

TOWN HALL MEETING-PCB CLEAN BEACH COALITION INITIATIVE
OATFIELD BUILDING, LYNDELL LANE
NOVEMBER 4, 2016

Councilman Solis called the Town Hall meeting to order at 2:00 P.M., noting that all the City Council members were attending and that the meeting was being livestreamed.

Mayor Thomas welcomed the audience and asked for their input. He stated that Mr. Dan Rowe, TDC, was in the audience as well as Chief Whitman and two representatives from the County.

Councilman Solis explained the problems on the sandy beach such as litter, dogs on the beach, and trash in the water. He mentioned holding the visitors accountable for their actions and he opened the floor for audience comments.

Mr. Jim Rogers commented that the visitors did not know the City's ordinances and stressed the education factor as well as more enforcement on the sandy beach. Another audience member stated it was not only tourists but also locals littering and allowing their dogs on the sandy beach. Councilman Solis suggested call the Beach Police or Sheriff's Office when such problems occurred.

Another gentleman suggested having the trash cans on the beach closer to the water as it seemed many people left their trash on the sand as they were too far away to walk to dump their trash. Councilman Solis explained the cans being in line for the trash truck to run at night. He also stated the HOAs could place their own trash cans on the beach.

Numerous comments were made concerning cigarettes left on the sandy beach. One suggestion was to make the beach no smoking. Mr. Darrell Sellers mentioned the cigarettes thrown out on the streets and washed into the storm drains. Councilman Solis suggested to the HOAs and the Condo Associations that these violations could be part of their rules. Suggestions were made for the TDC to print brochures for the condos with all rules and the new slogan "Leave Only Footprints". Suggestions were made for additional signs at the beach accesses and entry points of the neighborhoods.

Comments were made concerning additional trash cans at the beach accesses if public parking was nearby. Members of the Bid-A-Wee neighborhood stated they had made additional cans available but people used them for fish cleaning and dirty diaper dumping. They said mandatory trash was needed for the beach.

Discussion ensued concerning the notices required in rental property for the Leave No Trace and Flag Warning System. A new rental property owner stated that he had not been aware of posting the notices. New signs were suggested for the beach accesses to include all rules. Alternate suggestions were no more laws but rather enforcement of the existing laws. A suggestion was to use the digital billboard at Hathaway Bridge to list the rules.

Mr. Gisbert mentioned it would be up to the community for enforcement as the City did not have sufficient manpower. Suggestions were made for neighborhood committees to pick up trash on the sandy beach and that security for the properties had authority down to water's edge. Chief Whitman spoke briefly about his manpower and gave his cell phone number out to the audience members.

Mr. Gisbert said a home-grown coalition could be done here and the members could meet at City Hall. With everyone's help, it would make a difference. He said the rack cards with the rules were a good idea. Mr. Rowe, TDC, said the TDC provided the rack cards with rules at no charge. He updated the audience that the beach cleaning contact was out to bid and that a more aggressive role was planned with more tractors on the sand. He mentioned problems with not being able to pick up trash during turtle nesting season and masses of tourists. Comments were made about aggressive social media platforms and radio PSAs.

With no further comments, the Town Hall meeting was closed at 4 P.M.