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# GRANDE HILLS ESTATES

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Volume 14, Issue 2

P. O. Box 395, Bush, LA 70431

February 2011

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## 2011 ELECTION RESULTS

### BOARD OF MANAGERS

We thank you members for the overwhelming participation in the election process of your Association. The election for the 2011 Board of Managers for the GHEHA, Inc. was held on January 29, 2011, at the firehouse on Hwy. 21. Total acreage votes cast were 750.31 out of 1255.11 acres (60%) in the subdivision.

The results of the election are as follows:

James Smith – 600.36 acre votes  
Ron Trupp – 555.48 acre votes  
Steve Roberts – 545.73 acre votes  
Bonnie Hebert – 520.35 acre votes  
Judy Coker – 512.40 acre votes  
Eric Lowe – 232.87 acres  
Mary Oliphant-Wood – 226.96 acres  
Craig Duplantis – 223.83 acre votes

Votes received for write-ins:

Michael Roundtree – 81.58 acre votes  
Betty Shackelford – 16.55 acre votes  
Richard Wheat – 11.54 acre votes  
Jerry Carroll – 10.18 acre votes  
Craig Guidry – 6.38 acre votes  
A.J. Ostarly – 5.45 acre votes  
Art Price – 5.28 acre votes

Gina Pisher – 5.01 acre votes  
Ben Minden – 5.01 acre votes

Your new Board of Managers and their positions are as follows:

- ▶ President: Steve Roberts, 985-809-6279
- ▶ Vice President: Bonnie Hebert, 985-867-9137
- ▶ Secretary: Judy Coker, 985-893-0858
- ▶ Treasurer: Ron Trupp, 985-809-1180
- ▶ Special Assistant: James Smith, 985-809-5209

## ANNUAL BUDGET

The 2011 proposed annual budget in the amount of \$17,854.00 was overwhelmingly approved by 72% (requires 2/3's majority vote for approval) or 522.70 acres out of 724.91 acre votes cast. Therefore, each member's annual assessment for 2011 is \$14.23 per acre owned.

Thank you members for your continued support.

## ASSESSMENT DUE DATE

Your invoice for the 2011 annual assessment is enclosed with this Newsletter. The yearly assessment is \$14.23 per acre of land you own.

The assessments are due by **APRIL 30, 2011** and will become delinquent on **May 1, 2011**. The Association has expenses that are currently due so your prompt remittance is appreciated.

## ELECTION COMMITTEE

Many thanks go out to the election committee, which consisted of Cita Griffin, Art Price, Jessica St. Pierre, and Bobby Worrel. Now that the Association has the computer program necessary for calculating voting results, the counting of the ballots ran very smoothly and quickly which gave

the volunteers an opportunity to attend the meeting.

## SUMMARY OF THE 2011 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Gary Cooper, Councilman for our District, was one of the guest speakers at the meeting this year. He advised that the Parish has zoned the majority of the land in our surrounding areas A-1 (5 acres or more) to keep the Waldheim/Bush area rural. He brought us up to date with the overlay project on Hialeah and requested the Association get with him on future repairs to the roads in our subdivision.

Our guest speaker Mark Salvetti with the Crawfishman Triathlon thanked everyone for allowing this event to take place in our subdivision. He advised everyone that this year's triathlon will be held on **Sunday, May 1st** on Dion and Christina McKinley's property. He stated that the proceeds from the race go to various charitable organizations on the northshore. He advised that the liability insurance coverage for this event is paid by the Crawfishman Triathlon.

If you are interested in volunteering for this year's race please email Kirsty Salvetti at [kiwishark@msn.com](mailto:kiwishark@msn.com) as all volunteers registered will receive a special T-shirt. If you want to come out to watch and enjoy the party, the race starts at 7:30 a.m. with the final finisher completing by 11:30 a.m.

## SETTLEMENT LETTER FROM HAOG - MEDIATION DATE

At the request of the Association, our legal counsel suggested to Eric Lowe at his deposition that setting a mediation date might help in trying to resolve the continuous lawsuits filed in court by the opposition group called HAOG. Thereafter, the GHEHA received a settlement letter from HAOG. If you would like a copy please contact the Board. A mediation

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date is now set for Saturday, April 9, 2011. This letter was read to the members present at the annual meeting on 1/29/11 and the Chair explained the Board's position.

## **UPDATE ON LAWSUIT**

As those of you at the annual meeting on 1-29-2011 will remember, Mr. Eric Lowe extensively explained how he had only filed two lawsuits against the Association. The very next business day after the annual meeting, Mr. Lowe filed yet another discovery request as part of the pending lawsuit called "Interrogatories" and served it through our counsel of record.

The portion of the request is for specific information as it relates to the letter the Board sent out on January 16, 2011. The Board wanted to supply you with this information so that you are aware of the full truth and know the reality of what your Association dues must be spent on in reply to such matters. If you wish a full copy of the Interrogatories, please contact a board member. Please note that Exhibit "A" is the Letter of Clarification that the Association mailed to you in response to the letter from HAOG to our members.

## **Interrogatories**

### **(Demands filed by Mr. Lowe as an addendum to lawsuit)**

No. 1 - Please identify each and every individual who drafted the document attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

**GHEHA Answer to Interrogatory No. 1** – All of the current board members drafted the document attached to the Interrogatories as Exhibit "A".

No. 2 - Please state whether a vote of the Board of Managers was held to approve the content of the document attached as Exhibit "A". If so, please identify the date the vote was held, each Member that was present, and how each Member voted. Please identify who the "duly elected people" referred to in Exhibit "A" are and describe the basis and/or cause upon which you allege they would be forced to resign.

### **GHEHA Answer to Interrogatory No.**

**2** – Yes, a meeting was held on 1/16/11. The vote was unanimous. All 5 board members were present; Judy Coker and Ron Trupp are the duly elected people; see Opposition's settlement letter sent by HOAG and letter from opposition attorney dated 10/4/10 for basis of comments on forced resignation.

No. 3 – Please identify the "other people that are not mentioned in the lawsuit" that have been asked to "not exert their influence again".

### **GHEHA Answer to Interrogatory No.**

**3** – See your attorney's settlement letter dated 10/04/10 for this information.

No. 4 – Please identify the individuals who have exerted "influence" as intended in Exhibit "A" and describe what actions and "influence" they have taken to affect the same.

### **GHEHA Answer to Interrogatory No.**

**4** – See your attorney's settlement letter sent on 10/04/10 for this information, with "authority" being referred to as "influence".

No. 5 – Please identify each and every debt of the Association referred to in Exhibit "A", and describe the creditor, date incurred, identify the Board Member or Members who approved the incurring of said debt, date the Board Members approved said action, a description of the basis upon which the debt was incurred, and describe the basis upon which you believe the authorizing parties had the authority to incur said debt on behalf of the Association.

### **GHEHA Answer to Interrogatory No.**

**5** – The debt referred to is the ongoing attorney fees and costs incurred to defend your frivolous suits

Creditor: Magee & Associates, Attorneys

From 4/3/07 to the present

The entire Board of Managers existing on or about 4/03/07 approved the hiring of the law firm

Hiring of attorney was on or about 04/03/07

Board approved the hiring on or about 04/03/07

Basis of incurring debt was to defend the frivolous lawsuits filed by Eric Lowe and others and to provide legal advice and services for handling issues concerning the ongoing business of the Association

The Articles of Incorporation and by-laws of the association as well as Louisiana's Corporation Law provide the authority to hire an attorney to provide legal services to the Association.

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No. 6 – Please identify who selected the attorneys for the Association, and state whether a vote of the Board Members of the Association was held, identify the date said vote was held, identify each Board Member present and how each voted.

**GHEHA Answer to Interrogatory No. 6** – The entire board, active at the time of Magee’s hire, voted unanimously to hire Magee & Associates (a/k/a Magee & Devereux). You have all the corporate records, so you should be able to identify these members.

No. 7 – Please state whether the Association has considered or interviewed any other attorneys to represent it in this matter. If so, please identify each attorney considered, and describe the basis upon which they were rejected.

**GHEHA Answer to Interrogatory No. 7** – Yes. When our original attorney for the Association, Bob Lorio, resigned as attorney, he recommended we hire another attorney. He suggested Bill Magee or Julian Rodrigue. We called Magee and met with him to discuss our legal needs. The Board felt like he was most qualified to deal with your frivolous lawsuits and he had prior experience representing homeowner’s associations. We decided to hire him. When Rodrigue called back it was after we had met and hired Magee.

### **WE THANK YOU MEMBERS!!**

Our Association has many dedicated members who have always been very supportive not only monetarily, but also by many words of praise, encouragement, appreciation and donating their valuable time to our

community. It was shown by the large number of members attending this past annual meeting along with your kind words of support.

The Board wishes to thank you for helping us. It is you that makes our Association strong and helps our community to prosper. It is you that makes our volunteered job worthwhile. Because of you this subdivision is truly a unique one.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Special thanks go to Gene Veillon, Jr. for his continued tax consultant and preparation services.

### **COMMITTEES**

We are actively seeking volunteers for all committees. Please call the Chairpersons if you would like to volunteer your time.

Jack Ussery Architectural Committee, 985-898-2889  
A.J. Ostarly, Maintenance Committee, 985-871-8963  
Pat Trupp, Landscape Committee, 985-809-1180  
Dion McKinley, Boat Launch & Lake Committee, 504-237-3560

Thank you members for your time and assistance.

### **BOAT LANDING UPDATE**

A.J. Ostarly, Maintenance Chairperson, advised at the annual meeting that he will donate gates for the boat launch and will welcome volunteers to assist him with this project. Please call A.J. at 985-871-8963 if you can spare a few hours on this project. He also thanked the membership for volunteering with the subdivision clean up day.

### **CERTIFICATES TO PROCEED**

As stated in the Grande Hills Architectural Control Committee Rules and Regulations, all plans for building structures, additions, fences, pools, etc. are to be submitted to the Architectural Control Committee for review in order for a Certificate to Proceed to be issued. Jack Ussery is the Chairman of the Architectural Control Committee and can be reached at 985-989-2889.

### **GHEHA WEBSITE**

[www.grandehills.org](http://www.grandehills.org)

If you would like to review the covenants to our subdivision, read past newsletters, get updates on what’s happening in our subdivision or print the Certificate to Proceed form for new projects on your property, please check out the GHEHA website. This website is a very valuable tool for passing on information to our property owners and prospective owners interested in our subdivision.

Look for two new features that will soon be on our website.

1. Minutes of the general membership meetings.
2. A plot map of the entire subdivision.

### **REMINDERS**

#### **Change of Address?**

Please help the Association keep track of new ownership, changes of address, and telephone number changes. Any changes should be directed to Board Member Ron Trupp 985-809-1180.