

Brierwood Neighborhood Association

Regular Meeting – Thursday 3/15/2018

Board members present: Frack, Barry, Lewis, Yadon

Meeting was opened at 7:06 by Russ Frack.

Pledge recited.

Prayer led by Thelma Merritt.

Lori Boyer, City Councilwoman, was welcomed and shared the following information with the group.

1. PUD has been applied for the property on corner of Baymeadows and Craven Rd. Primary use is to be a senior living facility. One building up to 2 stories with 2 wings; one for assisted living, one for memory care. Secondary use would be RLD 70-similar to neighborhood single family housing. A third use could be a school. Ms. Boyer believes that the signage requested for approval is too big and also does not need to be neon or internally illuminated.

The plan includes a retention pond with a fountain, gazebo, parking and an entrance on Craven Rd (similar to existing entrance). Residents who back up to property would like a tree buffer and an opaque fence. There was also some concern as to erosion that may result for retention pond placement. Ms. Boyer pointed out that this retention pond is more of a water feature for the facility with benches and a walking path—it should be well maintained. Ms. Boyer is meeting with attorneys in the near-future and will voice all concerns.

2. JEA sale controversy is occupying a lot of council's time and taking away from their focus on other city matters. No one is certain who initiated the talk of a sale. City Council has the final vote. An independent council funded by the DuPont Foundation is forming to determine if keeping JEA as a subsidiary of the City or selling JEWA is the best option.

This sale would be the largest or one of the largest utility sales in the country.

Perceived benefits are: pay off all City debts, fund all infrastructure needs, save a large portion for future needs of City. It is known that the benefits of a public vs. private utility have been greatly diminished over the years.

Ms. Boyer then took questions and concerns from the floor-

1. Retention ponds in the area and who is responsible for upkeep was discussed. If not privately owned by a development, it is the city's responsibility. Ms. Boyer pointed out that many retention ponds are not pristine because they are supposed to be more of a natural wetland.

2. There are 3 ways to contact City for services are to register concerns — (1.) Call 630-CITY, (2.) email CARE or (3.) MyJax app on your smartphone. If the situation is dangerous, contact Ms. Boyer's office and she will send to Risk Management department. Residents voiced concerns about fences needing repair, tree debris needing to be removed.
3. We now have a City Arborist
4. All bridges are under DOT whether they are built by city, county, state. DOT does all inspections and rates them. This is one reason the large 'Overland Bridge' project on I-95 was undertaken.
5. Septic tank removal and hook ups to City sewer and water are being funded at \$5,000,000 per year. This the amount needed for the work that is actually able to be accomplished each year. Total cost to eliminate septic tanks in neighborhoods where they are not maintained properly is estimated to be \$300,000,000. Worst areas are being completed first.

Minutes: There were no minutes from the February 16, 2018 meeting. We had a chili dinner.

Treasurer's Report: We have a bank balance of \$ 2,023.27. We will be paying the final balance \$1,625.00 to Sign-a-Rama in the next few weeks. Frack has already paid our annual legal fees and other large expenses. We still need to purchase soil and plants for the boxes surrounding the new signs.

Several more donations were received tonight that are no included in the bank balance above.

Frack reported that we received donations from residents of \$3,135 for our sign project. Thank you to everyone who contributed—every donation counts!

Neighborhood Watch: Lora Lewis reported that NextDoor app now has 324 members. She is coordinating the 'original' Brierwood group and the 'new' Brierwood group. Please encourage your neighbors to join, it is an easy way to communicate about safety issues and concerns.

CPAC: Robin Pickle reported items of interest from last meeting. City is holding a tire and sign buy back on 3/24. If you have any of these items take them to EverBank Field from 8-2 and receive \$.

The bill to regulate rentals like Airbnb has been delayed.

City has now attained AA Bond Rating. This is good news for future borrowing for civic projects. Duval County Public Schools have been rated #1 of the 8 largest school districts in Florida.

New Business: Discussion of how to let neighbors who are not following city ordinances know that they are not in compliance. It was suggested that we create some type of note to give out.

A resident stated how hurtful, just such a well-meaning note (unsigned) left at her house was. It is a best practice to talk to your neighbor if possible-you can't assume they know about the code or there may be extenuating circumstances.

Nancy Barry has already prepared a nicely written letter that can be given to neighbors or newcomers to let them know about City Ordinances with regards to trash, recycling, yard trash pickup, trash can etiquette, yard debris, etc. She will send these out to residents to be used if they have a new neighbor.

Sign Project: Nancy Barry reported that Sign-a-Rama had an ownership change, but the new owners located all designs, permits etc. and the signs should be installed next week. Joan McCord, Glenda Spickelmier, Pat Rosseland and Nancy Barry finished cleaning out the planting boxes around the old signs last week. Dave Belvin and Ahn Nguyen removed surrounding boxes for each sign and will paint and repair them as needed. They will replace them after new signs are installed. Many thanks to everyone who helped out.

Residents introduced themselves and gave their address.

Dave and Thelma Merritt provided refreshments. Donations were taken.

Our next meeting will be held at Wicked Barley Brewery on 4/19/18 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm