

**MINUTES**  
**NBCA Membership Meeting**  
Candidate's Forum  
Oct 13, 2022

**Board members present:** Pres Barbara Welder, VP Ron Graban, Treas Michael Kennedy, Sec Carrie Meyer, Dolores Vela, Bob Catalano (Debra Pope resigned on 9/13/22 for health reasons)

**Members:** About 25 people present

**Location:** Las Brisas community room

**5:30 PM - Announcements** - Barbara Welder calls meeting to order. Welcomes candidates. Candidates will introduce themselves (3 minutes) then answer the following question: If elected, what North Beach improvement will you champion and how will you ensure that it gets accomplished?

**ELECTION DAY - TUESDAY, NOV 8**

**City Council At Large Candidates (5 present)** (vote for 1, 2 or 3)

**Nancy Vera** - Has been a leader in the local Teacher's Union (AFT), so is not new to politics. She wants to see North Beach developed and solve the flooding issue. Industry should pay more taxes to help fund improvements like this.

Drainage - we're doing everything piecemeal. We need to pass priorities and have drainage here. I'm tired of waiting. Aren't you?

One word that describes you: Experienced.

**Jim Klein** - He grew up on a farm and learned the value of hard work. Now he's a history professor at Del Mar College. People should get involved in the community. Talks about environmental issues and is opposed to the Inner Harbor Desal Plant.

Drainage - need to make sure the engineering is correct and avoid stagnant water. Desal will increase salinity in the bay and affect marine life. Instead, we need to look at other water sources and at better ways of storing water.

One word that describes you: Thoughtfulness.

Council needs to move their meetings to after 5:00 PM when working people can attend.

**Rachel Caballero** - She ran for District 1 in 2020. She's from Calallen and Robstown. Lived in Colorado for a while. Repubs and Dems are the same. She is not taking any port or industry money to fund her campaign. Concerned about rising tax rates and property taxes. Drainage is important - "One big storm and you're stranded" - She wants to make sure someone on Council is reminding them who they work for: You guys.

Quality of Life and Drainage are what she would champion. Public safety is an issue. The city has a \$1.4 billion budget. Where is the money going? My background is in accounting. I've seen the rains

and flooding here. The bridge construction adds to the police/fire response time. I'm not banking on the bridge being done very soon.

One word that describes you: Community.

How would you keep North Beach unique? Business won't come here if we don't address drainage. They shut down our small businesses during the pandemic. We are a free nation. If you choose to wear a mask, get a vaccine or close your business, that should be your choice.

What's happening with the city committees is that they're not advertising them. It's all the same people. Put it on Facebook, get the position out there.

**Mike Pusley** - Nueces Co Commissioner for 9 years. Council is now doing the engineering for North Beach drainage. Eco Park - he drove that project and helped it become a Bond 2022 proposal. His family has been coming to NB since the Depression, skating and boxing. "I've been a champion for North Beach and will continue."

You can solve any problem with 2 things: Time and Money. We're developing a fire station for here (it's in the works). We're fixing streets all over the city. Drainage is my #1 priority for North Beach. We have \$7 million for engineering. Since you say we like this new plan, we're going for it. No more talk. Action.

One word that describes you: Experience.

How would you keep North Beach unique? We created a city economic development department to focus on the little guy - on small business.

A Committee for North Beach is great. John (Martinez) and I will get it on the agenda. City committees come to Council on a quarterly business and make a report. We have strong advocates here in the Lex, TSA, hotels, restaurants, NBCA.

**John Martinez** - I don't say a lot during Council but when North Beach comes up, I do speak up. We didn't get the navigable canal but we did get a lot done. We will get money back from the money that we invest here. NBCA should engage with people from other districts to also support North Beach.

Drainage. We need to plan for when the bridge comes down. That land under the old bridge is owned by the city, port and county. What do we do to elevate? Use port material to fill. We need to make sure everyone is coordinated working together so that it's done correctly.

One word that describes you: Cooperation

How would you keep North Beach unique? It's good to have diversity, yes, but we need infrastructure.

A public committee is only one avenue. You should post contact info for each council member.

That's what we signed up for.

If you want to serve on a city committee, tell your councilman.

### **City Council District 1 Candidates (3 present) (vote for 1)**

**Tracy McCall** - She's from this area, grew up here. Concerned about crime. Her #1 priority is Public Safety. She supports a Fire Station for North Beach due to delayed response times because of the

new bridge.

Drainage - I have a technical background as an engineer, so I'll question the engineering before we push forward. Safety of the people is a priority. Need a fire station. During the Feb 2021 freeze, we had to station fire fighters here because all the roads were closed.

One word that describes you: Actionable.

How would you keep North Beach unique? There should be a city incentive program. The North Beach Committee could decide on a vendor program. It seems like it would hurt local businesses. If I was the District 1 Council member I would be coming to neighborhood meetings. You could use city committees that are already established.

**Bill Lerma** - I've been to a lot of meetings with NBCA and pushed for projects. I didn't get "our canopy for the History Plaza." The city hasn't paid attention to North Beach until the last two years. We don't need housing here - we need hotels, condos, because we have tourists. He supports the Breakwater Islands.

Drainage - This can has been kicked down the road. It's a top priority for the city now. It will benefit the city. If you fix the problem, business will come - condos, hotels, apartments - once that gets resolved. We hired MIG to look at all the drainage studies and come up with a solution. We'll start up on the north end and build it up from there. The plan is coming to Council for a vote on Oct 25.

One word that describes you: Experienced.

**Everett Roy** (arrived late) - Former District 1 Councilman. Decided not to run again in 2020 due to pandemic. He has combat-related respiratory issues so was worried about Covid. I got the North Beach TIRZ passed, ensuring that some tax money stays here on North Beach and is utilized for improvements. You need a Councilman who is accessible.

Drainage and elevation - we did the studies and progress has been made. I surround myself with people who have the expertise.

One word that describes you: Accessibility.

I'm not tied in to anybody. I work for you. I want to see the money spent here on North Beach. I'll keep fighting to bring in businesses.

I got a call from Ron Graban. I respond to people. I take their phone calls and answer every time. I really believe North Beach is on the right track. We're no longer kicking the can. You have to have someone in there who's fighting for you.

Go to [cctexas.com](http://cctexas.com) and look at the info the candidates each gave and see how many gave their phone and email when they signed up to be a candidate.

**Mayor** (vote for 1)

[Paulette Guajardo - scheduled a fundraiser on the Island, so could not come.]

**John Wright** - Moved here in 2000 as a windstorm inspection and insurance adjustor. He developed "CC Aquaduct," which makes water bills transparent. North Beach has had a bad reputation. He used to come here as a windsurfer and sailor: "I tried not to step on hypodermic needles on the

beach." He thinks we could hold kitesurfing competitions here to raise the economy.  
One word that describes you: Experienced.

**County Judge** (vote for 1)

[Connie Scott - had to take her husband to the doctor in San Antonio so was out of town.]

**Barbara Canales** - She's been County Judge 4 years. Under her watch, the county funded a crisis care center for nonviolent offenders, and infrastructure has been a priority. She's been working with the GLO on the Living Shoreline Breakwater Islands for North Beach to slow or stop erosion and protect shoreline properties. "You need a County judge who knows how to bring federal money to this area." Islands - Pending \$10 million grant from National Fish and Wildlife, we will get mitigation money for the North Beach breakwater islands. I'll take us through the regulatory process. The islands will mitigate that wave energy that can erode the beach and damage coastal properties. The right of way under the old bridge is important. I'll be a good partner with the city to develop this area for tourism and quality of life for residents.