

MINUTES NBCA Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 20 2023

Las Brisas condos

38 members total present, plus our speaker.

Board members present: Ron Graban, Dolores Vela, Michael Kennedy, Carrie Meyer, Bob Catalano, Manny Portillo, Tracy Jackson, Lynn Frazier (alternate) MariAnne (new alternate)

President Dr. Ron Graban calls meeting to order at 6:05 PM, introduces guest speaker: **At-Large City Councilman Mike Pusley**

MINUTES – Bob makes motion, Pete 2nd, members vote to approve minutes from March 23

INTRODUCTION (Ron) - Lots happening on NB. Working thru the tremors of change. Look back 10 years ago and there has been a lot of change. The Board appointed a **new Alternate Board member**, MariAnne Gill, to replace Denise Scott, who moved away from North Beach last month. **MariAnne:** She's been on North Beach 1 year, owns a condo at Villa del Sol. She saw a meeting sign on the corner and came last month.

DRAINAGE - (Ron) - Tuesday was a great day for North Beach – the Council voted 9-0 to start the linear canal to improve drainage.

SPEAKER - Councilman Mike Pusley

Pusley: Things are changing. Back in 2009 when I was County Commissioner the city wasn't returning phone calls on North Beach. Now a lot is going on. I drove through the new RV Park. The private sector is coming through. Now the city needs to step up.

He's dedicated to the design of the **Eco Park**. He worked with Carrie on it several years ago but lost the funding source. Now Bond 2022 is funding design (Council just approved contract for \$100,000). The new designer will work with the residents of North Beach to determine what we want it to look like. The design will take 6 months.

Surfside Park Renovation project will build a new elevated restroom facility, new parking lot and small park.

Drainage canal – I wanted the engineering firm to know that we've done a lot of engineering already. We've spent almost \$1 million on engineering (Urban, LAN 1 & 2, MIG)

Streets - The city has a new Public Works guy Ernie de la Santos who came from TxDOT. We've been spending a ton of money on arterials and collectors but not on residential streets. This new guy is not going to rebuild all the sidewalks on residential if they don't need it, just focus on the streets.

Desalination - The city is out of water. If we have a new industry, it takes a lot of water to keep them going. Hydrogen is the next big deal > they will change how we do internal combustion engines. If someone wanted 20 million gallons, we wouldn't have it. We rely on how much it rains. Choke Canyon is about 30 percent capacity, Lake CC is 71 percent full, Mary Rhodes Pipeline picks up water from Lake Texana. Mary Rhodes II comes from the Lower Colorado River. We would not have enough water. 7 counties rely on our city for water. Plus our industries need water. Currently, about 45 percent of our water supply goes to residential and 55 goes to industry (big and small). In the summer that production goes up to 100 million gallons a day..

Mary Rhodes pipeline is getting older. It shut down temporarily last year. If that were to happen for a week or so, we would be in trouble.

I ran for Council to help the city come to grips for acquiring new water sources for this city. Our reservoirs are sinking daily. The Council has been working on a 30 million gallons a day desal plant for the **Inner Harbor**. Our intake permits have been approved and we are applying for our discharge permits. The design criteria will have higher standards than California. **La Quinta** Channel is another location the city is working on. The Port is working on the **Harbor Island** location. Port has hired an engineering firm to see what it would cost to put a desal plant on Harbor Island. At the end of the day, the city is the distributor. Barney Davis in Flour Bluff is another possible location and it already has a discharge permit.

Evangeline Aquifer – we're looking at drilling a bunch of water wells and hooking them together. The water we get would have to be refined a little - \$200 million estimate. They did one study. Now we've hired a study to verify what they have done. That water plant is the shortest project – within 24 months.

Lynn Frazier – The places I've been they pump the brine into the currents. Our bay is 3x saltier, we've lost species just because of that. Having the desal out further or having a way to dispose of the brine offshore would be so huge. But to do it over here on North Beach? No. We need to get rid of that brine and not put it in the bay.

Pusley – They've done this study and determined it won't be harmful to the bay. All the new studies show it will be OK.

Barbara Johnson – can't we sell the salt to cities up north that need salt for their streets?

Chuck Anderson – are there other cities that put it in a bay?

Pusley: California and Israel. I didn't bring our engineers. But they have assured us (only 30 mgd plant) and have shown us the models numerous times about how it's not going to increase the salinity in the bay.

Chuck – Increased salinity will hurt fisheries.

Ning Huang – Put the desal at Aransas Pass or Packery Channel - When tide goes out, release the discharge. When the tide comes in, take the water into the plant.

Carrie – Will there ever be a limit that we reach the point when we can't afford more industry, to where it's just not sustainable?

Michael Kennedy – Pipe the brine out into the Gulf. On every barn at our family farm, we had rain gutters and cisterns. You can use water for your yard. We never hear anything about reusing rainwater.

Dolores Vela – We need a longer pipeline for the discharge. How much would that cost and why can't the refineries pay for that?

Pusley – Industries are paying their share (25 cent surcharge on every 1000 gall). We have a choice: we can put up a sign "Closed for business" or we can come up with new water sources.

Pam Fuchs – Enron's Board members didn't really understand what they were voting on but voted to approve because they thought the other board members who supported it understood it. But in hindsight, nobody understood what they were voting on. Do the Councilmembers really understand what the scientists are saying about desal?

Pusely- we hired a brand new guy who was an engineer. We hired another from TCEQ. We are not a village of idiots believing anything they tell us.

SOCIAL HOUR - Pusley leaves. Members enjoy sandwiches and fruit/veg trays. Ron reminds people to put donations into the jar to help pay for the food.