

## BSI Canal Committee 5/20/2024

Last month, I promised an update after the next canal board meeting. So here are my comments from last Tuesday's meeting.

Unfortunately, over the past month, much less was accomplished than hoped. Several old clichés come to mind--- the old military axiom of “hurry up and wait” and the often used “one step forward and one step backwards”.

So, the hoped-for progress on the Lock Widening Project is still stuck in space. Of course, we listened to the usual caveats and reasons for lack of progress, but the jest given were:

- the new canal maintenance supervisor is still coming up to speed (which to a certain extent I can understand)
- managing the ongoing seawall rebuilding work takes precedence over the lock widening, which is their stated mandate.
- Absents within the department staff etc. have kept them tied up on other more pressing matters.

Your committee listened to all their reasons for failure to progress lock widening. Then to the best of our abilities drove home the need to get serious about getting the revised bid out on the streets. I am now satisfied they understand our position on this subject!

Moving on, and after reviewing the 2 items yet to start (staging lot, corner widening), we asked for the city to move forward acquiring the staging lot. To bring you up to date, both the city and BSIA have reviewed possible locations, sites, etc. and all actually agree on the lot making the most sense. That being the open lot on 41. The reason to move on this now, is that this is a commercial lot and the fact that real estate increases in value (cost) over time. Also, if another party purchases this lot, as far as BSIA is concerned-- it will be gone forever.

The last item is the corner widening. This work is last on our list since we know the areas to be widened will not be sold or lost to development, so we have time to focus on the first 2 items before tackling the corners.

And—as always---calm seas, warm breezes, and plenty two-handed fish--

Rick Daugherty, Chairman, BSI Canal Committee