

Clearwater Beach Association  
Meeting Notes from March 1, 2016



**Board Present:** Jeff Chamberlain, Linda Kubilius, Steve Samaha, David MacNamee, Beth Prast, Linda Preston, Sam Hutkin, Ann Marie Krzesinski, Shari Maxwell

Regrets: Steve Curtis

Neighbors: 13

Lt. Monte, District Police Commander

Councilman Bill Jonson

David MacNamee called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. (Sam is caught in traffic.)

**Police Report:** The incidents on north beach last month included: 2 arrests for possession of marijuana, a DUI moped in front of 880 Mandalay, theft at Heilwood (a 5' dingy was stolen from the top of a boat), and a vehicle burglary at Carlouel Yacht Club (a purse was stolen from the front seat of an unlocked car).

The spring break deployment started February 27 with 4 officers on 10 hour shifts and 2 sergeants. This allows them to schedule 16 officers and 3 sergeants on the weekends. There are police aids at Ft. Harrison and Chestnut Street to run more green lights to clear the beach as needed.

At the last meeting there was discussion about problem parking at Kipling. Lt. Monte found that City Ordinance does not allow people to park on the grass, so they can make a citation. There is no 'No Parking' sign there to enforce, so the best they can do is to give the citation. He reminds us this is complaint driven.

**Community Comments:** Don Johnson encouraged the group to vote 'no' on all referendums related to "Save Our Parks". The Council would be able to declare the land of no value which changes the city charter.

**Minutes of the last meeting** were approved – Moved by David MacNamee and seconded by Beth Prast.

**President's Report,** Sam Hutkin: Work on Residential Only parking continues. He will be meeting with Jill Silverboard and Bill Horne about it.

Lt. Monte: a new parking permit was issued to the lot at Royal and Mandalay today.

**Treasurer's Report:** David MacNamee - The balance was \$14,055.91 as of January 1. There is \$904 in the Foundation account. There were \$999.64 in deposits and \$707.13 in expenses for a balance of \$14,248.42.

**Membership:** There are 80 members as of today. Some long-term members have not yet renewed. A neighbor asked how does anyone know about these meetings; she happened to see a sign so she came tonight. She and her daughter are new in the neighborhood.

Sam asked Anne Garris to give a brief history of CBA's 71 years. The list of things the organization has worked on, started, or participated in is long and includes: many social events, vigorous politicking, opening of the rec center, installation of tennis courts, started Chapel-By-The-Sea in 1949, rescued the library from being closed, got the Jolley Trolley started – in other words, significant community development.

**Projects:** Beth Prast reported the first volunteer project for 2016 will be May 14. When we adopted the park around the pool and rec center, we agreed to two projects per year. We have cleaned up, painted, etc.

**Legal:** Steve Samaha reported the short-term rental situation has improved. The only ones allowed are the 31 who were are legally exempt due to being grand-fathered. There were 150-200 illegal short-term rentals until the CBA worked successfully with the City Code Enforcement to bring this down.

**Activities:** Beth Prast reported the Trash & Treasure Sale in February at the Chapel went well. 22 tables were sold; there was a lot of cooperation and it was a fun activity.

- March 25 will be the Easter Egg hunt at the Rec Center at 6:00 p.m. CBA provides the eggs.
- April 2 is the picnic in conjunction with Clearwater Neighborhood Days. It will be held at Triangle Park. The firemen and police are invited as usual. An email will be sent.
- June 4 – CBA takes a Jolley Trolley to Brighthouse Field for the Threshers baseball game. We have an indoor room, and the tickets include food.
- August 6 will be a pool party at the Rec Center.
- September 24 is beach cleanup.

**Bill Jonson, City Councilman:** One council seat is open and being contested. There are several referendums up for vote; the website explains them. A forum was held and replays are available on the website as well. One of the referendums would allow a little more development on the docks, i.e., ticket booth for ferry, a small restroom for people on the docks, an additional informational signage, and a better fence for security purposes. There are 2 questions allowing the band shell to be modified or moved but no specifics, and to allow a lease in the library for a café so they can improve the space and encourage a leased café in the library.

Related to the traffic, the City is going to subsidize the ferry for a period during spring break to encourage this alternate route to the beach. Trolleys will be free from the Clearwater Marina to the beach on weekends. Memorial Day weekend is the trial. A 2010 study found a bus lane would be feasible but it was not instituted. An RFP is being written on water taxis. UPass might be rolled out to large beach employers – the employer pays a fee and all employees ride the bus for free.

Anne Garris noted that in 1972 the first high rise was built on the beach. Traffic congestion was terrible. They said they should build more hotels so the City will have to fix the traffic. In 1955, her father was trying to make sure a helicopter could land out here to be able to take her to the hospital if she went into labor during spring break. So it is not a new problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting will be April 5 at 6:30 p.m. here at the Chapel.