

Central Beach Alliance Membership Meeting  
September 16, 2010  
George English Park – Fort Lauderdale, FL

Board Members Present: Fred Carlson, Joan Crohn, Chuck Hansen, Dennis Herrity, Shirley Smith, John Weaver, and Lester Zalewski

Fred Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Art Seitz asked for a quorum count.

John Weaver stated the quorum had been met at 57.

Steve Glassman stated the quorum is 40.

Fred introduced Capt. Michael Gregory of the FLPD.

Capt. Gregory gave a brief biography of his experience. He also said crime is down 9% overall and arrests are up 7%. American Traffic Solutions has the contract for the new traffic light cameras. Fines for violations are \$158, which is a state law. Staff reviews the tapes before a violation is written. A right on red, if allowed, will not result in a violation if a stop or slow roll is made and caution is exercised. A non-stop and speed will result in a violation.

Mel Rubenstein asked who makes the decision?

Capt. Gregory said officers review the tapes and that the speed is recorded.

Sadler James asked how many warnings were issued during the trial period?

Capt. Gregory said about 25 per day.

Sadler James said the police officers on the beach said they were glad to see Capt. Gregory take over.

Fred introduced Chip Lamarca, who is running for the County Commission seat in District 4.

Chip Lamarca gave a brief biography of his experience. He is a commissioner in Light House Point. LHP was been able to lower their budget.

Lester asked what the #1 priority for change is?

Chip said to clean up corruption, and second is jobs and the economy

Lester asked how to do that?

Chip said by working with bright minds.

Art Seitz asked about the allocation funds from the Metropolitan Plan Organization, and why the west gets funded and not the east?

Chip answered that the county needs to work better with the MPO. Need new commissioners and new ideas.

Jack Newton asked if Chip had accepted any money from developers?

Chip said as a contractor he works with developers, but has not accepted any money.

Fred stated that Ken Keechl, also a candidate for the county commissioner's position, could not make the meeting because of a prior commitment.

Fred then introduced Chris Chiari who is also running for the county commissioner's seat. Chris said that he is unaffiliated, but is an enrolled democrat. He ran against Ellen Borganoff. Chris said he is very conservative and wants to fight the disease of "other people's money". The County Commission is cutting bus services and this should not happen. He wants a milage rate roll back on property taxes. The rates for seniors on fixed income returns are too low. Chris said he has a finance background.

Fred recognized Don Crinklaw, a reporter for the Sun Sentinel and the High Riser. Fred recognized Steve Glassman, and Mel Rubenstein, former Presidents of the CBA.

Fred read the Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 1, 2010.

Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes as read.

John seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

Fred said he spoke with the Mayor and other city officials in regard to the noise issue. Fred, Chuck and Dennis met with Commissioner Rodstrom to discuss this issue. Hollywood has just passed a noise ordinance to limit amplification. Commissioner Rodstrom was invited, but unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Mel Rubenstein said that initially the ordinance is confined to the entertainment district, but feels it can spread to all hotels, and other areas and needs to be stopped now.

Dennis added that it is not just the beach, but also the Himarashee area.

Mel questioned AJ Yarri's statement.

Lester said you could pull up codes for each district. The City is reviewing this because they want to revise and clarify the ordinance and some noise may increase and some decrease.

Sadler James said if you buy there, expect noise. He feels we should take what we have and make it work because it is an entertainment district, but the noise should not be louder or longer hours. Tourism is the #1 industry in Ft. Lauderdale.

Fred said he spoke with AJ Yarri numerous times and AJ feels the current rules are ok and that he sounded defensive that we are going to hurt his business. Prolonged 80-90 decibels can damage hearing, and they want to make it 90 decibels (like a truck). What would this do to employee's hearing?

Sadler said it should be a reasonable level and that buildings create an echo effect.

Lester said he assumed the City is working with residents.

Dennis said one of the problems is that law enforcement does not work during the hours of operation. This was from his meeting with Commissioner Rodstrom. The noise complaints go to the City Manager and not law enforcement.

Art Seitz said he lives across from the Pelican Grand and the noise level has increased. The residents were there before the new hotel. He suggested people read the book: Miami Babylon, which tells how Miami dealt with their noise issues. The people pushed for enforcement and high fines.

Lester asked if Art had filed a complaint or researched the decibel levels.

Art said there was little or no effort to enforcement.

Steve Glassman said the last Commissioner's meeting discussed this. They voted unanimously to instruct staff to move forward with loosening the ordinances. Business and restaurant people were in attendance. The meeting can be watched on line. The City staff is moving forward because the Commissioners instructed them to.

Fred said that the CBA is having meetings and will move forward to more meetings with the City. He spoke to people at code enforcement, and they are not ready yet. Mayor Jack Seiler called Fred to say that the CBA will be involved in this. The head of the Building Department said they are waiting and also said CBA will be included.

Mel said it is a quality of life issue for the residents. He feels the CBA email blasts need to urge residents to write letters and attend City meetings.

Eileen Helfer said that the Beach Redevelopment and Advisory Board asked for Code Enforcement to come out in the evening.

Chuck said they had also made that suggestion to Charlotte Rodstrom at their meeting.

Joel Gustafson had a 1994 agreement that stated no outdoor amplification systems are allowed. All exterior doors must be closed when someone performs inside. Joel was a City Prosecutor and City Judge, but is now retired.

Sadler said what quality of life on the beach? There is no place to take a family on the beach at night. He also suggested plantings and other decorative means to reduce noise.

Lester said he agrees with Sadler. He also wants code enforcement.

John Weaver said noise on the East side does not affect him and he feels the beach and Himareshie are different issues. AJ did turn the volume down.

Mel asked if we are extending to midnight? He said the W Hotel went before a Judge to reduce the noise.

Chuck said he read through the Hollywood ordinance and that it was very specific, only the front and not the back.

Art again suggested that we talk to Miami Beach as they have big fines enforced by cops.

Jack Newton asked if Hammarshree favor louder and longer noise? Should they be separate?

Lester said it would be separate. Most are in Charlotte's district, but all the Commissioners will vote.

Steve said Roger's district has the Entertainment District, too.

John asked: What about times?

Steve said they are linked – downtown and the beach. He feels it could be a problem and a potential lawsuit if they are separate.

Mel said it is worth pursuing this.

Dennis said there is an "echo cannon" by the beach of over 300 units involved in this noise pollution problem.

Sadler said we should all have copies of Joel's agreement.

Fred said he has a copy and will send it out.

Sadler said we need to get things in writing.

Jack asked if we should make a statement to leave the ordinance as is and ask for code enforcement in the evenings and weekends?

Fred wants to know how they measure decibels, because of many variables.

Shirley asked if we could vote on Jack's motion. (There was no motion)

Both Sadler and Joel said to be careful what you ask for, and feel just enforcement for now.

Mel said the Elbo Room and others need customers and want longer and louder.

Fred said residents give votes, and businesses do not.

Jack said we could leave the code the same, but improve enforcement.

Fred said we need uniformity.

John said we need another meeting.

Sadler said we need to see all the rules.

Dennis made a motion to send a resolution to the City that they address and enforce the current legal decibels and times, as they exist during full business hours.

Shirley seconded.

Fred said if the police do it, they need training.

Shirley asked what kind of training?

Joel said things could always be challenged and it needs to be a qualified person.

Steve asked how we can negate the last decision by the Commission and feels we need to object.

Sadler wants to know why the City can't regulate?

Ron Crohn asked whom the lady who oversees Debbie Hernandez, did she give any indication she would do something.

Fred said she refused any action, but her boss, Valerie Bolander, said we would be included.

Mel said he supports this and that we need a petition.

Dennis (in the temporary absence of the President) called for a vote. 24 votes for and 1 opposed. The motion passed.

Steve made a motion that we strongly object to the Commissioner's unanimous decision to direct City staff to move forward on work to easing noise ordinance of the entertainment districts at the Conference Meeting of August 17, 2010. We need neighborhood input on this.

John seconded.

Fred called for a vote. It passed unanimously.

Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of May 20, 2010 General Meeting.

John seconded

The vote to approve was unanimous.

Fred introduced Leeann Barber a resident of Galt Ocean Mile who is working to save their library that the County wants to close. She asked if the CBA could sign a motion to support their cause and also passed out petitions to sign.

Fred read the resolution.

John made a motion for the CBA of Fort Lauderdale to support it.

Art seconded.

Fred called for a vote and it was unanimously in favor.

Fred signed and gave Leann our motion.

Lester as Chairman of the Membership Committee said we have not spent any money on a drive. He said he would be willing to go to building meetings and speak about the CBA. He said we also need brochures. He asked people at this meeting to try to bring new members to our next meeting.

Fred asked that people pledge to attend City meetings regarding the noise issue.

Chuck said he has asked Charlotte to let the CBA know and let all buildings know when meetings are to take place.

Eileen suggested we all wear red to the meetings, so our numbers will stand out.

Art wanted to know what happened to the development of the Swimming Hall of Fame. He feels Bahia Mar can be included in this project and asked that the CBA follow up on this.

Chuck read the Treasurer's report.

Lester objected to any money in an account and feels it should all be spent.

Shirley said we need a newsletter.

Dennis feels our membership has dropped and our money does not have to be spent, but should be kept because our membership is down and that means our expenses will be greater. We may need the money as a cushion.

John asked what our follow-up would be.

Fred said we would schedule a Board meeting soon.

Chuck said the next meeting is already scheduled for Sept. 30 at the Firehouse where we will discuss the strategies.

Shirley made a motion to adjourn.

Lester seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Crohn,  
Recording Secretary