

Minutes from April 21, 2022 NBCA Meeting

Board members present: Pres Barbara Welder, VP Ron Graban, Treas Michael Kennedy, Sec Carrie Meyer, Dolores Vela, Debra Pope (Absent: Bob Catalano)

Members: About 22 people present

Location: The Breakers Lanai Room

5:30 PM - Meeting Called To Order - Barbara Welder leads pledge, introduces board and officers

Treasurer's Report - Michael reports balance of \$1,233.52 (+ \$2,000 Dolphin Park donations, \$5,220 History Plaza donations)

Minutes Feb 2021 - Printed minutes included in meeting packet. (Not read or approved as we moved immediately to Speaker portion of meeting)

5:35 PM SPEAKER - Nueces County Judge Barbara Canales -

Her grandmother Dr. Clotilde "Cleo" Garcia wrote about early Texas history, including an article on Rincon Point, which is what North Beach was called in the 1800s when oyster reefs were prolific here.

Coming out of the pandemic, things are looking good in Nueces County. Economic development regionally has been strong - Steel Dynamics, Exxon Saab, Cheniere all new industries here. The new jobs have created a housing shortage, which is driving up housing prices. Unfunded state mandates put additional stress on local governments for indigent health care, jails, mental health, addiction (opioid crisis + fentanyl coming across the border). She has created the Nueces County Opioid Task Force which is working with local emergency rooms.

Her top 3 priorities:

1. Infrastructure and drainage
2. Mental Health
3. Economic Development, esp for rural communities

Drainage - Jan 2022-2023 TriCounty Master Plan - 3 county judges joined in a \$2.6 million grant from the Texas Water Board. Our watersheds encompass Oso Bay, Baffin Bay and Nueces Bay. Doing Open Town Halls - Judge Canales wants to come here to present info to NBCA with an engineer to look at the problems that you know best. "We turn frustration into hope. If someone will just listen to you, you'll know you're not alone."

It doesn't even need to be a hurricane to have flooding - it can be just a tropical thunderstorm. Nueces County is working with The Water Center in Kingsville on modeling studies to find out the threshold, how many inches it would take to flood here and what would happen if we had larger pipes. In order for the state to fund your drainage project, we have to take advantage of the leverage the state gives you.

The Navigable Canal for North Beach - Billy Lerma got the city to devote \$5 million of its ARPA funding to engineering for a North Beach drainage project.

Living Breakwater Islands - Nueces County has applied for funding for these rocky islands to be built parallel to shore about 1,500 feet away from the beach - including an oyster reef on the east side of the islands and habitat on the west side. The goal is to will help prevent erosion near the Lexington. Working with Ed Rachel Foundation, Port, to do pre-engineering for the project that will protect the beach from erosion and destructive wave action. May 2 & 3 - Working group on Breakwater. She can invite 1 or 2 from NBCA (Carrie volunteers). Breakwater will cost \$80 million; Rachel Foundation will match up to \$30 million. Because of ship channel wakes, the Port is a joint applicant of RFP for grant application for breakwater project. She would like NBCA's letter of recommendation as well.

Community Block Development Grant MIT is another opportunity for funding. Canales has 2 grant writers.

North Beach Eco Park - She plans to talk to Nueces County Coastal Parks Director Scott Cross about helping. Mentions "submerged land" – need US Army Corps permit - she's been working with them.

"We're scouring for grants. I never over promise but instead I try to over perform."

Shares her email - Judge Barbara Canales <barbara.canales@nuecesco.com>

6:35 PM - OLD BUSINESS

- **North Beach History Plaza** kick off April 8 - Barbara Welder gives report
- **Surfside Park** - Ron reports that the city is moving forwards with design and plans to break ground this fall
- **Bond 2018 street projects** (Beach Ave and Gulf Spray Ave) are in jeopardy as city manager announced in February they would be reprogrammed and money spent elsewhere - Barbara Welder says that Billy is aware of the issue.
- Our Lady Star of the Sea church member says **potholes** are a problem for church goers
- **Fundraising for Political Candidates** - people can make checks payable to NBCA
- **Future Speakers** - CEOs of Lex and Aquarium (Steve Banta at Lex; Jesse Gilbert at TSA)
- **October meeting** - Candidates Forum (for Nov 8th election)
- **November meeting** - Port of CC or North Beach business owners

7:00 PM - SOCIAL HOUR - CATERED MEAL by Comanche Cafe- 25 plates @ \$7/person