

## BSI Canal Committee

I get a lot of comments of how the PGI rim canal is so much wider than ours and --we should have the same. It is my understanding, (going back more than 60 years) when the vision of our communities was being developed, the developers saw PGI as a community where larger boats i.e., sailboats and larger offshore boats could traverse and dock, while BSI was conceived as a more typical (for that time) development accommodating powerboats in the 20'-25' range, such as center consoles, etc. and so the basic plans were put in place, and canals dug based on those premises.

Along with the PGI/BSI comments, I get a lot of questions about why we don't widen the rim canal? I'm going to group these questions along with additional questions of adding an alternate access to the harbor from the south/west side of the rim canal. These are fair questions and I'll be the first to say that I would be in favor of any and all such efforts, but realistically ---- such efforts are really beyond any reasonable means possibility.

Over the last few years, I have heard it said, that the possibility for any new canal community (such as BSI and PGI) is all but gone. The reason for this is the same reason why radically altering our canal system is remote at best.

Picture this—back when I was a plant manager for Temple Inland, employees would occasionally come to me with statements such as “I’ve been thinking” or “I have an idea” and commence telling me about their idea. After dutifully listening (as the good manager I was - 😊 ) would usually tell them that it would be possible to make this idea happen – and only needing two things — time and money. Not to say many of the ideas didn't get turned into reality, but on occasion, there were some grandiose ideas, that never made it out of their imagination.

You see where I'm going with this—

Reality is – just widening the exiting rim canal say 20 feet, the environmental permitting portion alone would take years (my estimate would be 5 to 7 years--- if we could even get one) and lots of money (again, my estimate would be well over a million dollars) And here, we're only talking about improving an existing system. The idea of opening a shortcut to the harbor along the Southwest side of BSI would require several times (if not time, certainly) more money.

This doesn't mean we should stand still and not improve on what we already have, and I do not believe we are. So, the focus is on what can we do to improve amenities and benefits while limiting additional resources (the old time and money thing).

If you've kept up with these articles and the City's Mayor's weekly articles---you'll know that due to the loss of staging lots (now with houses) particularly in the last few years, several necessary projects are planned.

The long-awaited effort to start work on widening the lock is just around the corner, while the next project will be the widening of 3 rim canal corners, those being too sharp and narrow for the larger service barges to navigate, which are required to service and maintain the sea walls.

As I said earlier, I certainly would be in favor of any such effort, and therefore I'll make you an offer--- if you personally have the money and willingness to pursue any such effort, I'll volunteer my time leading the effort—because that's just who I am (LOL) !

Rick Daugherty, Chairman, BSI Canal Committee