

TOWN HALL MEETING SUMMARY

Held Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
Wesley United Methodist Church (Fellowship Hall)

This was the first Town Hall Meeting scheduled by the Board of Directors to allow residents and property owners in Bienville Place subdivision to meet in an “informal” setting to exchange ideas and information, in addition to freely address issues to the Board of Directors and Architectural Review Board. At our Town Hall meetings there are no requirements for a quorum to meet like the requirement for membership meetings, there are no issues voted on, and we don't use Roberts Rules of Order – so this is a much less structured environment.

Even though only 4 property owners attended the meeting, which included the BPOA President presiding over the Town Hall, it was still worth the time invested to hold the meeting. The Board thinks having more than an annual membership meeting where property owners and residents can exchange information with the Board will be beneficial to all. Another Town Hall is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at the same location and time. Hopefully there will be more attendees.

Alderman Rob Blackman planned to come and provide an update in person. He called shortly before the meeting to regretfully cancel attending due to an unanticipated work commitment. He did, however, send an e-mail that included a very informative update which Bebe Walls read to attendees. Below is a synopsis of his notes.

- **Light at Hanshaw Road and Hwy 90.** MDOT made some adjustments to the light at Hwy 90 and Hanshaw Road that appears to be helping. He has asked for their representative to come down and see the improvement there and at that time Alderman Blackman will show them other lights in Ocean Springs that need some work.
- **Wayside Horns & Quiet Zones.** Ocean Springs city officials have had three meetings with CSX along with state representatives Zuber and Guice on wayside horns. CSX will not budge, even with the City of Ocean Springs offering to pay for some of the upgrade costs. The only way CSX will consider a quiet zone thru town is if the City agrees to close 2 crossings, which the City simply cannot do.
- **New Villages Complex.** Confirmed tenants for the new Villages complex next to the Shell station (Circle K) at Highway 90 and Hanshaw Road are:
 - A physical therapy clinic which will occupy 2 spaces;
 - A veterinarian office which will occupy a space;
 - A vape shop which will occupy a space;
 - Sports Clips which will occupy a space; and,
 - The big one to Alderman Blackman is Lost Pizza Company. They have probably 10 locations in Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, and are coming here and Pensacola. He recommends we check them out online -- very neat place.
- **Possibly New Developments on Hwy 90 East.** There are some developments possibly looking to locate on east 90 in Ward 6, including an upscale apartment/condo complex close to Tractor Supply with commercial spaces on 90 frontage – possibly restaurants or other shopping venues. He will update us when he has more information to share.
- **Sewer and Water Upgrades.** Lastly, the state has allocated \$900,000 for the City of Ocean Springs to use as matching money to upgrade sewer and water lines throughout Ocean Springs.

Homeowner concerns shared at the meeting were:

- **Cracked Street Concrete.** A resident expressed concern over the cracked concrete in his cul-de-sac. Cracked street concrete is something Alderman Blackman is aware of. He has addressed the issue in the past at meeting updates with us and shared that it's a gradual repair and replacement process. This particular concrete concern was shared with Alderman Blackman the next day.
- **Street Lighting.** The light replacement project last year by the City has helped with increased lighting at night on the streets but it's not to the level we would like to see (no pun intended). The number of lights

and their placement throughout the subdivision are just not sufficient. As with the concrete issue, the lights concern was shared in a message to Alderman Blackman the next day. In the message to Alderman Black concern was expressed about the pockets of darkness all over the neighborhood, with possibly some of the darkest areas being on Bergerac between Dijon and Dijon and the corner of Dijon at the west end of Bergerac.

- **Armadillos.** We discussed possible ways to rid yards of armadillos. There's just no sure-fire way to get them to move out on their own. If anyone has ideas about ridding our yards of armadillos, by all means, post them on our Bienville Place Owners Association FB page.

This year's Board of Directors would like to involve homeowners more in the Association. Our first attempt is through the Town Hall meetings. The following are other ways the Board is asking for involvement In addition to participating in the Town Hall meetings.

- **Neighborhood Block Party or Fishing Rodeo.** There is a suggestion to see involvement in the neighborhood through a neighborhood block party or fishing rodeo at the dam for residents' children and grandchildren. If you are interested in either and have ideas, please send us an e-mail at input4bpoa@gmail.com.
- **Beautification of the Islands.** The Board is considering beautifying the islands next year that do not currently have any plantings. We recognize there is no water on the islands so whatever goes there will only get rainfall for irrigation. The island on Chaumont does not have an irrigation system and its greenery has been successful surviving with only rainfall. To do the islands project is not in this year's budget, but we would like to present some ideas at the annual membership meeting in October to get funding approval for next year. If anyone has an interest in providing suggestions or expertise in design for the islands we'd appreciate your input via e-mail at input4bpoa@gmail.com.
- **Holiday Decorating Committee.** In line with the islands beautification the Board is asking for volunteers to form a committee to help decorate the entrances for the holiday seasons. At present we have a single volunteer for this committee and I know she would appreciate more participation. It's not too early to start forming the committee and beginning to plan for the upcoming seasons. If you are interested in participating as a member of the decorating committee, please send us an e-mail at input4bpoa@gmail.com.

We look forward to your input and feedback and hope to see you at the next Town Hall on July 31st.

Bebe Walls

Barbara "Bebe" Walls
President/Treasurer, BPOA