

NBCA Annual President's Report

Jan 18, 2024

By Dr. Ron Graban

I'd like to take a few moments and recall some of the highlights of this past year, as it pertains to North Beach and its residents. As most of us know, the government usually moves at an incredibly slow pace. Some of that is due to the draconian regulations that are often handed down to them from some outside government agencies. However, some of those originate at the local level. We are working to amend or eliminate local ordinances that are outdated or make no sense. The challenge for us is to try and maneuver through the quagmire of regulations and government interference and actually get something accomplished. Having said that ... there are some major things we have been able to accomplish these last few years on NB.

1. **Surfside Park Renovation:** Originally, NBCA asked to simply remove the old non-compliant bathhouses and replace them with several port-a-potties and pole showers like what can be seen on Port A. It was our position that these would be a much better option than what was available at that time. Over the course of more than 4 years, Surfside Park has had a complete overhaul. Constant flooding and potholes that tourists used to dodge will soon become a beautiful park with a new play area, safer bathhouses and an elevated parking lot. We compliment the city for taking the steps necessary to ensure a better beach experience for both our residents and tourists. But the point I want to emphasize is that it took over 4 years to get to the point where we are today.
2. **North Beach History Plaza:** This is another achievement. While the plaza is not complete yet, the first phase has changed that entire area. If you take the time, look at the before and after pictures. You can appreciate the incredible improvements to the area. We are still in contact with the city to complete the project. Somethings just take time. There is only so much money and attention that can be allocated to our neighborhood and we want to manage that in the best way possible.
3. At the suggestion of Lynn Fraiser and our NBCA board, a suggestion was made to use private money to purchase and install concrete **Beach Balls** around the neighborhood. With the help of Denise Scott, Lynn Fraiser and myself, we have brightened up the area. I have seen several families taking pictures with their kids posing on the beach balls. Such a welcoming site. All progress takes a great deal of effort, energy and money.

When I was first asked to represent all of you as your President, I heard many of you express a desire to see property owners better maintain their properties. We have worked hard to wake up our Code Enforcement officers and our elected officials and let them know that we expect property owners to maintain their properties. As you can see, the neighborhood is beginning to change. Trees and shrubs are starting to be manicured and lawns, that some thought would never be mowed, are finally being mowed. This does several things. It forces owners to pay attention to their land. The result will be that they either maintain it, develop it, or sell it to someone that will.

I think we all know the hard work of Carrie Meyer. I call her the Mayor of North Beach. She spends countless hours dedicated to the revitalization of our community. I think we should all take a moment right now and show our appreciation for all she does for our community. The

newsletter (North Beach News) that you receive each month shows the effort that she puts forth. It's very easy to take that for granted. We do not want to be guilty of that.

4. Finally, the city is moving forward with a plan to reduce the **drainage** problems here on North Beach. Again, this is not an overnight process. It will take time but, as the proverb says, "The journey of the thousand miles begins with the first step." So, the first several steps have begun. For the first time ever, the city has engaged our membership in contributing to the design stages of the new **Linear Parkway Canal**. It was unprecedented to have so many city leaders at the drainage meeting in October. We have their attention, and they are listening to us.

Some have asked me, Ron, what can I do to help? Let me offer this response. First, attend the NBCA meetings and bring people with you. The city will see that we are paying attention if all of us actually pay attention. Second, register to vote on North Beach and then VOTE. Voting shows them we are paying attention and engaged. Don't think for a moment they don't look to see how many people on North Beach voted. We have a voice if we collectively use it. I am very proud to represent all of you. I am especially proud to serve on this Board of Directors and I look forward to the increasing progress of our community in the year ahead. Thank you very much!

- Ron