

Clearwater Beach Association Board Meeting Notes

February 2, 2016

Board Members present: Jeff Chamberlain, David MacNamee, Linda Kubilius, Beth Prast, Sam Hutkin, Linda Preston, Shari Maxwell

Present: Lt. Monte, Shelby Brown, Code Inspector, 8 neighbors

Regrets: Steve Curtis, Steve Samaha

David MacNamee called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Lt. Monte's police report: 4 incidents this month in the area from the Rockaway north.

- 24 Avalon St. reported a car stolen from the city lot but police found it and driver said she was a friend
- 832 block of Eldorado – 2 computer monitors were taken from a 2nd floor office; the door to the balcony had been left open
- 1170 Mandalay – one construction worker stabbed another
- 600 Bay Esplanade – criminal mischief – sugar was put into a car's gas tank

March 5 the shifts will change for officers; they get to bid for a new district. Also 12 hour shifts will start (6am to 6pm). This allows the police to create a cover squad, i.e. double officers from 2pm to midnight from Thursday thru Sunday.

Spring Break is more compressed this year – 4 weeks instead of 6. February 27 thru March 27. There will be twice as many officers on duty – on the sand, on bicycles and in cars. There will be 2 volunteers, 2 police aids, and technicians monitoring the intersections at Island Way and in the evening at Chestnut and Ft. Harrison to get people off the beach.

The police have a rack card and umbrella hangers reiterating the restriction of alcohol on the beach, and reminding people of their strict enforcement. The Beach Chamber will also stock the cards.

Police will monitor the pedestrian crossing at Hooters. Supervisors will be mobile and watch where they are needed. They will try to put someone at this crossing to group the pedestrians (but it can't be an officer). They are getting ready to do some work at the railroad crossing in February. This will complicate things, of course.

Managing the crosswalk is only a small dent in a large problem. Surf Style parking lot is still closed. Pelican Walk parking lot is set to open September 2017. The one by Opal Sands just reopened but it is very small.

Ann Marie Krzesinski called the non-emergency number about some cars parked between the sidewalk and the street at Kipling and Mandalay. An officer came but did not get out of his car. Lt. Monte will take a look at this area himself – the officer may not have been sure enough about what is legal there to issue a ticket.

Shelby Brown, Code Enforcement Inspector, introduced herself. She works out here on the beach every day. She was responsible for this area from 2004 -2009, and is back here as of August. She herself lives on Island Estates. She asks us to call her for: short-term rental abuses, turtle lights, exterior maintenance

issues, vacated buildings, abandoned cars, etc. i.e., quality of life issues. Shelby took the first case of short term rental abuses to the City. Julie Peterson is assigned to this pretty much full time now.

Sam Hutkin commented that the new street lights being installed are too bright and too white. The City will install a shield if called, but we are surprised they are not being sensitive to the issue of the turtles. Shelby will discuss this with personnel at the City.

Shelby brought copies of the Citizens' Guides to Code Compliance for distribution. There are many codes to enforce to keep our quality of life as high as possible, and many we may not realize such as residents may only park an RV in the yard one day twice a month.

CBA is behind code enforcement, but should not be a conduit between neighbors, not vigilantes looking for problems. (Rather like good fences good neighbors make). The Code Enforcement department wants to hear from us. Shelby reiterated that she lives here (Island Estates) and wants it to stay nice herself.

Sandy Britton raised the concern of people parking their cars across the sidewalks, making it impossible for people to get through, especially those in wheelchairs, walkers, with strollers, etc. Police can issue citations for this; Code Enforcement personnel can leave door hangers bringing their attention to the issue.

Current code requires a fence or birdcage around a swimming pool. A fence around the yard is acceptable, with alarms on doors leading out from the house to the pool.

Golf carts must be registered (have a license tag) and be street legal with headlights, seatbelts, etc. to be driven on our streets. There has been one parking on the street; Shelby will keep an eye out for it.

Shelby encouraged residents to ride along with her as she drives our streets. Sam invited her and Lt. Monte to become honorary members of CBA, be on our mailing list, etc. Other Island Estates residents do so.

David MacNamee brought up waterfront sight triangles, in reference to new construction. Shelby indicated that it is a City-wide code that no shrubs, trees, buildings, etc. may be built blocking the sight of the waterfront from existing residents. It definitely applies on the beach as well.

Ann Marie Krzesinski talked to Alexis from the City about the palm trees that are dying on Kipling. Replacement palms are on order and should arrive in 1-1/2 months. She will follow up for the March meeting. A bit of history was reviewed – the big palms previously on Kipling were removed and ground down but nobody knew who authorized it. Their replacements are not surviving. Consensus was that we hope the new ones will be native palms and thus have a better chance.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved – David MacNamee moved to accept them and Beth Prast seconded.

President's Report – Sam reported that parking continues to be an issue. He is encouraging Bill Horne and Jill Silverboard to take the idea of resident only parking for the north and south beaches to the City Board. We get no renourishment funds so there is no requirement for public parking. We want to restrict parking in order to reduce littering, urinating, people exposing themselves, etc. in our neighborhood. If passed, homeowners would have passes to park in the legal places, as well as some for their guests. It is important to note that not all streets are wide enough for parking even on one side. To

become code, 65% of homeowners have to vote 'yes'. The absence of a vote is a vote of 'no'. To get to this number will be challenging but some of the real estate agents will help us identify residents. There are 500 homes in north beach; we expect less than 300 have year-round residents. Some places are in foreclosure, owned by banks, etc.

Treasurer's Report – David MacNamee – There is \$14,005 in our regular account and \$850 in the Foundation Account. There are currently 64 paid members of CBA.

Sam: we want to have active members; we don't just want their checks. CBA would like to encourage communication between the neighborhood and the City. (Sandy has met many neighbors who like to get newsletters and information but can't make time to come to meetings.) Several Board Members went out recently and knocked on doors soliciting memberships. The goal is to get to 100 members by March.

Report from Beth Prast, our liaison with the City for clean ups – May 14 is our first clean-up. April 2 is Neighborhood Day, so we'll have a picnic that day. We applied for a grant.

Neighborhood Coalition Meeting - Linda Kubilius attended the Neighborhood Coalition Meeting; there were 7-8 people there. Bill Jonson discussed Bill 1007 which is under consideration, and the City wants it to pass. The piece of land near Coachman Park is owned by the State and Bill 1007 will allow it to be sold. The City wants more control over the land, to be able to do more things with it. Boaters would like a restaurant at the marina. The Bill will allow "development". When the marina went in, no fuel stations or food were to be allowed. Now the City is talking about sports like paddleboard rentals, and food trucks. The Coalition didn't know anything about the Bill so Sam will call their president and share information. Linda Owens indicated that the City has had Senator Latvala propose this bill. It is currently in the House. This will reduce free public access to our waterfront. To see details about it, go online to the State page and enter Bill 1007 for details. Linda Owens will find out who we should contact. Senator Latvala has heard from the City only the good things. There was a public meeting but no one knew about it, so no one went.

Other: The building east of the original Frenchie's has been sold, and the rents of all the tenants doubled. Outfitters are going out of business. The apartments will be remodeled.

Linda Kubilius has the schedule for the Threshers' games. The Board voted for the June 4 date.

The next meeting will be March 1.

The Trash & Treasure Sale will be February 27 here at the Chapel. Members of CBA and Chapel-By-The-Sea may reserve tables for \$10 each. Twenty-five tables will fit comfortably. Beth will keep the list of reservations. There will be a 2 table limit per person. Sea Q Grill will provide the food concession.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Maxwell