



April 19, 2023

Dear Residents,

Our election for the 2023 – 2024 Board was held last night at the Annual Member Meeting. If you were unable to attend, I wanted to share with you some information I presented at this meeting.

“Over the past year our current board has had a lot to learn! Working towards the common needs of over 900 homes is a daunting task. As there is a much larger percentage of the community that attends this meeting, I thought I would give you an overview of activities overseen by the board.

Jim Andries and his ARC Committee worked diligently to ensure adherence to our Community Guidelines when each ARC request was put in place this year. Many times, this might entail a trip to the proposed site to ensure all understood and were on the same page. In addition, due to his long years on the Board, he has brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to our new board members.

Tom Warga also assisted in providing perspective due to his long-term experience on the board. Tom performed updates to the website and sent out our communications to the community. He prepared our monthly financial reports. Tom could not be here tonight as he is recuperating from surgery, and he chose not to run again for the board. We thank him for his service to the community.

Velma jumped right in working with our Welcome Committee and

getting this revived and running like a well oiled machine. In addition, Velma worked with communication processes with the Islands as we continue to work through the turnover process from a Developer run board to a community run board. Velma also initiated the thought to revive our Community Newsletter and several quarterly issues have been sent out. Note: Immediately prior to the meeting, Velma submitted her resignation in writing to the board.

Linda Murphy stepped in to assume Fran Fournier's position after he resigned, when he put his home on the market. We are thrilled Fran is doing so well and understood his need to resign his post. Linda M. had been working on the ARC committee with Jim and Ron Merigold and was also working on the Newsletter. She has been working hard to review past activities and has volunteered to assume the role of website updating for the Community Website.

David Kelley rejoined the board after Jan Kaufman unexpectedly decided to sell her home after the death of her husband and move with family to California. Jan recently had a significant surgery and is now doing very well. David jumped right in on existing projects. He has worked extensively within the community, including working on maintenance of the entrance signs at old Tampa and at Chin Rd, and lighting at the entrance of the community, developing a plan for updating our aging landscaping both in front of and after the main entrance to the community on Old Tampa Road.

During and after the hurricane, he and other members of our board worked extensively with our landscaper to ensure all debris was removed in a very timely manner, prioritizing removal based on safety and if the debris impacted drainage within the community.

We have been focusing on infrastructure and as part of this focus we formed a Roads committee which will be speaking in a few minutes to share their goals for the community. We have also been working on improving overall drainage from one lake to the next within the community, and this work continues.

David and Anthony Testa from the Islands board along with Linda Van

Dillen, are members of the Security Committee and are working on enhancements to our camera systems including a License Plate Reader and tightening up our security processes.

We have been working on a commercial cleaning of both guardhouses and will be obtaining bids for some additional maintenance and modifying the entrance and exit to the Old Tampa guardhouse which we believe will facilitate traffic flow.

We will also be finalizing a plan to update a portion of the Old Tampa plantings and determining if it could qualify for a grant from the County for partial reimbursement.

When you entered you may have noticed the Committee sign-up sheets. We hope for increased involvement from the community this year. We welcome new ideas, particularly in areas that can increase a sense of community.

In summary, I want to thank each member of this board for their hard and often thankless volunteer work, that frequently takes up a significant portion of their lives but means so much to this community.”

We will be appointing a resident to the board at the next board meeting to serve out Velma’s term.

Results of the election:

- Gregor Mehaffey (elected to the board) 265 votes.
- Jim Andreis (elected to the board) 282 votes.
- David Kelley (elected to the board) 283 votes.
- Don Desiderato (elected to the board) 239 votes.
- Tom Jassoy – 200 votes.

After the Annual meeting, at the Organizational Meeting, the following Positions were nominated and approved:

- Linda Van Dillen – President
- Don Desiderato - Treasurer
- Linda Murphy – Secretary

Please consider contacting us to serve on a committee for the community. We set up a table at the meeting for sign-ups to committees and listed the following committees. If you think of something you would like to work on this upcoming year, please send an email to reply@rwhoa.org .

- FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE - PLANNING FOR THE

FUTURE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

- INSURANCE COMMITTEE - RESEARCHING OPTIONS

PROVIDING COST-EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE

PROTECTION

- EVENTS COMMITTEE - TO BRING OUR COMMUNITY

TOGETHER

- AMENITIES COMMITTEE - THAT EXPLORES OPTIONS TO

ADD VALUE TO OUR COMMUNITY

- RETENTION PONDS COMMITTEE - TO RESEARCH BEST

PRACTICES

- COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

We thank all candidates for their willingness to serve the community and we look forward to seeing more of you at each board meeting.

Sincerely,

The River Wilderness of Bradenton Foundation

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