

MINUTES
NBCA Meeting with The Hunters – Las Brisas
September 19, 2024

6:00 PM Pledge of allegiance

Approve **Treasurers' Report** and **Minutes** (copies provided in agenda packet) from July and Aug meetings – Barb Johnson makes motion, Bill Ibarra 2nds, motion approved

Carrie says to make sure your name is on the **sign in sheet** in order to receive NBCA's newsletter, North Beach News

Ron provides **Dirt Update** - We want to move North Beach out of the VE Zone into an AE Zone with FEMA. Asking the city to initiate that.

TIRZ Community Rep opening – Current rep has been removed for lack of attendance. NBCA has submitted 3 names (Ron, Carrie, Kim) for appointment in 2025.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Oct 1 – National Night Out at Surfside Park with local police officers
- Oct 10 – Candidate's Forum at Las Brisas
- Oct 12 - Dolphin Park cleanup
- Nov 14 – Holiday Potluck
- Jan 16 – Annual Meeting

Ron introduces the **Speakers - State Rep Todd Hunter and City Councilman Michael Hunter**

Michael: At Large City Councilman, born and raised in CC. “14 years ago when the new bridge discussions were starting, we started talking about the Breakwater. That morphed into a canal. I got on Council in 2016. Stuff started picking up. We got a Boardwalk.”

[Historical Fact: The Corpus Christi Beachwalk was advocated for and initiated by NBCA in 1999 through our “Bring Back the Beachwalk” campaign. The first 1.4 miles of concrete Beachwalk was funded in 3 phases through Bond 2000, Bond 2004 and Bond 2008. The part that reached Dolphin Park was completed in 2012. In Bond 2016, 500 feet of the Beachwalk was widened from USS Lexington to the Aquarium – that’s the section that Michael was likely referring to.]

“We talked about what it will look like over here when the bridge is complete. Two streets coming off the bridge. The city was supposed to fund the frontage road for the bridge.”

[Fact: The city’s Bond 2018 included three street projects for North Beach, which were all related to the new bridge project - Beach Ave, Gulf Spray Ave and the “Primary Access Road,” which was a proposed U-shaped road north of Beach Ave. That third Bond 2018 street project has been abandoned by the city but they’re still planning Beach Ave & Gulf Spray. The city was

not responsible for the TxDOT frontage road, but the Primary Access Road was a loop that was designed to help ensure that traffic coming off the bridge did not back up at Beach Ave.]

Michael: “When the Aquarium finished Caribbean Journey, Chad McGill, Jeff Blackard and I worked together to create a TIRZ to work on the canal. The city soured relationships with the Port and the County, which took us off track.”

Michael: “Beach erosion is expensive to repair. I sat on the USS Lexington Board and erosion was occurring near the ship. Breakwaters are a great opportunity. We can get some material from the bridge. The Breakwater will improve water sports, sea life ...”

Michael: “We need soil placed around North Beach to elevate it to make the canal work. Could have used the canal dirt for raising properties. City has been cleaning out the existing storm water system that gets clogged. The Linear Parkway can be a stepping stone to a future canal.”

Michael: “TIRZ are developed to solve blight, etc. I think 3 Community Reps should sit on the TIRZ Board instead of 1.”

Mayra Angelica Halm from The Harbors asks about Hwy 181 Underpass flooding. “Are we on the radar?” She hands Michael and Todd a proposal. Asks how the Hunters can help.

Todd Jones – The flooding is a safety concern. We have to drive on a 1-way frontage road, breaking the law to get home.

Patrick Halm – We have reported this to TxDOT in 2018, been on the news, but haven’t gotten anywhere with it.

Daniel Ruidant – brings up how the city has spent money on Surfside Park, Fajitaville, etc – but ignoring the Underpass. [Fact: the underpass is a state issue; Surfside Park & the TIRZ are city issues.]

Michael: “TIRZ are supposed to be spent on economic development. Even though we can do public amenities, it has to spur economic development.”

Michael gives out his cell phone – 361-548-2816 He’s running for Mayor. “I’m the oldest on council by tenure but youngest by age. I’m running because we continue to fail on projects. We have a canal that was voted on 7 times, passed, funded, staff and certain Council members killed it behind the scene.”

Carrie Meyer: How will you be a different Mayor than Paulette Guajardo? [No answer.]

Rick from The Breakers – “Our water bill was \$600/month. Now it’s \$4,000/month because of increased wastewater charges. Is there anything that can be done?”

Michael – “I voted No on wastewater increases. The Developer’s Trust Fund is to help private industries build infrastructure. We keep doing bail outs of the trust fund and have taken that money out of our water fund. We had pressure from the EPA to repair certain parts of the water

system on a certain timeline. When Paulette ran against Joe McComb, she ran against desal. Now she's for it. The biggest concern is the brine discharge. We have to go with the Army Corps. If they say it's fine then it normally is. A lot of people are against it because they don't want any more industry here. Industry uses 55% of water, people use 45%. Industry doesn't have to cut back until State 3. There is a lot of different info that is being promoted by groups who are against industry growth. I picked La Quinta Terminal as my #1 spot for desal, so we could distribute the water directly to the new industry. They want it in the Inner Harbor because if the current water plant fails, we would have a back up treatment facility nearby."

Carrie Meyer - Some of us moved here because Corpus is a city of 300,000 people, so the idea of perpetual growth isn't necessarily a positive thing for everyone

Todd Hunter – This may be the very first time ever that I have ever spoken with my son. What I do can help get your answers. I'm a senior member of the legislature. In 1999 I started office. I have 3 kids. They all grew up here. I left office for 11 years but I came back and have a current position on the State Affairs Committee. I'm the only South Texas Republican to ever serve on that committee of 13 people, most senior people in the House. We get over 1,000 bills during a session. In charge of ERCOT – every utility company in the state (AEP, Encore, NRG, Vistra – the makers of power – renewables, geothermal, nuclear, telecommunications, AT&T, etc). Oversees Ethics Commission, the Border, all the bills that the governor signed comes through my committee. Open Records, Transparency Laws, Panhandle wildfires, TWIA, AI, Science & Technology. Anything that affects the state comes through the State Affairs. We're in charge of Gambling, Sports Betting. I'm not a fan of the state agencies. They're not transparent. I challenge the agencies – like the Public Utility Commission. On your electric bill, there's a new charge – used to be \$10. Now it's going up. I was in Austin challenging it. TWIA – I'm fighting them again next week Sept 27 – they'll take public comment on TWIA increasing your rates. They beat up the coast. We're not Houston, Dallas, SA, Austin – everyone moves to the Metro areas, so we don't have that many votes. So the insurance industry takes advantage of us. TWIA raised our rates 13+%. I'm trying, but sometimes it's just me. I won't get Insurance Legislator of the Year.

When I left for 11 years, I noticed most of the politicians never came home and they weren't communicating with the public. Nobody hands me a menu and says: Vote this way. I've been here since 1978. North Beach is a beautiful place. But think about everyone who comes here. They can't even get out (because of the bridge detours and flooding). We gotta quit with the talking and start with the walking. You've got Mosquitoville, not Fajitaville.

Why am I here? I'm not even the State Rep for North Beach. I represent the eastern part of Nueces County. You have an open seat in November because Abel Herrero is not seeking re-election. I'm not supposed to get involved if it's another district. I want to move forward. We got too many talkers. Let's talk about the flooding that you brought up. I have a meeting with TxDOT tomorrow. They don't meet with me out of respect but out of fear. I don't think we're being communicated with.

In 2015, I went home and weighed 204 pounds. Michael and his sister had lost weight. We competed and I lost 60 pounds. People asked me if I had cancer. My office was burned down by arsonists. It's an open case. Don't know who did it. They assigned me a security detail. As we

were walking into the Speaker of the House's office, a young woman asked me if I was Bernie Sanders.

You have been ignored and that needs to be fixed. I am a squeaky wheel. When you hit 71, they listen. I'm glad you invited my son. He has an MBA from TAMUCC. I moved here because I wanted to live by the water.

Carrie – please send me a 2-page summary list about the flooding issue. Then they have an open record request from me.

Ivy Young – The port is dredging and putting it on the Port property – why can't they divert that over here?

Todd – Dredging is federal (Army Corps) – I'll ask for you. We shouldn't make common sense so hard to get to.

Todd – iPhones will add AI in the next generation. Beware of that. The Commissioner of Education announced, saying he wants to ban all cell phones in schools.