

**Golden Beach Associates, Inc.**  
**Minutes of Board Meeting – February 4, 2025**

**Board Members Present:** George Leatherbury, Stephen Meinsen, John Spada, Steve Oglethorpe, Peggy Parys, Andy Liscow, Mike Muhlbauer, Bob Mondelli, Jay Fuchs, Karen Calder

**Board Members Absent:** John Burkhardt, Sandy Knepp, Julia Paulucci

**Committee Chairs and Other Members in Attendance:** Dee Leatherbury, Bruce Caldwell, Nancy Liscow, Tim Pederson, Mike Mueller, John Calder, Gene Dillahunty

**Call to Order:** At 6:30 pm, Peggy Parys called the meeting to order.

**Secretary Report:** Steve Oglethorpe moved and Bob Mondelli seconded the motion to approve the minutes, with the correction that Mike Muhlbauer and Mike Mueller were going to the archives to review historical GBAI documents from the archives. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Andy Liscow reported that we have 6 new members, with a total of 280 members (nine less than last year at this time). Expenses for this time of year were average. \$111 was the net cost of the January social. The state of Florida recognizes our not for profit status; but, the 501c3 status is on hold until the Supreme Court makes a decision on all 501c3 applications.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Federal Grant Opportunity:** Tim Pederson discussed a 1.3 billion dollar Federal Grant opportunity from FEMA that was passed by Congress. The mission of the grant is to serve Florida in the aftermath of Helene and Milton. A workshop on February 19<sup>th</sup> for community leaders will be available to help communities apply for the grant. The city of Venice is required to fill out the grant application and we were informed that Venice does have a grant writer on staff. The Flamingo ditch and the Jetty Project were targeted as potential recipients. A suggestion was made for GBAI Board and GBAI members to reach out to the city via Julie Dennis and encourage the Venice grant writer to attend the session and pursue the paperwork involved in applying for the grant. It was suggested that a letter from the GBAI president urging Julie to take action to attend the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and to complete the process to apply for the grant. It was suggested to contact the GBAI Flamingo ditch steering committee to inform them of the grant, as well, and encourage their involvement.

- 1) Motion #1: Steve Oglethorpe moved and Bob Mondelli 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion for the GBAI President to contact the city in writing, to express our desire that they pursue securing any and all federal or other funding available to address needed work on the Flamingo Ditch. Motion approved.
- 2) Motion #2: Steve Oglethorpe moved and George Leatherbury 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to send out a communication to community members detailing what the Board has learned about the grant and suggesting they contact the city of Venice and the local paper to encourage the city to attend. Motion approved.

**Facebook Page:**

Peggy Parys introduced the idea of a Facebook page for GBAI to serve as a communication tool for GBAI members that would be used to inform residents about news (especially during storms). Peggy described how helpful it was for the community she lives in up north to communicate with one another. Bruce Caldwell created a Facebook page, and described that a Facebook page would be for GBAI members and would be simple for members to join. An administrator and a moderator would be needed to approve and manage the account and GBAI would need to establish guidelines for soliciting and no anonymous posts. Bob Mondelli agreed to help setup guidelines and enrolling GBAI members. The Board members agreed to try out the Facebook page themselves. Plans are for GBAI members to evaluate the Facebook page and determine whether to open the page to the entire GBAI community.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Social:** Dee reported that the “Soups On” social will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and the March event will feature corned beef.

**Beach Access:** John Calder reported that the north wall has been pressure washed and the next step is to choose a color to paint the wall. One idea for the wall color choice was to have paint samples available at the February social event and have participants at the social event vote on their favorite color.

John also reported there was interest in purchasing a storage box to hold beach toys for the children to borrow and return when they visit the beach. There was concern for toys being left on the beach at the end of the day, so the idea was not adopted. Peggy offered to bring some toys for the children to play with during the social events and see how that goes.

The wall that the car ran into at the Beach access is the property of Ocean Sands. John raised the question of whether we would like to pay a portion of the wall repair or volunteer time to help with the repairs.

**Newsletter:** Andy Liscow asked that when GBAI publishes the Vendor list, that a disclaimer is included that states that GBAI takes no responsibility for the vendors’ services. Nancy Liscow requested that newsletter include a reminder that members will need to bring their own chairs to social events.

**History/Archives:** Mike Muhlbauer, Mike Mueller and Andy Liscow went to view GBAI records in the Archives. Mike Muhlbauer identified a document in 1963 that described storm sewer issues, the need to address problems with the Flamingo ditch, and the city’s refusal to address these issues.

**Membership:** Nancy reported that the Directories were distributed.

**Community Affairs:** Gene Dillahunty reported that there was there was no progress on the airport.

**Website:** Some of the minutes on the website are not accessible on our website. Peggy will reach out to Sandy to review updates needed for the minutes.

**New Board Officers and Directors:**

Steve Oglethorpe moved and Mike Muhlbauer seconded the motion to recognize the role of Golden Beach members and approve the elected slate of new officers and directors. Motion approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Steve Oglethorpe moved and Gene Dillahunty seconded the motion to adjourn. At 7:38, the motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Calder  
Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm, at the Venice Firehouse