

Central Beach Alliance Membership Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 21st, 2015 – Sonesta Hotel

Present: John Weaver, Karen Turner, Fred Carlson, Monty Lawani, Abby Laughlin

Call meeting to Order: 7:02PM

Ratification of the Board: A vote was called to ratify the current board of John Weaver, Karen Turner, Monti Lawani, Abby Laughlin, Jim Novak and Philip Lafond. There were no objections – Board ratified.

Police Report: Community policing in effect.

Auberge Presentation: Andy Mitchell gave a power point and multi media presentation reviewing the history of The Irelands Inn to the forthcoming Auberge. Open house at new sales center will be scheduled soon. First project to be built on the sand in decades. Will change the face of Fort Lauderdale.

740 Presentation and Vote: The architect for 740 Bayshore, Jeff Falkenger showed renderings for the new 8 unit building at the end of Bayshore Drive. Worked very hard with staff to create lush landscaping and very walkable corner. Crosswalks from project were decided with input from several neighbors.

Vote: 172 to 5

Bayshore Club presentation and vote: Debbie Orshefsky and developer Richard Rosan presented the renderings and concept drawings for Bayshore Club. A level three building with a level four podium. All set backs were within code except rear setbacks. Neighbors in back, Hawthorne Point sent a letter of support for the project. Two building lots will be used for the one project. The project only utilizes 40% of the overall lot sizes combined. Sculpture in front of building, water feature. Questions from neighborhood about guest parking and parking for service people. Neighborhood feels there is not enough guest parking in the area.

Vote: 170 to 30.

Beach Update: Concerns about turtle lighting – too dark on the beach Concerns about crime and traffic accidents because of low lighting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20PM

CBA Beach Update – John Weaver

Grand Birch – chosen to not work with CBA. Won approval at P&Z, now will go to Commission meeting. John stated beautiful design but jammed into a very small lot. John will do an email blast to CBA members to encourage them to write to the commissioners to express thoughts on this project. John reminded the audience that the project was voted down 170 to 11 at CBA meeting.

Vintro Hotel – Will be presenting again to CBA in March.

Bahia Mar project is dead. Fred Carlson reports that financial negotiations broke down between the city and the developer. Questions about the auction sign on the Howard Johnsons building. Fred Carlson reports the developer states that the auction is a back up plan for the current financing structure. Trump building has been repainted.

Abby Laughlin talks about the new CBA comment cards as a proactive response to the proposed Public Participation Policy that the city is developing. John comments that this policy is a positive one and most likely a result of our efforts to have early participation from neighborhoods in development projects.

Beach Update – Mayor Jack Seiler

Tourism growth has been up for three years in a row month after month. Unemployment down to 7%. Lower than state and national average. Broward is leading the recovery. Update on A1A repair project. Introduces Lee Feldman, city manager. Permitting is moving along. DEP may be in support of bringing sand up from Fort Lauderdale, a time and cost savings. Restorea1a.com – new website from city asking for citizen input. City wants a greenway promenade in the repair area. Beach renourishment should start in December 2013, it will be a two year project. The Mayor thanks the CBA, apologized for the confusion over CBA candidate's night. Swimming Hall of Fame project underway. CRA projects underway. Mayor stated he would really like to see some parking up our way. Ideally would like to see another garage on the back side of the Bonnett House. Would be helpful for the Bonnett House and for tourists and help spread out the beach use. Mel Rubinstein asks the Mayor if city, staff, P&Z or the Commission will NOT make any decisions until we have our own elected District 2 commissioners? Mayor states that *"I don't think you'll see us approve anything that will impact the beach until you have your city commissioner back."*

Presentation on the Development Escape Hotel/Tiffany House Site – Dev Motwani

Unique property, locally historically designated by the Historic Commission. Also unique because it is an entire block, 2.7 acres. No immediate neighbors. Zoned as a PUD. Became involved with project 2 ½ years ago. Currently approved as a residential project. Developer wants to convert the historic hotel portion of the property back to its original use as a hotel, and bring back original restaurant around the pool. On the adjacent parcel the current PUD approval is for residential townhouses along the roadway and then condos up above. Maintained the exact streetscape from previous PUD but modified it by widening the sidewalks, put in more landscaping, remove a couple of townhouses and put in a small retail space which is meant to be neighborhood serving. I.e: a coffee shop. (Corner of Birch and Bayshore) Power point presentation of project by Peter Stromberg, architect. Goal is to bring back Hotel to its mid century modern roots and make new addition echo those roots in design. Hotel campus will have 96 rooms. Residential will have 74 units. Want to create a “West Village feel”, pedestrian friendly feel. Previous site plan had 4-foot sidewalks, new sidewalks 8 feet with deeper landscaping .255 parking spaces, completely concealed by building. Valet parking at hotel. Property steps down in design. Pushed 12-story portion of building towards Birch, steps down to 7 stories along to Bayshore and then steps down to three stories, transitioning into the NBRA neighborhood. 12-story portion is about 15% of the site. 60% of site is 2 stories.

Discussion for and against the project. John Warner summarizes discussion by saying “we need to get this one right” Steve Glassman makes a motion to accept the project as proposed motion seconded.

Vote: 134 for the project
47 against the project

Project approved

Adjourn: 9:20PM