

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH

(INCORPORATED 1922)

3243 WALNUT DRIVE

Highland Beach, Maryland 21403

Telephone (410) 268-2956

MAYOR

William H. Sanders, III

TREASURER

Sheila Jeanne Murchison

COMMISSIONER

Eric Baugh

Eric Brewington

Benjamin Secundy

Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 24, 2021

Attendees: Mayor Sanders, Commissioners Baugh, Brewington, Murchison, and Secundy. The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m.

Citizen's Input

Comments were received from the citizens.

Journal Review and Approval

There was a motion to approve the journal from March 2020 and approval by all.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Murchison reviewed the monthly financial reports. The financial status of Highland Beach is in good shape. There have been limited expenses but expect this to increase with summer approaching.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sanders reviewed the COVID-19 Municipal Call. The vaccine is available for all residents in Maryland. The Budget Ordinance had a second reading.

Mayor Sanders nominated the following to the Board of Appeals: William H. McClockton II 9/20- 9/23; Dena Sewell 9/20- 9/23; and William Tony Hill 4/21- 4/24. There was a motion to approve, it was seconded and approved by all.

The Safety & Security Survey Response will be posted today. The mayor offered initial thoughts on the survey results, including recommending that residents read all of the comments. It appears that what is considered to be a safety, security, or just plain annoyance concern depends upon the viewpoint of the responder. There also appears to be a blurry line between what is considered to be traffic control, and what is considered to be security. Only three residents chose armed security, with two wanting armed security 24/7. Others were concerned about the cost of armed security. The cost for armed security would be nearly \$300,000 a year. The Board is expected to have a more detailed discussion during the May meeting.

Commissioner Secundy moved to approve the contract for the renovation of the existing play ground equipment. The motion was seconded and approved by all. The renovations are expected to complete by the end of June 2021.

An update was provided for the FDMCC bathroom renovation for handicap access. Completion is expected within a few days.

Mayor Sanders reported on research results for an erosion control project, and read the following:

“Beach Erosion Research/Recommendation to Highland Beach Board of Commissioners
Town of Highland Beach”

“Recent research has led me to a conclusion and recommendation for a beach erosion control project on our beach. My research discovered the “Beach Development Study for Highland Beach and Venice Beach, Anne Arundel County MD”, dated June 1969. The study concluded with the recommendation to construct timber groins—which stand today—along with the recommendation for maintenance and repairs to keep the groins functional in protecting the shoreline. This was, of course, over 50 years ago. Today, the timber groins are visibly and obviously in need of repair.

“The structures are evidently working as planned. For example, after the onslaught of Hurricane Isabel in 2003, Highland Beach gained sand, while both adjoining surrounding communities lost huge amounts of sand, resulting in the near total loss of the beach at Venice Beach.

“We have also completed projects over more recent years to slow erosion, particularly the Living Shoreline installation in 2004-5; and the Beachfront Stone Revetment/Living Shoreline Hybrid Project completed in 2013. These efforts, as documented in the Comprehensive Plan 2020 and on the Highland Beach website, have proven to further protect the beach from sand loss. But long-time residents, observing the ebb and flow of the amount of sand on the beach over years and decades, understand that we will gain and lose sand with wave action and storm events. Most have also come to recognize the challenges of global warming and sea level rise that impacts Highland Beach, along with coastal cities across the world.

“More recently, Venice Beach has commissioned an erosion control study that concluded with recommendations for a living shoreline, which has already been successfully completed in Highland Beach. I would posit that this study--due to the proximity to Highland Beach and the fact that that study addresses the same wave action that impacts our beach--has direct applicability to the Town of Highland Beach. It is interesting to note that much of the project recommended for Venice Beach involves installation of vegetation to create a living shoreline, together with hauling in sand; however, it appears that the actual beach area will be minimal.

“Given this research and our experience to-date with erosion control measures, I solicited an estimate on the cost to repair the timber groins, the most effective measure we can take to continue to protect our beach. I believe this is the prudent and fiscally responsible course of action to benefit the town, and I present this to the Highland Beach Board of Commissioners with a recommendation for approval in the amount of \$_____.”

Commissioner Brewington has been working on enhanced traffic control. He interviewed three companies and has decided to go with Police Protection Services. It is a Veteran-run company which comes highly recommended. They will start Memorial Day weekend. A draft was sent to the board regarding roles and responsibilities of community members. Instructions to the enhanced traffic control personnel will be provided to the Police Protection Services, community residents and Venice Beach residents.

The guard's cell phone number will be provided to residents for traffic control only. The document will be added to the record.

Mayor Sanders read the draft Instructions :

**“Instructions to Enhanced Traffic Control Personnel
Town of Highland Beach and Venice Beach”**

- “Vehicle traffic is allowed. Delivery trucks may be waived through. Stop non-resident vehicles and if not visiting someone in Highland Beach or Venice Beach, advise driver that there is no parking allowed on streets. If car proceeds into the community and does not reemerge in a reasonable amount of time to drive through the community, look for the vehicle to address parking violation.
- All community residents should have a pass attached to the rearview mirror. Waive through.
- Pedestrians are allowed. If the pedestrians display fishing or bathing gear, remind them that a guest pass is required for access to the beach or piers.
- For unknown people on the beach or pier, inquire if they are a resident or guest. If a resident, ask for the name and address, to verify via a copy of the phone directories for the communities. Residents may also elect to show their resident pass, or a resident can alternatively show identification showing a Highland Beach or Venice Beach address (especially if new and not yet in the directories.) Otherwise, ask the person to leave.
- All guests must have a guest pass without exception. **One** numbered guest pass only is issued for each household, and covers a maximum of ten guests.
- Venice Beach residents must also be present with their guests on the beach and large pier.
- Only Highland Beach residents and their guests are allowed on the Bruce Ave. pier.
- Residents are advised to alert traffic control when expecting multiple guests to facilitate traffic.
- Instructions and directories are kept in the glove box of the town golf carts.”

Mayor Sanders report on ordering a replacement golf cart , and thanked Commissioner Baugh for the referral of the company.

Mayor Sanders attended the quarterly The Four Rivers Coordinating Meeting. The mayor news is that the jurisdiction has been expanded to include North County and other historic sites.

Mayor Sanders plans to attend the virtual meetings with Anne Arundel County Chief of Police billed as Coffee & Conversation With the Chief. Mayor Sanders reported on his interview by a reporter from Highland Beach, FL, and the published article. We have not yet received the book on the history of the Florida Highland Beach, that was cited in the article.. The article will be posted on the website.

Research is continuing to determine if it is possible to build a. A follow up step will be to discuss the Pavilion with residents near the anticipated location.

Mayor Sanders did a shout out to Casey Mullen who donated planks from his old fence to the beach and residents who would like some. A shout out was also given to Nathaniel Johnson who gives his time and

attention to projects in the town. He removed bags of debris from the beach following a beach cleanup performed by a former resident.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Brewington corrected the name of the traffic control company. It is East Coast Protection Services Company. This is the unarmed branch which will be used. Commissioner Murchison asked if this is a minority owned business which it is not.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Citizens' Input

The meeting was again open for citizen's input.

Set next meeting date and adjourn

The next meeting was set for 11:00 am on May 22, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Aundrea Naylor, Highland Beach Clerk