

MINUTES NBCA Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Las Brisas condos

24 members total present.

Board members present: Dolores Vela, Michael Kennedy, Carrie Meyer, Bob Catalano, Manny Portillo, Tracy Jackson.

Board members not present: Ron Graban (sick), MariAnne (alternate), Lynn Frazier (alternate)

Secretary Carrie Meyer calls meeting to order at 6:05 PM,

MINUTES – Members have a printed copy of minutes from April 20 (+ 5/18/23 agenda). Vote to approve.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Also printed on agenda - total \$8,660 - Michael Kennedy presents (\$5,200 History Plaza, \$1,712 Dolphin Park, \$1984 General funds)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dolphin Park/Eco Park Cleanup and dolphins painting - May 20 at 9 AM
- NBCA website complete - Board voted to pay Carrie \$500 for building it, NBCA pays annual hosting to GoDaddy (about \$200)
- New Dolphin Park Adopt-A-Park sign to be paid for from Dolphin Park funds (~\$250)

SPEAKERS - North Beach business leaders introduce their services:

PAULA BONILLAS - Owner of **Blackbeard's on the Beach**. The restaurant was started 32 years ago by my brother (Mike Astin) and husband (Steve Bonillas). They were both interested in North Beach and worked to make it better. After Steve died 11 years ago, I became a reluctant restaurateur to both BB on the Beach and Blackbeard's II in Ingleside. I have a strong staff, many trained by Steve are still here.

Some of the cooks started as bus boys and dishwashers and worked their way up..

We have discounts that we don't advertise. We give senior discounts 62 or older with ID 10% off – everything except merchandise. Fire and police and veterans discounts. \$5 off with coupon. You don't see me in the restaurant because I'm deaf. I'm more behind the scenes with advertising and marketing.

Tracy Jackson – Do you have any issues that we can help you resolve?

Paula - Homelessness is a big issue and what to do about it I don't know. One story - Naked guy, high on drugs, banging on our door. It scared everyone. Took 5 police to bring him down.

KIM NOVAK – K9 Conditioning & Rehab. I like North Beach. Purchased and renovated the Pirates of the Gulf miniature golf course. Converted it to do physical therapy but my patients are dogs. I have an underwater treadmill to exercise the dog, esp those paralyzed. One of six stand-alone K9 Therapy facilities in the US. Large outdoor area for dogs. We also offer PlayCare where you can bring your dog over to just play. Bad behavior is often due to lack of exercise and socializing. Fat and furry Bootcamp. Kanesio taping. Make braces and wheelchairs. Boarding. Any dog that comes can be inpatient rehab, where I board them and rehab them. I allow some people to board their dogs with me. They won't be in a kennel all day. Need current vaccinations.

BOB CATALANO – Thanks for coming. We need the businesses to get involved because the more people we have, the better we appear to the city. I have cottages near Surfside Park. I'm here representing **Harbor View Chapel Church** – we run it like a business. Service is 11 AM. We're in the

business of letting people have hope in their lives and there is someone bigger than us. Our Pastor is Bob Jones, who also does talk show on 1440 AM conservative radio station. Biblical conservative talk show. 6 AM to 10 AM Mon-Fri.

Michael Kennedy - Bob Jones is also at the Town & Country Restaurant for lunch on Thursdays.

SAM KOEPP-STEMPLINGER – USS Lexington -I joined the Lex in January. My history is PR with nonprofits. I have exciting news. USAA reached out to the Lex to partner for Memorial Day. They have a traveling exhibit with poppies ... from Friday May 26 to Memorial Day, they will pay all military and USAA employees 50 percent off admission to the Lex. I would like to get this kind of information to y'all in the community. On Memorial Day, we have a ceremony that starts at 2:00 PM. Come aboard free of charge – we'll have a band, dedication, ceremony on Monday, Memorial Day. But that whole weekend is Blue Ghost Weekend. The Hooks partner with us and both businesses offer \$3 off the other business. Hooks baseball players will do batting practice. Starts at 11 AM on Saturday May 27. We are gearing up for Steel Beach on June 10 – a big after-hours party on the Lex. When the troops are off at sea they do this, so we'll do a Hawaiian Luau, limbo contest in the hanger bay. Starts at 6 PM. At 9 PM moving to the flight deck. Info on website. We had over 800 people on the flight deck for the Airshow. Red, white and boom fireworks party on the flight deck on July 4th. We cannot operate without volunteers. If anyone has 10 hours a month, please let us know. We have 70 people on crew but 100 volunteers.

NICK CATALANO - Yo'sPhilly Cheesesteak – introduces his son Carmelo, who also works there. With Bob, it's 3 generations. We're from Jersey. I was doing roofing and siding, then I got a phone call. Left my beautiful Ocean City, New Jersey with the nice boardwalk, so we could start doing this family business here. Building a new Yo's in Portland behind O'Reilly's. We've been here 6 years. Our business has grown every year. I don't do any advertising. Just word of mouth. We have the highest reviews on Yelp, Trip Advisor ... TV show Texas Eats did a show on us. I get all my bread, meat and cheese shipped in from home. We have 10 different sandwiches. There's not a bad sandwich: Cheesesteaks, Meatball Parm, Philly Cheese, Chicken Parm, pizza If you're a Cowboys fan we ask you to come through the back door (ha-ha)..

Chuck Anderson - Can I get Cheese Whiz on my Philly? Yes, you can.

Nick - We know we ain't gonna please everyone. If you say "Philly Cheesesteak," it needs to be the bread, the meat and the cheese that we use up there.

Barbara Welder – Where does the name Yos come from?

Bob – All we do is say "Yo" back home. If you're from Philly, you just say Yo!

Nick – Thanks to Kim Novak for sending business over and thanks to my Dad since it was his idea. Thanks Dad.

Bob - You're welcome son.

JOEY GARZA - Pier 99 –I'm excited to be here. The GM is Mark Lenox. This will be my 4th summer. I'm here because we haven't been that involved in the community as we want to be. Background – founded by Paula's brother Mike Astin. I've never worked somewhere where someone who is no longer there is still alive. Mike's daughter Ava Astin is 19 and in college and helping out in the restaurant. We have 11AM - 9 PM happy hour during the off season. We want more local action, more North Beach and CC people. We offer indoor and outdoor dining both. Dog menu, pet-friendly patio (for nice dogs). We have all kinds of breeds that come in. We have dog bowls. Popular dishes - Casian Snapper, skin on red snapper with house sauce. Our #1 seller.

Barbara Johnson – We're from Villa del Sol – we took 15 people in, they moved tables nad got us seated together. We had a marvelous time.

Joey - We have live entertainment starting this weekend.

Barbara Welder – During Covid you had take out service, which was appreciated.

Joey – We've been having a problem with gas siphoning issues in the parking areas. We're stronger as a group, so we should stick together.

Chuck Anderson – We could have restaurants provide the food for our meetings

HISTORY PLAZA UPDATE by Barbara Welder

Carrie and I and others worked on the North Beach History Plaza. Most of us feel like it's not quite finished. I was asked to write a petition.

Carrie - You brought the idea to NCBA's Board, who asked you to write a proposal for us to look over. This is the first we've seen of that.

Barbara reads the 2-page Petition, ends with proposal to add an entrance sign and Breakwater Walk sign, plus "small shade structure."

Bob – They're trying to put a cover or shade on the History Plaza? There's no shade left on this beach. They took the pavilion away at Surfside Park because it was attracting transients. They have to get rid of them. There were huts with shade on the beach. If you put shade at the History Plaza, it's just common sense that it will attract transients there.

Barbara – I don't like to see homeless people sprawled out on the beach either. But the simple fact is this. The federal courts have ruled that the homeless have a right to be on public property.

Nick – People who don't have businesses, they can drive by and go home. But the biz owners have to deal with it all the time. It's a slippery slope of dealing with it. I've had people walk in ... I give them food and I walk out and they throw it down. At home (in New Jersey), you pay \$25 to go to the beach. They pay people to keep it clean. I hate seeing people eating and the trash can's there but they throw it down. I don't understand how this city has a nice beach but they refuse to make it nice here. It's hard for businesses. I'm afraid for teenagers to work here.

James Waltz - When we had the palapas on the beach, they (transients) would sit under them and it was scary to walk at night. They're addicted. I have a sympathetic heart but I can't stand stupidity. If it means not putting up some shade, I don't want any shade. I like seeing the police posted here. We need to attract people to come to the beach, go to the attractions and shop at our stores.

Bob Catalano – I'm not heartless ... I help a homeless guy out, put him in an apartment. But at one point, we have businesses on the beach and we have an opportunity.

The shade discussion continues with quite a few comments (mostly against) until finally someone calls for an end to the debate. We adjourn meeting and move to the Social Hour where sandwiches are provided.

NOTE - Cottages by the Bay owner Anne Foote attended to talk about her business, but she inadvertently did not get called on. We'll have her speak at the next meeting. Also, Carrie forgot to mention her North Beach kayaking business, Nature Trails Kayaking.