

Clearwater Beach Association Board Meeting Notes

January 5, 2016

Board Members present at Chapel-By-The-Sea: David MacNamee, Linda Kabulius, Sam Hutkin, Steve Samaha, Beth Prast, Steve Curtis

Lt. Anthony Monte was in attendance.

David nominated Sam Hutkin to be President; motion seconded by Beth Prast. Steve Samaha nominated Steve Curtis to be Vice President, which motion was seconded. Sam nominated David MacNamee for Treasurer, seconded by Beth Prast. Voting passed all nominations. Sam asked Shari Maxwell to be secretary. She accepted based on the condition that only one conversation will occur at a time. If additional conversations begin, we will pause until we have everyone's attention and resume with one conversation. The President will then call upon the others to get all the points being discussed.

Neighborhood Coalition - Sam reported on his attendance at a Neighborhood Coalition meeting. They were looking for a representative from the CBA. It was educational and eye-opening to him. They want to undertake some joint events. There were formerly 70 neighborhood associations in the coalition; now there are 18.

Councilman Bill Jonson was there and shared some good points. The City formerly had a regular person in attendance and is now looking to hire someone for this position, full-time.

The Coalition is keen on some topics – who they are, what they stand for, how to be heard, how to represent more people. If one of the neighborhoods in the Coalition should help the CBA with a project, they'd like our help with another neighborhood's project/issue.

Police report - Lt. Anthony Monte is the District 1 Commander who supervises the patrols on the beach. He reported that from September 1 to current, from the Rockaway north, there were no major incidents. The minor incidents included:

- 600 Bay Esplanade – a car tag was stolen, they have no leads
- Shipwreck Bar – a subject for which there was already a warrant had cocaine in his possession
- 900 Lantana – an unlocked car was entered and ransacked but nothing was stolen
- 880 Mandalay – a construction crew stole electricity
- Mandalay Park – smoking marijuana
- 600 Cyprus – vehicle ransacked, wallet stolen
- Idlewild Street – fraud for a vacation rental; a vacationer paid \$400 for a place that was not for rent actually. The ad looked legitimate.
- Mandalay/Summerset – marijuana found in a cup holder

Christmas week traffic was horrendous; there was gridlock all week. It was backed up to Highland. The weather was beautiful, Outback Bowl Beach Day and everyone wanted to come to the beach. The construction on Court, Chestnut, and south of the roundabout made everything worse. The ferry is trying to ramp up. Spring break will probably be more of the

same. Lt. Monte may be able to hire 8 aids to help with the traffic. Running the lights to relieve beach traffic stops up downtown traffic, so is not a perfect solution. The volume of cars under these circumstances is so large, the pedestrian problem is nearly irrelevant. Solutions are being discussed – a trolley lane?

Steve Samaha “Concurrency” is a Florida law we’ve forgotten about. The law exists and was enforced tightly. Being inconsistent with the comprehensive plan means a project is open to being challenged. A minimum level of service can’t be interfered with, citizens even can challenge it if they do.

Anne Marie Krzesinski attended a Beach Chamber of Commerce event. They are trying to get more people here – for the beach businesses. Lt. Monte believes the local people who are day-tripping cause a lot of our problems, not so much the vacationers encouraged by the Chamber. The day-trippers drive around and around, looking for a place to park. Pier 60 lot has been filling up by 9am or 9:30 a.m. which is early. A couple of ideas thrown out – a toll on the bridge? Higher parking rates? The traffic was mostly families, and most of the issues they had to address were related to traffic and not many calls were about other trouble.

Events Discussion

There will be a meeting next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at David MacNamee’s house to plan the year's events.

Political Issues

Sam: Bill Jonson has been a representative to the Board. He’ll be done in 2 ½ years. We need to start thinking now about who we could get to replace him. There was a man at the Neighborhood Coalition Meeting who shares Jonson’s ideals. He might be good to vote for. Elections are March 15. CBA has previously held forums for candidates to hear them speak on the issues, and to be able to ask them questions. People submit questions in writing and a moderator handled it. Jay Keyes has done it previously; Sam will talk to him about how he did it.

Sam asked Mr. Jonson if zoning will ever change, will developers start moving up north beach? 880 Mandalay got through because the 1920’s zoning was for a hotel there and it never got changed.

The Comprehensive Plan is not easy to change but it CAN be done. All development has to be consistent with Comprehensive Plans; ours is “Beach By Design”. It would be nice to hear its details for north beach. Sam will contact the Planning Department to do so.

CBA Membership concerns: The Neighborhood Coalition says ‘No neighborhood wins alone’ with the understanding one neighborhood would help another with various projects.

We need more participation in CBA. Membership depends upon communication. We have a Facebook page; Kristen Mann will try to up our presence there. The Board will work on a way to knock on doors. We need a flyer about what CBA does. There were 261 members of CBA in

1971 (there were no associations on either Sand Key or Island Estates at that time.) South beach has dwindled away. There were formerly 90 or more business members of CBA.

Question was asked: how does one get onto the Board? Answer: They express an interest, the Board vets them somewhat and then vote. This fills positions mid-year or until the next election is held in December.

Misc. notes: Ann Marie Krzesinski has been attending Beach Chamber of Commerce meetings and will try to keep us apprised of what goes on at their meetings, their goals, concerns, etc. Many local businesses will give local residents a 10% discount if you ask. The new (single) garbage collection day will be Thursday starting next week. The cans at the beach accesses are still 2 times weekly which is needed. It was suggested they need a 2nd can.

We are encouraged to register the recycle cans to get points that are redeemable for things at local businesses such as massages. It is a multiple-state initiative.

The royal palms on Kipling are dying. Alexis Wells is in charge of the trees.

Sam, as the new president, has a passion to get parking restricted to residents on north beach.

Steve Curtis: the City has suggested we get homeowner only passes for parking on north and south beaches. Each owner would get x number of passes, some guest passes for parties, etc. We would lose the No Parking signs in some areas. Some streets are too narrow (20' width is the minimum for parking on one side) for any parking at all. They will not issue more passes than there are spots available. Currently there are very few homes that have no parking in front of them. The City would then put up signs that there is no public parking on north beach. Enforcement will go to Parking Enforcement instead of the police. It should raise property values. We don't get beach renourishment funds so we don't have to provide public parking.

Steve Curtis would like to organize some neighborhood group events – biking over to Dunedin together, for example.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Maxwell

Addendum: Both Jeff Chamberlain and Shari Maxwell were vetted and accepted as Board Members via email, after this meeting.