

Brierwood Neighborhood Association (BNA)
March 15, 2012 - General Meeting

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Steven Spickelmier at 7:15 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending, and stated that Nancy Barry had done a 10-day countdown for this meeting via e-mail at Steve's request.

Chairman Spickelmier then spoke about forming a 501(c)(3) so that Brierwood Neighborhood Association would become recognized as a nonprofit organization. The existence of BNA helps to maintain Brierwood property values. He introduced James Usery who will assist BNA with obtaining nonprofit status.

Steven Spickelmier introduced Jim Gillam and Pat Rosseland who are heading the neighborhood cleanup group and who have already been working in Brierwood. Pat spoke about today's cleanup on Rathbone from Old Kings Rd. to Brierwood Rd. The committee has ten volunteers and would welcome additional volunteers. Please call Pat Rosseland at 739-2742 to become a volunteer or to purchase a preprinted BNA tee shirt for \$15.00 each. These shirts are worn by volunteers on cleanup days. Street gutters are a neighborhood problem as they become clogged with pine straw and leaves. Also the Florida Times-Union "Value Papers" are a major problem with 58 copies retrieved from one street during the cleanup. Please pick up your individual copy quickly from your driveway.

Volunteer assistance is also available for Brierwood residents who have temporary difficulty (such as illness) which impairs them from personally maintaining their yards. Steve Spickelmier stressed that we want to maintain our property values, and we want to help our neighbors. As the weather continues to improve, we should see neighborhood lawns coming back by April. Many people are resodding damaged areas of their lawns.

Chairman Spickelmier introduced Nancy Barry who led the entrance sign committee. Nancy Barry introduced committee members, Marjorie Santini and Susann Turner, and discussed the committee's work. Residents were provided with handouts comparing two types of signs (sandblasted and digital) and two sign companies (Sign-a-Rama and Signtalk) along with cost quotes.

Nancy Barry spoke about the entrance sign estimates, design and longevity issues. The sign companies have suggested that an initial order of six signs would be most cost-effective. The six signs would be placed at the major Brierwood entrances: Brierwood Rd. at Baymeadows Rd. (2), Rathbone at Craven (1), Rathbone at Old Kings Rd. (1), San Clerc near Old Kings Rd. (1), and San Clerc near Brighton Dr. (1). Nancy answered numerous questions from the residents in attendance, and showed an example of the sign design favored by the committee.

Steve Spickelmier then led discussion of funding for the signs. Donations are voluntary, and the sign committee has been working on some fund-raising ideas. He called for a vote on whether the residents want to have entrance signs for Brierwood. The vote was 38 in favor of having signs and 2 opposed. Residents would like the committee to obtain samples of each type of sign being considered. Chairman Spickelmier promised to obtain them by next meeting. Steve then answered questions about sign placement. He plans to meet with representatives of the City of Jacksonville to determine exact placement of the signs. The signs would be installed by the contractor.

Discussion continued about sign funding. Marjorie Santini of the sign committee spoke about area restaurants' support for the project. The owner of Los Loros restaurant lives in Brierwood, and will donate 15% of sales to the entrance sign project. The donation is available with a coupon from the BNA Website or retrieved at the March 15th BNA meeting, and the coupon can be used on March 27, 28 and 29. Marjorie Santini is also working with Pizza Palace (for a 10% or 15% donation), and with additional restaurants to be announced later.

Susann Turner of the sign committee is also working with local restaurants, Gubbio's and Mediterranea. Both restaurants would like to know patronage numbers ahead of time, so there are many details to be settled.

Verbal pledges were made by 13 of the meeting attendees. BNA officers have pledged at least \$50.00 apiece and have challenged the rest of the neighborhood residents to participate in donating funds for the entrance signs. Donations in excess of sign costs will be placed in a maintenance fund.

Steven Spickelmier summarized the entrance sign information, and asked for residents to review the handout and details presented at the meeting. Several residents offered comments, including wanting to see sign samples, and wanting the community to consider permanent signs such as the one for Ridgewood on San Jose near Miramar Shopping Center (past the cemetery and on the right). Nancy Barry was commended and received applause for her extensive work for Brierwood Neighborhood Association.

There was further discussion about traffic, police, people running stop signs in the neighborhood, vandalism and littering. Ed Sheaffer removed paint from a Neighborhood Watch sign. Cy Sherwood asked that the Principal of Beauclerc Elementary School be notified of people throwing trash into yards after they leave the School. Numerous cars in Barrington Oaks were vandalized recently. Residents were reminded to call 911 for a crime in progress and to use the non-emergency number, 904-630-0500, otherwise. It is also important to keep garage doors down, car doors locked, and valuables, such as cell phones, laptops, radar detectors, wallets, purses, etc. removed from cars, especially those sitting in driveways.

Chairman Spickelmier announced that the next meeting will be April 19 at 7:30 p.m., and the speaker will be Mr. Ozzie B. Mechoso, Financial Services Manager, First Citizens Bank at the corner of Baymeadows Road and Old Kings Road. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m., and refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L. Lewis