

NBCA Spring Meeting MINUTES
April 17, 2025
Las Brisas condos

Board Members Present – Ron Graban, Carrie Meyer, Ariana Jones, Bob Catalano, Dolores Vela, Tracy Jackson, Manny Portillo, Lynn Frazier

Board Members Absent – Barb Johnson (sick), Michael Kennedy (conflict)

6:00 PM – Dominos Pizza is served (sponsored by NBCA) with cucumber/tomato salad, antipasta, cupcakes supplied by members. Thanks to Board member Ariana Jones for organizing the food.

6:15 PM – Membership approved Treasurer's Report and Jan Minutes. Carrie had emailed both out to the membership on April 16. In addition, the documents were projected onto the big screen during the meeting. Electronic delivery of the Agenda Packet is a new policy that NBCA's Board decided on to save copying costs and paper. If anyone did not receive the Agenda Packet, please email Secretary Carrie at northbeachcommunity@gmail.com

6:25 PM – Ron introduces City Manager Peter Zanoni, who gives a brief update about the current improvements underway on North Beach, then mentions that he had had a meeting with NBCA's History Committee (Barbara Welder, Carrie and Ron) on April 16 about additional improvements to the History Plaza. He asked about the Beachwalk being broken near Surfside Park. He recognized Ross Patchin, who is the city's new Liaison to North Beach, who was sitting in the back. Ross' email is StuartP2@cctexas.com.

6:30 PM – Ron introduces Guest Speaker Lynn Allison with FlatIron Dragados, the contractor for the Harbor Bridge Project, who gave an in-depth report on the current state of the project, including a Powerpoint presentation.

Lynn: In the coming months, the southbound lanes on the old bridge will close permanently, but the northbound lanes will remain open while we finish the alignment of Hwy 181 during June and July. The north half of the Shared Use Path (SUP) will be closed until then. But the south half of the SUP will open when the new bridge opens to southbound vehicular traffic. The second half of the SUP that goes from North Beach to the Belvedere at the top will not open until we complete the Hwy 181 alignment – late July or Aug.

Parking for those wanting to access the SUP will be underneath the new bridge at Burleson near Churchdale Ave.

Approved by NBCA Membership on July 17, 2025

Beach Ave U-turn (turn around) should open in 2 weeks from now, which will help alleviate congestion at that busy intersection near the Whataburger.

On the south end of North Beach (near the Aquarium), retention ponds have been built to help dissipate surface water.

TxDOT Mitigation Project Update – Located inside the North Beach Eco Park, this project has recently been regraded and several species of wetland plants have been planted. At least one species of plant, glasswort, is thriving. We are watering the new plants using trucks that spray effluent water.

On the south side of the new bridge, the trailhead parking for the SUP is at Sam Rankin. At Lake Street and Park there is a pond where we have found a variety of fish including juvenile tarpon, trout, menhaden and mullet.

If you're coming from NB on the new bridge and want to go to Downtown – you can take the loop ramp towards the Bayfront but that will end at Staples Street until they finish all the road connections in that area. A suggested alternate route is to drive up I-37 to Nueces Bay Blvd and turn around, then come back down I-37 to the Bayfront.

We added 63 more feet of navigational clearance to the height of the new bridge (from the original design).

The distance from abutment to abutment (of the main towers) is 11,000 feet.

The length of the SUP, once completed will be 2.38 miles in each direction.

Currently, finish work is being done, including painting and installing illumination.

May 10 Harbor Bridge Ribbon Cutting – bridge will not be open to traffic at that point. That will come later during May. Location details might change. However, for the May 10 ribbon cutting we will have an "Inaugural Crossing" for vehicles only. No pedestrians. Then the bridge will be closed off again.

CBS Aesthetic Lighting that will light the bridge will be lit by about July 4.

Belvedere will be at the top of the SUP and have a long bench for seating.

We're in the final stages of planning the deconstruction of the old bridge. There will be no explosive dynamite. Once we finish in July, we'll start the deconstruction, starting with the main span in the middle. We are working to make something available to the public about keeping pieces.

Marian – What will it be called? Lynn: The New Harbor Bridge is what we're calling it.

Approved by NBCA Membership on July 17, 2025

Barbara Welder – What about height of the fence along the SUP (for safety)?

Lynn: The fencing will be high enough to prevent people from climbing up it.

Ron – Will the old bridge be used as a breakwater for North Beach?

Lynn: We've been reached out to by GLO about that. Because of environmental concerns and to expedite the demolition, we'll pass that decision on to the GLO to deal directly with our subcontractors.

Man asks when cruise ships will come in. Lynn: I don't know about cruise ships.

Deb Web – will there be emergency phones on the bridge? Lynn: Not that I know of.

Speed limit will be 55 mph.

Barbara Welder: On the detour signage, why not just put "Harbor Bridge" instead of Hwy 181?

Lynn: There are a lot of highways that intersect with the bridge, so we have to specify which one you're getting on to.

Patrick: Since there will be just one exit coming off the bridge, will that intersection at Beach Ave be safe? This Spring Break, we had police cars down there helping to move traffic through.

Lynn: Having a lot of people for Spring Break is a good thing!

Bob: At any street there are problems during big events.

Lynn hands out short segments of blue twisted cable threads that go inside the cable stays.

END OF BRIDGE TALK

Ron invites **Ross Patchin**, the city's new North Beach Liaison, to come up and introduce himself.

Ariana Jones invites everyone to come to the Dolphin Park Earth Day Cleanup to be held on Sat, April 26 at 7:30 AM.

Ron gives Stuart the floor, who talks about a man who lives at Las Brisas who has personally targeted him with antiemetic and racist attacks. "Hitler is here." He said that the man has been shooting at his car. Stuart wants to let the community know about it and is here to ask for help. Peter Zaroni says he will talk to the Police Chief.

Ron thanks everyone for coming. **Next NBCA Membership meeting will be July 17, 2025 at 6 PM** and will be a presentation about the Linear Park Canal project.