

Minutes

CCL Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM Monday, March 1, 2021
Via Zoom

Present: Mike Kelly, Bob Lougen, Cheryl Garvey, Jim Skarbek, Larry Kurtz, Katie Ripberger, Amber Torgenson, Connie Agresti, Jen Alex, Patricia Zuraw, Regina Amick, and Amanda Robinson

Absent: Kathy Donahoe, Bill Garvey, Nancy Purkey

1. **6:34 PM:** Call to order / Roll Call / Quorum Determination
2. Approval of prior meeting notes: January meeting minutes; approved unanimously
3. Old or Unfinished Business (Amanda Robinson)
 - Short-Term Rentals
 - March 10 - Planning Commission Meeting will be addressing the “Resolution to Amend the City Zoning Ordinance Pertaining to Short-Term Rentals.” If approved by the Planning Commission and the City Council, it will dramatically change how STRs will impact Croatan. It is virtual meeting. The CCL will want to attend and provide comments at that meeting. We will be monitoring when this will be reviewed by City Council.
 - The STR Committee has identified to-date 53 properties advertised or known. Of those, 23 are not registered with the Commissioner of the Revenue and 14 are not on the approved zoning list. These lists are not correlated by the city. When identified, the city process is to send letters to the homes, and if they are still out of compliance they will be fined.
 - Connie adds that according to patrol notes on Saturday, February 27-28, vehicles were parked on the street for parties at 635 South Atlantic, and 539 Vanderbilt, which are STRs. 441 Croatan Road, also an STR, had cars parked on the grass. Parking on grass is illegal and it should be reported using the 311 number.
 - Connie says that he will create and keep a log of all transgressions, reports to city, and actions taken by City.
 - Croatan Bridge Repairs
 - On February 22, request submitted for Point of Contact regarding easement for Ft. Raleigh/Coastal bridge. No response yet.
 - Tommy Felch, who owns property near the bridge, will assist in project. Mr. Felch is the General Manager for Global Rigging & Transport and has access to resources for bridge design and building.
 - We have not heard back from Public Works as to which division will be responsible for the maintenance of the Secotan/Christine Bridge, but the City is planning on doing the work.

- Membership Letter
- Currently we have 110 memberships with 96 spouse/partners for a total of 216 on the website. Compared with last year we had 142 members by the end of this month.
- Additionally, Bob sent out an email to non-members to remind them to renew or join.
- Bob thanked the Garveys for putting out the sign reminding people to join the CCL.
- Mike and Bob will print and deliver paper copies to the non-members in Croatan in the next few weeks. We will ask for help from the Director's.

4. New Business

- John Mannarino has resigned. Requesting recommendations for replacement.
- Mike will take over the Beach Safety responsibilities.

5. Security/CAC/VBOCC (Connie Agresti)

- Connie submitted the information to be printed in the newsletter prior to the meeting and reviewed all pertinent points.
- Vaccine registration keeps changing. The vbgov.com website will reroute you to the latest version of where you should get registered/find the information.
- Thanks to the volunteers helping get people vaccinated: Cheryl Garvey, Jane Kelly, Alice Weisz, Eric and Claire Yoder.
- Churches are assisted in bringing vaccines into the black communities
- Recent State of Virginia changes to COVID restrictions include the increase from limits on gatherings from 10 people to 25. Approximately 50% of the BOD has been at least partially vaccinated.
- School safety: follow traffic laws around schools and bus stops.
- Dog safety: follow laws. Dogs must be leashed on street and under voice control on the beach. If any animal bite draws blood, animal control must be informed at 385-4444 option 1, this is a new number. Connie has sent the information to Marian K for inclusion in newsletter
- Oyster Roast Fundraiser at vbvrs.org will be a drive through to get food
- City Council will begin in-person meetings at the Convention Center. Only speakers will be allowed to attend in-person. All others will be virtual.

6. Treasurer's Report (Jim Skarbeck) - Membership income is approximately \$7500, half of the target for the year. Security funds are at \$7000, 61% of the target.

7. Membership (Lougen and Kelly) - Addressed in the old business area.

8. Welcome Wagon (Cheryl Garvey)

- Cheryl has a stress fracture of her foot and will deliver baskets after her foot is healed.
- New visors and hats were ordered and will take about a month to arrive.

9. Website Update (Bob Lougen)

- Bob alerted the BOD to his concerns about bad actors abusing directory access for business gains (e.g. STR petitions or advertisements). Discussion ensued and there is broad support to keep emails accessible to all members as they included them in the first place. Only a few people have explicitly requested their contact information not be included.

10. Landscaping (Cheryl Garvey)

- Cheryl emailed asking for assistance due to her injury. Connie has volunteered to cut down some roses and liriopé in the front entrance. Daffodils are emerging!
- Cathy DeShazor is going to care for the roses in the CWC Memorial Garden.

11. Beach Nourishment/Restoration (Mike Kelly)

- Mike recently looked through his electronic files and note that I provided a presentation to the civic league on the Croatan Public Beach issues on October 13, 2015. More than 5-years later, we are still trying to get it solved. There is no question that progress is extremely slow.
- Here is a short recap of the milestones:
 - The Shoreline Assessment Study was completed in April 2017.
 - In July 2017, the city allocated \$1.65M for the comprehensive study, restoration, and monitoring.
 - In 2018, the city obtained two permits through the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the overall restoration effort and to allow some sand from the Rudee Inlet dredging to be reposition on the Croatan Public Beach. This was a challenging bureaucratic process.
 - The city advertised, in November 2018, for vendors to bring sand by truck for the replenishment project. Bids were significantly higher than expected and no award was made.
 - The last time any sand was put on the beach was November 2019.
 - In June 2020, USACE released a solicitation which included a cost-sharing agreement with the city. It included dredging of the Federal Channel and placing sand from the outer deposition area on the Croatan Public Beach. One bid was received at twice the estimated cost and no award was made.
 - We were told on February 8, 2021, that USACE intends is to solicit bids for the Rudee Inlet dredging project in the March/April timeframe and dredging/beach nourishment of Croatan Beach to occur in early summer 2021 (weather and/or contract award process depending). Once the work is started, it is estimated to take approximately 7 days. If this goes as planned, the work should be complete by July 4th. The contractor will ensure that appropriate safety precautions are taken.
- If the second USACE solicitation fails, Plan B is to return to the original plan and contract for sand hauled in by truck. The nearby sand pits are open again and the city engineers believe

that the previously allocated funds will cover the cost. Hopefully the USACE solicitation will be successful this time. Running big trucks through the neighborhood is not a good idea.

- Future Concerns

- Once the restoration work is complete, we will have to get funding for annual maintenance called a Renourishment Program. There are two approaches to this. We can ask that funds be allocated in the Rudee Inlet Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or a separate CIP could be created. We will have to work on this for the City's FY-23 budget which begins on July 1, 2022.
 - In the longer term, 15+ years, Sea-Rise will require significant modification of Rudee Inlet and the Croatan Public Beach. We don't want to lose sight of that, but I don't think that there will be any serious discussion until we get well past the COVID crisis.
- This information will be placed in the March newsletter.

12. Children's Programs (Amanda Robinson / Katie Ripberger)

- Scavenger hunt to be held 4/17. Amanda has begun preparations.
- Bob would like an ice cream/ices truck to be available for that day too.

13. Logo Wear (Katie Ripberger) - Nothing new to report

14. Spring Fling/Social Events (Mike Kelly and Patricia Zuraw/ Katie Ripberger and Amanda Robinson)

- Discussion about COVID restrictions/vaccinations/safety/interest of hosting an in-person event in June.
- BOD globally agrees that Spring Fling type event is not realistic for this June. There is some discussion about whether an in-person event might be possible in June, that could be scheduled and cancelled without a big loss should we need to cancel it. Factors impacting the gathering will be State of Virginia limitations in gatherings, and vaccinations of residents in neighborhood. Katie and Amanda to investigate and report back.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Next meeting is at 6:30 PM using Zoom on Monday, April 5, 2021