



## East Merritt Island Homeowners' Association

### General Membership Meeting September 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Maurice Boudreau welcoming attendees. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited. President Boudreau stated that input from members is always welcome and appreciated. Our Association needs new members and more enthusiastic community involvement. We need to become more robust – we do have an open Board. The new Board members were introduced.

Treasurer Floyd Rippetoe stated that more input is needed from homeowners south of the 520 at our meetings. He will send a copy of his report to the President and the Secretary tomorrow, as issues at Wells Fargo required that new accounts had to be opened there. Since the end of the last fiscal year, \$356.56 was paid out and **\$1,635** was taken in for a total of **\$4,458** as the current balance. (One advertiser's check was not deposited.)

We need more members and **sponsors/advertisers**. Suggestions to do this included contacting churches on Merritt Island, inserting meeting dates in the Best of Brevard section of the Florida Today newspaper, participating in the Merritt Island Christmas parade, and our website. Deborah Smith, Membership Chair, addressed these suggestions. If you have any other ideas, please let her know. She also noted that two renewal notifications are sent for each member.

The minutes from the May general meeting were read by Secretary Suzanne Bennitt and approved.

Webmaster Ben DeHaven reported that our website has been redone and the newsletter is about ready to go out.

Sponsorship Chair Cheryl Lankes reported that almost all of our sponsors have renewed. We are going from eight to twelve. We have ten now. The original **sponsors** are allowed to utilize the old rate. Sponsors have a newsletter spotlight, but the advertisers don't.

President Boudreau asked the membership to think about proposed changes to the Bylaws and let him know at our next meeting, i.e., expanding the geographical

membership area to all of zip code 32952, and raising the membership dues to \$25 and going to a once-a-year billing cycle.

Former Port Commissioner Sue Ford updated membership on the freight rail situation. More petition signatures are needed – have 2,500 now and 5,000 are needed. The Brevard County commissioners have opposed the two routes through Merritt Island on their resolution to the Canaveral Port Authority (CPA). The CPA has purchased property **and on** 524 and south of Titusville, presumably for container storage as they don't have room for them at the Port. We don't know what will be on the trains or stored in their storage area. The EIS will not be finished until spring. Neither our State Senator nor State Representative has taken a position on the rail.

Weekly columnist and reporter Ted Lund then showed a video of some of CPA spokesman John Walsh's comments of **on** the rail opponents, along with CPA commissioners' reactions. **It displayed gross disrespect for the voters objecting to their plan.** The plan calls for two train tracks **leaving the port on a 6000 ft causeway, then a single track over a trestle and up Merritt Island ashore,** which would be ten feet **and more** above **existing** ground. Dredge work would be required. The trains would run from sunset through sunrise. Three trains a week are planned, with 100 cars maximum. **That frequency would not provide their projected container shipping volume.**

Floyd Rippetoe moved that the Board draft letter for **our** the President's signature to the Port Commissioners, copying John Walsh, Steve Crissifulli and Bill Posey. It will strongly oppose the Port rail project on Merritt Island **and** across the **Banana River.** A Board meeting is planned for next week to draft this letter. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer Rippetoe summarized that we are trying to keep EMIHOA an effective organization. We are principally trying to protect Merritt Island and to keep our residents informed. We need more people to volunteer to better keep members up-to-date. We have a number of Committee positions open, so please consider this.

Cheryl Lankes moved **d** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. **Seconded and approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Bennitt  
Secretary