

LONG BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda for July 9, 2022

BOARD ATTENDEES: Richard Wilder, Torben Huge-Jensen, Cathy Collins, Patti Oehmke, Jolene Lauria, Georgia Riedel, and Steve Perlik.

CALL TO ORDER: 10:00am

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard stated for those attending the first time, to please use courtesy when speaking and allowing others to speak.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial reports for June (attached to these minutes) were distributed to attendees and Cathy Collins, Treasurer, explained every itemized transaction (disbursements and deposits). Cathy noted the 87 people had made donations that totaled \$4,486 and that membership is up, more than 300 members generated \$33K. Flag Harbor slip-holder memberships total 9, one for voting rights only. She explained that one reason for the increase in membership is that 10% of properties do not have road fees stipulated in their covenants, and they were automatically given parking passes in past years. This year the parking passes are a benefit of membership, so about 25-30 property owners joined membership from that group who does not pay road fees. She stated that 111 property owners who currently owe road fees have not paid and Richard Wilder said that the board had pushed the deadline to September, and that is when the board will take action on collection. Voice Vote approved and accepted the financial statements.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT/SECURITY UPDATE

Debbie Berens reported there are no more County meetings until September, and that the crime rate is still low. She urges anyone experiencing suspicious behavior to call the police, cited an incident where a neighbor had observed someone from an unmarked car taking pictures of her house 3 days in a row. They found that it was a utility team that was planning county roadwork in response to their call to the police. Debbie said there had been discussion at the County to install a 4 way stop sign at Valley Road and Flag Harbor Blvd.

OLD BUSINESS

• New Community Billboard & Signage

New letters for top of sign will be installed this week. Jolene Lauria asked attendees for suggestions for rules for the sign. She cited concern that postings could linger and offered a rule that anyone posting about an event should be responsible for removing that post immediately after the event, and that all signs should be removed within 30 days in any case. Georgia Riedel noted that smaller signs, 8x10 are not really seen by drivers from the road, and there should be some size limits for signs. Jolene said she would work on the rules which will be posted on the back of the Community Billboard.

- **North Harbor Road Sign**

Richard Wilder talked to County about getting a North Harbor road sign. [Note: As of this mailing a new BLUE street sign for North Harbor Road, the color designates that it is a private road)

- **Road Paving**

Torben Huge-Jensen provided an update and stated that Johnny Wood, from J. Calvin Wood has driven every single road in the community to assess prep work needed before paving. J. Calvin Wood, a local St. Leonard contractor, does not repair/asphalt roads; their company does the preliminary work for paving company to pave the roads. Richard Wilder stated that we do not currently have a plan as the board is currently meeting with paving contractors and collecting proposals; the board will have a plan by September that will be presented at the meeting.

Richard noted that of the 2 miles privately owned by the LBCA most people talk about Long Beach Drive but do not drive/walk on the other roads owned by the LBCA that are in worse shape. The board is looking for cost-saving measures and how to prioritize what comes first. For example, fixing half of one road now and another part later. Richard said that the Board is currently planning on a \$100K budget for the roadwork over 5 years. Barbara Cox cautioned against fixing roads that may be damaged by the revetment project where large trucks would be moving heavy materials through our community. There was some general discussion about the status of the revetment project and whether inflation has affected the County's decision to move ahead. Dorn Carlson reported that Beaches Water Co-op is fixing part of the road in front of his house as part of a water repair. Gary Clarke would like to see the LBCA coordinate the roadwork with Beach Water Co-op to save money for both concerns.

- **Water Mitigation/Erosion Control Walk**

Jolene Lauria reported on the status of the community's SWM system and stated that what was designed is working well and how helpful the SWM walks led by Steve Perlik are for identifying more solutions to improve the management of storm water. For example, property owners at the top of the hill could implement some small changes that would help direct storm water from gutters, curbs and impervious surfaces. Jolene suggested that the LBCA consider a small grant program for rain gardens on those properties identified as having a crucial impact on storm water problems for the community downhill of their property. The next step is to meet with the County to discuss the installation of curbs on county-owned roads on the hill where there are none. It would help to unload some large surge rocks at the top of the ravines and that would involve the cooperation of property owners who own the hills and ravines. A collective effort to solve these storm water issues between the people with properties on the hill and people with properties in the flats would be helpful. A SWM Walk for both sets of properties owners (hilltop & flats) followed up by an SWM walk with the County. Chris Riollano suggested we use a drone (she has one we can use) to document the problem for a presentation to the County and any interested property owners in the community.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Day Care Update**

Torben Huge-Jensen reported that Ms. Nathera Jenifer has signed a 3-year contract for a Day Care Center that currently has 22 students. Rent for this Day Care will bring in \$14K+ per year. The LBCA Bulletin Board will designate a portion for signage for the Day Care. Name: Nurturing Minds Early Learning Center. Richard Wilder acknowledged what a great asset Torben was in making this happen.

- **North Beach Parking Lot Resurfacing**

Richard Wilder reported that the North Beach Parking Lot is akin to a lunar landscape and that the LBCA has contracted with J. Calvin Wood to resurface that lot next week. The lot will be closed for one or two days and an email blast to the community will provide notice. The contract is for \$9,884 and will be paid from the general fund.

- **Rumble Strip Discussion**

Richard Wilder asked the room for a show of hands - how many people like rumble strips? A few hands raised, but the majority did not. Richard stated that Paul Murdoch proposed the same project in the Calvert Beach Community and the community response was a big NO to rumble strips. Many people don't want them because of the noise, resale value, etc. There was a comment that rumble strips can cause problems for snow plows as well. Richard asked the room if anyone feels this is a priority for the board to focus on and the consensus was to discard this project and speak with concerned folks individually who feel otherwise.

Project Updates

- o Beach benches need repair and painting and there was not much response to the email blast asking for contractor recommendations. Jolene Lauria said that Shane Leonard (he built the new community bulletin board) may be able to take this project on.

- o The board intends to coordinate lawncare work along the roads.

- o Steve Perlik suggested that the wooden handicap access ramp to the South Beach be replaced with concrete.

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 2nd

Richard Wilder read an email he received from Carla Hance who is coordinating National Night Out (NNO) 08/02 at community center:

“ National Night Out is on Tuesday August 2nd beginning at 6pm ending 8pm. It is free admission but we will do wristbands for entry in order to get a total head count at the end and also for giveaway drawings. We usually need about 3 volunteers at the entry table for this and for the ever popular 50/50 raffle. A flyer will be emailed to Long Beach and Calvert Beach residents a few times before the event.

Local Sheriff, St. Leonard FD Volunteers will be in attendance and CAASA. I have secured Ted, our DJ, reserved the dunk tank (donated by Jim's Do It in PF) and the snow cone machine.

I will be purchasing hot dogs for grilling, pizzas, drinks, etc. I will also put together the good bag giveaways for the kids in addition to procuring gift card giveaways from various businesses in the area. Will set up the tie-dye table, bubble station and kiddy pool.

If anyone would like to reach out to residents and local businesses for additional cashcheck donations to help pay for our event that would be great!

If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer on the night of the event it is always appreciated. Please contact me (Carla) via text or voicemail at 410-231-5015 for assignments as we get closer to the event date. In the past I have been able to get anywhere from 6 to 8 student volunteers through the Calvert High community service program, but extra help is always appreciated.”

Carla Hance

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Budget**

Jolene Lauria distributed a spreadsheet with a budgeted 5-year view of projects with anticipated costs. She explained that a notional budget was started in January when the LBCA had no money prior to execute any plans; the new spreadsheet tracks what actual income and costs have come in against those projections. Jolene explained each item that shows what was budgeted vs. what costs have come in.

- **Road Fees**

Georgia Riedel told the room that she and Cathy have been through hundreds of deeds and covenants as part of the restructuring of fees/dues. The goal is to take care of our community and to do the right thing by property owners. She reported that they have found charges for road fees that needed correction. Using the corner lots as an example, they found that some property owners were paying for both streets rather than the frontage street. Georgia anticipates \$2K in refunds to those property owners who overpaid.

- **Fireworks**

Dorn Carlsen presented a well-researched, detailed report of statistics and meetings with the Fire Marshall regarding illegal launching of arial fireworks. National statistics were cited regarding the danger to homes that catch fire and injuries to people as a result of fireworks. In our own community this 4th of July, the illegal arial fireworks started a fire on the beach. Fire Department arrived and doused the fire; when they were wrapping up, someone on the beach launched more illegal arial fireworks while the FD was still there! Dorn distributed photos that showed the fire dept in the on the street while an illegal arial firework was launched in the background. Dorn met with the Fire Marshall and shared a list of prohibited fireworks – **_any and ALL arial fireworks are ILLEGAL AND PROHIBITED.**

Jim Conzelman and John Schlitt, owners of the home closest to where the fire started, stated that they no longer come to their home of 40 years on the 4th due to the shenanigans of those setting off fireworks. If the tree under which the fire started had ignited and spread flames along the branches that mingle with the tree on Jim & John's property their home would have been seriously endangered. A claim on their homeowner's insurance would take care of them while the legal responsibility would be subrogated to the perpetrators and could possibly end in the lap of the LBCA.

Discussion:

- Several people in the room spoke of the trauma their pets suffer from the sound of fireworks. And it was noted that fireworks are set off at night for weeks before and after the 4th.
- There was discussion about hiring an off-duty police officer to prevent fireworks but the problem is that fireworks are launched from the 3 beaches in our community which would require 3 teams of officers. The availability of off-duty officers is non-existent because most are on-duty for safety/crowd control at licensed fireworks events.
- More discussion about gathering a group of volunteers from the community who would patrol the beach to prevent fireworks. Yet no one in the room was willing to volunteer for this, so it was agreed that it would be too difficult and possibly dangerous to try and police this on our own.
- Liability issues were discussed and some in the room felt the LBCA would be held responsible since this illegal activity is happening on community property. Richard Wilder responded that the property owners know and have been informed verbally, at meetings and with email blasts

that property owners are legally and financially responsible for the behavior and any damages caused by their family and guests (which includes vacation renters).

- Chris Riollano noted that some of the offenders could be from outside the neighborhood or come in on kayaks to set off firework.
- Discussion about the possibility of paying to have a licensed fireworks display from a barge for our community.
- Dorn, Jim and John expressed disappointment that the police seem to look the other way; the officer who arrived when Dorn called about the fire seemed clueless as to how the situation should be handled.

The topic was concluded as follows:

- LBCA agrees that illegal arial fireworks may NOT be deployed on our community beaches
- LBCA will post new signs at the beaches that make it clear that fireworks on the beach are **PROHIBITED**.
- LBCA will look into the costs to hire security to prevent the deployment of fireworks.
- LBCA will coordinate this effort with Calvert Beach since they have the same problems.
- LBCA will send out email blasts in the weeks before the 4th to remind the community that fireworks on the beaches are **PROHIBITED**.

Jolene Lauria, Richard Wilder, Larry Lamson and the rest of the room acknowledged that Dorn Carlson's presentation was very well done and informative, his effort was much appreciated by all in attendance.

ADJOURN: 12:10 pm

Next Meeting: September 10, 2022 (National Night Out on August 2nd is in lieu of the monthly meeting)