

Dauphin Island



PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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July/August 2010 Newsletter

It's a different kind of summer on Dauphin Island for sure. The oil spill crisis has turned things upside down—instead of our normal influx of vacation renters we have an abundance of BP and their contractor personnel, and bused in workers to patrol and clean the beaches. I know many property owners are dealing with lost rental income and even more are concerned about longer term loss of property value. But through it all I would observe that islanders have coped rather well—maybe we're just accustomed to dealing with disruptions which are normally weather related, I don't know. But I do sense a bit of emerging optimism now that the well is capped and folks seem to be letting themselves think that the worst is over. The real work now is to assess and mitigate the effect of the "unseen" oil on the habitat. But the silver lining within this cloud has been the building of protective dunes mostly on the fragile west -end, the filling in of the Katrina cut, and the prospects for serious funding for further physical enhancements of our barrier island as well as economic recovery projects. This said, I'll mention below a few items of interest to DIPOA members.

Changes in the Board of Directors. Glen Coffee, who was elected to the board in 2009 for a three year term ending in 2012, resigned in June 2010. The board named Wes Williams to fill this seat until May 2011 when a member will be elected to fill the remaining one year. So in 2011 (assuming no other changes occur) we will elect 4 directors—3 for three year terms and one for a one year term. I'm sure many of you know Wes—he has property on Bridgeview, and owns a mechanical contracting company in Mobile.

Dues. Dues invoices will be in the mail in the near future. This year—as a result of your suggestions—we have included a form for you to indicate the category of end-use that you would like to see your dues payment applied to. For those who have already paid (thank you very much!!) You may access the form from the website and submit it if you desire. Dues are a very important source of funding for the POA and I urge you to please send your payment promptly.

Financial Planning. Planning and budgeting for this fiscal year has been complicated by the oil crisis disruption. While our expenses remain somewhat fixed in the short term, revenues from the golf course are significantly reduced as is income from events scheduled at the clubhouse. This loss has been offset to some extent by leases of the facilities to BP and others, and we are in the process of filing claims for lost revenue with BP. At the same time we have board members preparing a business plan to reflect the operation of the facilities, recognizing that the Flamingo Fae's will be closing after Labor Day and the POA will operate the pool and grill directly. This plan will be completed and considered prior to the August board meeting, and if accepted will enable us to complete our budget for the fiscal year.

Isle Dauphine Master Plan. We are also engaged in longer term planning to create a vision of what we would want our facilities to become and how we can ensure the viability of the organization. We are preparing to take advantage of any and all opportunities to receive any available economic development assistance which may be forthcoming from BP or other sources. We will share more detailed information as it becomes available.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the POA board will be Saturday, August 21, at 11:00 AM, at the Shelby Bldg. Keep in mind that the meeting location is subject to change until we return to our home location—check the website for updates.

Bruce Jones
POA President