

Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association
General Membership Meeting
June 15, 2019
9:30 a.m.
The Moose Lodge, 1801 Bay Blvd., Ortley Beach, NJ 08751

Meeting called to order at 9:28 a.m.

Roll call: Anthony Colucci, Paul Jeffrey, Mary Ann Giordano Wallis, Kathy Barisciano, Cathy Crisafulli, Joan Strathern, Toni Tomarazzo, Joseph Cantalupo, and Michael Wymbs present. Quorum established.

Minutes of the May 2019 General Membership Meeting accepted. (Mike, Paul seconded)

Treasurer's and Membership reports – Kathy Barisciano

Treasurer's Report: \$66,206 balance as of 5/31/19

May expenditures totaled \$6,858: \$757 for meetings and refreshments; \$478 for Web; \$50 donations & gifts; \$5,322 for sponsored events.

Membership Report: 276 total paid memberships including 245 residential renewals, 16 new residential, 15 business. Down 9 registrations from this point in 2018

Reports approved (Mike, Joan seconded)

Election of Officers, 2019--2020:

Paul Jeffrey announced that there were two nominees for president: Anthony Colucci and himself, but Paul refused the nomination, saying he and Anthony "work great as a team." Anthony was the sole nominee.

Paul said there was only one nominee for each open board position, the two current board members Joseph Cantalupo and Michael Wymbs.

Under by-laws, secretary Mary Ann Giordano cast the sole vote for the president and board positions: For Anthony Colucci for president and Michael Wymbs and Joseph Cantalupo for open board seats.

There were NO nominations to fill the vacating Treasurer's position, so under the by-laws the board re-appointed Kathy Barisciano to that seat and position.

Guests:

Council Member Maria Maruca:

1. Surf Club: Two months ago, the issue had come to a standstill after the state made an offer of \$6.2-6.5 million for the Surf Club, adjacent residential property, and Ocean Blvd. parking lot property to the Barcellona family. The Barcelloñas refused the offer and were obtaining a pre-Sandy certified appraisal for the land. Their lawyer, Lawrence Bathgate, recently produced the appraisal (about \$10 million) and forwarded it to the state. The next step will be negotiations. "It is no longer at a standstill; we are now at the negotiating point from the owner's point of view."

Anthony asked if we should reach out to the state to push it along. Maria said not right now; the letters of support we sent out in the spring are on the record. The council has reached out to the state to make sure they are moving this along. She will let us know if we are needed again.

Question: Is this Green Acres or Blue Acres money? Maria: Both. And the town is putting up money for the pavilion, boardwalk, park, etc. "And the state loves it."

2. Beach: Signs will be put up at each of the 11 beach entrances this week. The language has been vetted with the OBVTA board. The town also ordered extra signs in case of vandalism, etc.

Question: Who will enforce the rules? Two weeks ago overheard argument over a radio and cigar smoke. Maria: Up to the lifeguard, but she will get the protocol from Jared. Anthony said he will invite Jared to the next meeting.

Kathy B.: Noted the dune fencing was right up against the boardwalk in Seaside. Maria: It was discussed. She will find out the status.

Question: Mats at every entrance? Maria: No Mobi mats at handicapped entrances because there is a different protocol for them.

Question: Why is there fencing on the beach marking private property? Maria: A couple of fences have been popping up. The town engineers have been out and taking down fences and signs. Approaching this in a friendly manner. "There are going to be hiccups" the first summer around.

3. Bayside Park: Maria will get info on when the bathrooms will be open.

Question re Canadian geese: More than 100 of them, poop everywhere, people feeding them. Maria: Don't feed them; signage will go up. Town, under prodding by the Green Team (Sharon Colucci), passed Canadian geese patrol legislation to license dogs to patrol areas; starting in Huddy Park. But not sure how that could be done in Bayside Park; maybe dogs walk through on leashes. Maria said she is aware the mess from the geese has to be picked up.

4. Miscellaneous questions:

- a. Status of boat ramp in Guilford Park: Moving forward.
- b. Kayak ramp in Ortley: Made one modification to the ramp and state said have to resubmit to Cafra for a permit. She is going to make calls to check on the status.
- c. Signs at U-Turn by Acme are really ugly. Maria will check on it.
- d. Who cleans the medians? Maria: State highway. Public can reach out to them. Bay Blvd. medians are cleaned/cut every Tuesday. Steve Sherrill said DOC was working in Lavallette on Thursday.
- e. Status of abandoned homes? Maria: Every property is a different situation and in a different state. Maybe next meeting Don Guardian can come and give a general update with numbers, etc. Mo Hill said Craig has a list of the properties.
- f. Mike Wymbs asked if we can keep the boardwalk bathrooms open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Signs now say 4:30. Maria said that should change.
- g. Mike Wymbs asked if the reduced-rate badges could remain on sale until Father's Day. Deadline is now Memorial Day. Maria said there was plenty of notice re: the sales period.
- h. Cathy C. asked if a TR badge is good at any TR beach. Maria said yes, except at Ocean Beach, which is private.
- i. Toni Tomarazzo spoke out against development of the Ciba-Geigy site, citing the history and ongoing safety issues as reported in the book "Toms River." Mo Hill said he sits on the Land Use Committee, and there has never been a discussion about developing the Ciba-Geigy property. He said it was a manufactured crisis, for political purposes, with info cherry picked from the master plan. "There has never been an interest in redeveloping the site" and he doesn't foresee anything happening with Bassett, the development company, which would more likely "bank it" as credit toward other development sites.

Council Member Mo Hill:

Thanked members for voting in the June primary. He said 7,400 votes were cast for mayor, compared with 5,000 for sheriff, showing that an interest in the mayor's race drove voting (which led to Hill's election as the Republican nominee for mayor).

Lisa Brodeth Carrick, JBJ Soul Kitchen:

She is the program manager for the Employment & Empowerment Team at the JBJ Soul Kitchen.

The JBJ Soul Foundation runs two kitchens: One in TR (1769 Hooper Ave.), one in Red Bank.

Started with an interest in helping people find homes. Gave money in hurricanes. Helped teen boys who are homeless in Las Vegas. Out of the homelessness solutions grew the kitchens, which are farm-to-table restaurants. Menu changes every two weeks. People pay what they can. People are given jobs at the kitchen (ie, in the garden, busing tables) and sit family style to share meals with paying customers. There's no distinction between people. The program helps with homes, food, dignity.

The hours: In TR, it is open more for lunch and in RB only for dinner. For an hour's worth of work, someone can bring the whole family. The ratio is about 50-50, pay to free.

She manages the employment and empowerment team. Has 14 coaches who help people get jobs. To date there have been 111 job offers for their people.

Hours: TR is Wed-Fri, 11:30 to 3 lunch; Sat. 5-7; Sun. brunch 11:30 to 2.

No alcohol served and guests asked not to bring it, as some volunteers might be in recovery.

Volunteers are seated first.

To volunteer, go to JBJSoulKitchen.org. Regular orientations for volunteers. Do everything from prep food to folding napkins.

Get a sense of doing for people who don't have.

She left cards with contact info, schedule, etc.

(As for all nonprofits invited to OBVTA membership meetings, OBVTA makes a \$50 donation to the organization following a presentation.)

Police Sergeant Bachonski, TRPD Community Affairs officer:

Reported on a bank robbery at the Wells Fargo on Rt. 9, where a suspect was found "hunkering down in the woods" by an alert police officer. He was arrested.

Said volunteers participated in the law enforcement torch run, to raise money for the Special Olympics. Their leg was from the Seaside CVS to Brick, but 7 ran all the way to Brielle to raise extra money.

Operation Brain Freeze: If a kid or adult is seen wearing a bike helmet, they may be stopped by a cop and given a coupon for a free ice cream cone.

Question: Is it illegal to use a cellphone while riding a bike? Not illegal, but ...

Coffee with a cop: Every 1st Wednesday. July 3, will be at the McDonald's in Ortlely. Gives people a chance to interact with police officers.

Neighborhood Watch: Starting up in September. Meetings will be 1st Thursdays of every month.

National Night Out: Aug. 6. TRPD to participate for the first time, in the Castle Park area.

Introduced two Class 1 officers: Adrianna Mincey and Bianca Baroni. Bianca will be patrolling throughout Ortlely all summer. Lindsay is in her 2nd year now. Also have Class 2, who can carry firearms. Four have gotten ATV training. Class 2 officers will be on patrol from 8 a.m. to midnight. One is now assigned to town hall from Monday through Friday due to Virginia Beach shooting. More officers will be assigned as soon as they get ATV training.

Anthony asked if the officers will be supporting beach personnel in enforcing beach rules. Sgt: Yes, but don't flag them down for every little thing. Class 2 officers' primary task is to protect the dunes.

Matthis Bridge: He just received notice from the state that there is a possibility it will be closing at night, from M-Th., for testing of mechanisms. No more details, including start date, length of time, etc. Tunney will then be divided into one lane going in each direction and speed limit will be reduced.

911 Eye: If dial 911 and have an emergency, 911 Eye link will be sent to you. If you click on it, it gives the TRPD dispatchers a live feed. Nothing is downloaded onto the phone. He gave the example of a boater who was lost and who was directed based on what dispatcher saw.

Discussion about fraud and scam phone calls.

Joe Cantalupo: Is there enforcement of the law about riding bikes in the opposite direction? Supposed to ride WITH traffic, not against it. Sgt. said the focus is on education.

Question: Is overnight parking allowed by the ocean? Sgt.: It's legal.

Question: Construction abuses? Sgt.: Call the police.

Question : Parking near Rockafella's and Jerry's is right up to the corner; you pull out and can't see. Asked for enforcement.

Question: Why is there a trailer in the 3rd Avenue lot or months, near St. Elisabeth's? Sgt.: He'll ask the town.

Question: People are blacking out parking spots. Sgt.: Call the town.

Question: Have you heard anything about car break-ins in Lavallette? Sgt.: Had not, but he will look into it.

OBVTA Updates:

Beach Jam: Rick Jurgens, Coordinator:

This is the 5th annual Beach Jam. Date is Aug. 10, rain date Aug. 17. Starts at 5 p.m.

Tickets are going on sale. Discount for OBVTA members.

Fireworks will be at 9:30 p.m. on the beach. Also will have sand sculpting, kite flying, bubble soccer.

Open to Ortlely residents, families and their friends.

A very limited number of tickets will be sold at the August meeting.

Need about 37 "good staff people" to pull it off.

Updated Strategic Plan and Priorities:

Document has been on the website and available for review.

Paul: Motion that we accept the plan and priorities as written. Kathy B.: Seconded.

Approval by membership by show of hands.

Comments from Members:

Bill: Thank you to the OBVTA for donating a wreath to the American Legion on Memorial Day. Nice event, with World War II member. Boy Scout carried the wreath.

John Clark, Fielder Ave.: The dunes are exceptional. Maybe we are not doing enough to keep them long term. Seaside Park does a lot for their dunes. Maybe we can do better, including more significant fencing, tough ordinance. (TR DOES have an ordinance to protect the dunes.) The small signs there now are intrusive (they will be replaced). Mo Hill: He will check on adding the sand fencing on the boardwalk side of the dunes and also into what Seaside Park does. Anthony said once staffing is on full-time, more can be done to enforce protection. Also, residents can be more vigilant.

Comments from Board Members:

Mike Wymbs: The Moose has added live music on Friday nights. Dinner from 5 to 9 p.m., music from 7 to 10 p.m. Don't have to be a member to attend.

Joe: If see anyone breaking rules, approach a lifeguard or police officer; don't deal with it yourself.

Cathy C.: Stop FEMA Now will be at the July meeting (20th) to discuss flood insurance. Also: Happy Father's Day.

Joan: We were told that after the dunes were built, the ACOE would reevaluate flood risk and we should benefit. Question remains whether that will happen. Mo Hill: He was recently at a meeting where it was reported that the issue is now up in the air because of a case in NY. He had heard we would move from 7 foot to 6 foot, which should help rates. Joan asked if we could put pressure. Hill said Council might be able to submit a resolution, stating that there was an understanding that the maps had been off and they haven't yet been redone.

Anthony: Check out OBVTA's new Facebook page and Instagram account.

Motion to Adjourn: 10:55 a.m.