- Officers and Board Members were introduced. Those present were: Steve Spickelmier, Donna Barcia, Al Carter, Sue Mueller, Cy Sherwood and Charles Staton.
- Steve asked for representation of those present from the northside of Baymeadows to fill the vacant Board seats. Al Henderson accepted the nomination and was unanimously voted to fill one of the slots. The remaining and last post will be filled at the May meeting.
- Steve announced current neighborhood information, concerns and reminders:
 - Youths have been spotted with BB guns randomly shooting at street lights and personal property during the day and early evening. Residents were encouraged to keep a watchful eye and immediately report any sightings to the police.
 - Problems with feral cats in the neighborhood. Some well-meaning folks have left out food for the cats which seems to have increased the likelihood of the strays returning. In addition, the food has attracted unwelcome rodents and wildlife such as raccoons and possums. Residents are asked to relay this information to anyone seen leaving food to discourage this activity and to call Animal Control whenever the cats are spotted.
 - Dogs allowed to roam free in the neighborhood. Those in violation of the Jacksonville Leash Law risk being reported by their neighbors with possible unpleasant repercussions.
 - A large hole in the street at Brierwood Road and Craven Road.
 - Recently a group of guarded women prisoners were observed cleaning the ditch area between Southwark Drive and Latimer Road East.

- A reminder to keep garage doors closed and not to leave bicycles outside unattended.
 - Should you see a crime in progress call 911. For reporting non-emergency situations, call 904-630-0500.
- The Brierwood SHADCO representatives were introduced: Eddie Shaffer, Kenny Mueller, Cy Sherwood and Kevin Shivar (not present). Kenny Mueller gave a report of the topics discussed during the last meeting on April 13th at the Wolfson High School on Powers Avenue.
 - Alton Allen is the Brierwood website webmaster and created the site at www.brierwoodassoc.org. The website lists general Neighborhood Association information, meeting agendas and meeting minutes. Alton gave a brief description of the Mobile Website, the latest addition to the site, for those who have access on their cell phones. The address is: <http://www.brierwoodassoc.org/mobile.html>. There are plans to incorporate into the website a list of services available from neighborhood residents. It's a voluntary list of businesses with the only requirement that the owner or employee be a resident of Brierwood. Alton reminded the group that any information from special interest groups to the Association can added as a link.
 - Steve announced the placement of two four-way stops on Rathbone Drive to be installed on April 21. One will be at Runnymede Drive and one at Latimer Road East. In addition, there will be painted cross-stripes at each intersection. This effort was initiated in large part due to the results of the traffic counts previously conducted showing approximately 1400 cars travel Rathbone daily, many traveling over the posted speed limit. The goal is to discourage those outside of Brierwood to use the alternate non-residential routes such as Craven, Baymeadows and Old Kings Road. Initially the stop signs were rejected by the City Traffic Engineer citing a possible false security for drivers with a possibly of causing accidents at those intersections. Once Brierwood officially established the Neighborhood Association together with the assistance of Councilman, Art Shad, our request for a traffic calming solution was approved through the mayor's office. There will be no cost to the residents as the city will absorb the expense, in part due to Art Shad's influence on behalf of Brierwood. Two stop signs instead of one, spaced far enough apart, was decided upon hoping that drivers would not have time to accelerate to excessive speeds. Should the problem persist there are other traffic calming efforts that could be considered but most would include a cost to the homeowners, and any plan that changes the traffic flow would require 75% agreement of the effected homeowners.
 - Steve talked briefly of the importance of our Neighborhood Association and the benefits it will serve to our homeowners. It allows Brierwood to have a "voice" in certain city meetings and makes us eligible for matching funds to enhance our subdivision. One such example would be entrance signs to the neighborhood. Steve suggested possibly forming an "Entrance Sign Subcommittee" to research and report to the group available options. Our organization is strictly voluntary and any dues decided upon by the officers

and board members for the general enhancement of the neighborhood would be voluntary as well. That is the basic difference between the Neighborhood Association like ours, and a Homeowners Association where dues are mandatory and neighborhood rules are strictly enforced. The city and mayor encourages neighborhood associations through the efforts of Rosemary Wesolowski, City of Jacksonville Neighborhood Services Division. She may be contacted at 904-630-2481 or email her at rosemary@coj.net. There are over 600 associations in Jacksonville and to those established groups there are countless options through the city available that will benefit their neighborhoods.

- An on-going effort of the Brierwood Neighborhood Association is to reach more people and increase participation in monthly meetings. A collection basket was passed for donations to have signs made for the neighborhood that announce upcoming meetings. The signs will be placed in visible locations 2-3 days prior to each meeting as a reminder.
- One of our residents, Rhonda Reese, is a journalist for the Times-Union and has volunteered to create a Brierwood Newsletter. For more information contact Rhonda at glreese@bellsouth.net.
- A collection was taken for a donation to the church for graciously allowing us to use their facilities for Association meetings.
- Everyone in attendance took a turn standing and announced their name and street they live on.
- The next meeting will be on May 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. EDT.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. with a social and refreshments following.