

PENSACOLA BEACH ADVOCATES
ANNUAL MEETING 2015

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The annual meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. on October 29, 2015, by PBA president Benjamin Stevenson. The PBA board, officers, committee heads and public officials were introduced.

II. Board Elections

Two board positions were up for election and there were only two candidates, Dan Smith and Ben Clabaugh. Both were elected to the board by the membership.

III. Committee Updates

A. Beachkeepers

Lauren Campanella discussed the events put on this past year by the Beachkeepers, including the very successful Eco Happy Hour held in March. In the upcoming year the group plans to continue forward with its attempt to install fishing line receptacles on the fishing piers.

B. Governmental Affairs

Terry Preston updated the membership about the efforts of the PBA's governmental affairs committee throughout this past year. Among the topics discussed were the reduction of lease fees, the pass through of the lease fee reduction from the master leaseholder to the sub-lessee, and the potential for obtaining fee simple title. A dynamic question and answer session ensued, covering topics from a future plan for beach re-nourishment and the future of the SRIA.

IV. Financials

Benjamin Stevenson informed the membership that PBA currently has approximately twenty-eight thousand dollars in assets. The 2015 financial statement should be available to the membership in January.

V. Update On Pending Tax-Related Court Cases

Benjamin Stevenson reported to the membership that the lawsuits involving Portofino and Beach Club are still pending in the state trial court. Meanwhile, the suit involving the undeveloped 12 acre site adjacent to Portofino is in the

appellate court after a ruling by the trial court that the property was subject to taxation by the county.

VI. Straw Polls

A. ECUA Reclaimed Water Storage Tank

ECUA is currently considering the installation of a reclaimed water tank to be placed between the Catholic church and the elementary school in an effort to increase the use of reclaimed water for irrigation purposes on the island. While ECUA produces approximately 800 gallons of reclaimed water a day only ten to fifteen percent of the water is actually being used – the remainder is discharged into the sound.

A straw poll was taken and a majority of the membership approved of increasing the use of reclaimed water while they were unsure about the proposed location of the tower.

B. Open Container Ordinance

The current ordinance bans open containers in any parking lot anywhere in the county. The county commission is considering implementing a new open container ordinance which would prohibit open containers in any public areas – sidewalks, the boardwalk, etc. – in the core area. Beaches would be exempt. A slight majority of the membership approved of the proposed ordinance.

VII. Survey Results

PBA published a survey seeking input from the chamber, business owners, residents, SRIA board members, and county officials. The survey covered a wide variety of topics, such as the reduction of lease fees and the future of the SRIA, potential infrastructure projects on the island, and the sources of funding for events such as Bands on the Beach. Benjamin Stevenson reported the survey results to the membership and conducted a question and answer session.

VIII. Conclusion

There being no more discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Benjamin Stevenson.

These minutes were prepared and respectfully submitted by Jason Cromey, Secretary