

**District 4 Pensacola Beach - Town Hall Meeting  
Public Beach Access  
Board Chambers  
Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building-First Floor  
Monday-June 18, 2018  
6:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:**

Commissioner Grover Robinson  
Commissioner Lumon May-stated he was merely an observer  
Commissioner Jeff Bergosh- stated he was merely an observer  
Commissioner Doug Underhill- stated he was merely an observer  
County Administrator Jack Brown  
Assistant County Administrator Matt Coughlin

- 1- Passed out copies of Commissioner Robinson's proposed resolution.
- 2- Commissioner Robinson started the meeting off with expressing his thoughts and prayers for Ms. Dianne Krudel, offering the invocation and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3- Two maps of the beach showing the unleased areas were displayed.
- 4- Per the Florida Supreme Court the word "Lease" equals ownership.
- 5- Commissioner Robinson stated that all the building that has been done on the Beach was done with leases. He wants the unleased areas to remain unleased.
- 6- Commissioner Robinson stated this meeting was not for a discussion of the proposed roundabouts. If anyone wanted to discuss roundabouts he would meet with them after the meeting concluded.
- 7- There were 14 speakers and each allowed three minutes.

Neil Dorfman  
Charlie Rotenberry  
Robert Miller  
Barbara Harris  
Melissa Pino  
Nancy Hagman  
Liz Hewson  
Lilly Eubanks  
Lorrie Newman  
Angie Dement  
Carol Westbrook  
James Scaminaci  
Terry Preston  
Rhonda Dorfman  
Phil Ehr

Phil Ehr:

- On the Federal level the land conveyance act should stay the same.
- The environmental protection should remain. This would not be true on the east end of Santa Rosa Island, which is leased to Santa Rosa County.
- He wants to see a tax solution for all on the Beach.
- There needs to be planning and holding the public accountable.
- Wants to work with the Escambia BCC for solutions

Barbara Harris:

-She is strongly opposed to the proposed public restroom on the Beach in front of Portofino. Commissioner Robinson said he would discuss this with her after the meeting.

Rhonda Dorfman:

-She is a resident on the Beach since 2013. She wanted to thank Commissioner Robinson for the resolution that includes the preservation clause. She loves the Beach the way it is.

-She also would like to see public bus benches at all of the ECAT stops. Paolo Ghio stated all trolley stops have the benches.

Terry Preston:

-She supports the resolution that includes the preservation clause and requiring a unanimous vote of the BCC before more development is allowed.

-She supports maintaining the public access and requested the BCC put something in place to prevent more development.

James Scaminaci:

-He supports the proposed resolution

-He wants to know why Commissioner Robinson opposed a referendum for the public to be able to vote. Commissioner Robinson said he didn't oppose.

Carol Westbrook:

-She said she would like to see public access to the Beach

Angie Dement:

-She read a copy of the petition for a referendum and offered an explanation that it would be just to let the public vote. She gave a sample of the Save Pensacola Beach's petition form.

-She questioned if the initiative has the potential to interfere with the current lawsuits. Commissioner Robinson stated the revised ballot does not interfere with the lawsuits, and that he wants to protect unleased areas.

Laurie Newman:

-Asked for an explanation of how giving away land is in the public interest (fee simple). Commissioner Robinson answered that the most important part of the discussion is the preservation of unleased areas. The County has no way to cancel the lease with Santa Rosa County. They can basically do whatever they want to. They cannot open the pass because they cannot get a DEP permit. Leases can be sold whenever, but the County cannot get any money for any of it. The County has no opinion on Fee simple.

Lilly Eubanks:

-She supports the resolution being proposed by Commissioner Robinson. She wants it to be a binding resolution. The citizens of Escambia County want to keep the law as is.

-She feels a referendum is simple. She asked Commissioner Robinson if he wants to keep the Beach as it is now. A referendum covers both leased and unleased areas. She just wants people to be able to vote to keep the Beach as it is now.

Commissioner Robinson stated when an area is leased, it makes it private property to the lease holder. This Board of County Commissioners did not file the lawsuit, it was the Property Appraiser.

Liz Hewson:

-She wanted to thank Commissioner Robinson for protecting the undeveloped land on the Beach. The Supreme Court says leased land is already private and she supports the resolution.

Nancy Hagman:

-She asked who is in charge of Santa Rosa Island. Commissioner Robinson stated the Santa Rosa Island Authority (SRIA) manages the leases but they must answer to the BCC. The State act dictates the existence of the SRIA.

-She asked Commissioner Robinson if he was in favor of keeping public ownership of the Beach for the Public.

Melissa Pino:

-She stated long term leases equal ownership. She doesn't understand what it means. The zoning can be changed and development could boom

Commissioner Robinson stated the zoning and the building cap on the Beach will stop development. His proposed resolution protects all infrastructure (i.e., roads, sidewalks, parking lots, etc.).

Alison Rogers explained the lawsuits and the lease. The language in the leases tells courts if equal to private ownership.

Jackie Daniel:

-If a lease equals private ownership why is the government trying to privatize the beaches along the coast of Florida if they are already considered private?

Commissioner Robinson stated it was an individual choice for fee simple. The BCC has no position on fee simple.

Phil Ehr: He stated fee simple is akin to a tax law.

Commissioner Robinson stated again that the BCC has no opinion on fee simple.

Charlie Rotenberry: The UWF property can be developed if they want to. Commissioner Robinson stated the BCC has no jurisdiction over UWF. Dr. Martha Saunders will not do anything against the environment. The land was given to them in the 1980s.

Neil Dorfman:

-Given the land that the residents pay fair market value for means the vacant lots are for sale at fair market value.

-He was glad the resolution clarified developed land from undeveloped land and protects the undeveloped land. Commissioner Robins is only trying to protect the undeveloped land.

Robert Miller: He wanted to discuss the proposed bathroom on the beach in front of Portofino. He is opposed to it. Commissioner Robinson stated it was governed by the agreement Portofino has with the SRIA.

Nancy Hagman:

-Why doesn't the BCC have influence over the SRIA? Did the BCC have to approve what went to the State Legislators? Commissioner Robinson stated yes but not Santa Rosa County.

-She asked if the BCC can make the resolution binding. Commissioner Robinson stated since Escambia County is not a charter county they do not have referendum power.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

# *SAMPLE*

## **KEEP OUR PUBLIC BEACHES PUBLIC**

### **REFERENDUM**

This Referendum involves the issue of public versus private Ownership of Santa Rosa Island.

In 1947 the federal government transferred title to Pensacola and Navarre Beaches to Escambia County with 2 restrictions – All uses of that land must be in public interest and public title could never be sold or conveyed. Legislation was introduced in Congress last year to remove those restrictions and privatize ownership.

Do you support keeping public ownership of Santa Rosa Island?

( ) **YES** (supports keeping public ownership)

( ) **NO** (opposes keeping public ownership)



## DISTRICT 4 TOWN HALL MEETING

Board Chambers  
Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building – First Floor  
221 Palafox Place

Monday – June 18, 2018  
6:00 p.m.

Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Neil Dorfman PHONE: 216-933-060

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 1 W. Palafox Ct P. Box 32561

SUBJECT: Resignation



## DISTRICT 4 TOWN HALL MEETING

Board Chambers  
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Monday – June 18, 2018  
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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Charlie Rotenberry PHONE: (850) 5259212  
PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: Row ten berry  
ADDRESS: 414 Williamsburg Dr GR FL 32561  
SUBJECT: Privatization



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Monday – June 18, 2018  
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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Robert Miller PHONE: <sup>850</sup> 907-1182

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 2 Pontalino Dr Ste 506

SUBJECT: Bathroom on beach





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Board Chambers  
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Monday – June 18, 2018  
6:00 p.m.

Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Barbara Harris PHONE: 816-210-3930

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: Barbara

ADDRESS: 2 Portofino Dr. - Ste 1505

SUBJECT: BA Bath house/restroom  
on Pensacola Beach



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Monday – June 18, 2018  
6:00 p.m.

Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Melissa Pino PHONE: 617.990.7404

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 413 SE Barbours Drive

SUBJECT: Beach



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Board Chambers  
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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Nancy Hagman PHONE: 850-206-5638  
PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: Nancy Hagman  
ADDRESS: 3790 Summer Drive  
SUBJECT: Beach Resolution / Referendum



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Monday – June 18, 2018  
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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Liz Hewson PHONE: 301-997-6319

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: Liz HUGH - SON

ADDRESS: 1203 ARIOLA DR PENSACOLA BEACH

SUBJECT: BEACH RESOLUTION  
PROTECTING UNLEASED LANDS



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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Lilly Eubanks PHONE: 850-324 3761

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 8123 Six Pence Dr

SUBJECT: Save Pensacola Beach Referendum



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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Lorrie Newman PHONE: 850-516-1982

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 10260 WEST Lake Rd, Milton FL 32583

SUBJECT: SAVE Pensacola Beach



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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Angie Dement PHONE: 850-208-8637

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 1810 W. Cervantes St. #321 Palafox FL 32501

SUBJECT: Pensacola Beach



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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Carol K. Westbrook PHONE: 850-375-0693

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 5804 Margaretha Blvd, Pens. 32506

SUBJECT: Pensacola Beach





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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: James SCAMINACI PHONE: (510) 916-3761

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: SCAM-IN-ACH I

ADDRESS: 7050 Heather Oaks Dr

SUBJECT: Save Pensacola Beach



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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: Terry Preston PHONE: 384-6884

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 5 Ensenade Quatro, Pens. Beach

SUBJECT: Preservation



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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: <sup>Rhonda</sup> ~~Neil~~ Dorfman PHONE: 661 496-4573

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 1 W. Galvez Ct

SUBJECT: Quality of Life on Beach



## DISTRICT 4 TOWN HALL MEETING

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Speaking Request  
Please Print Clearly

NAME: ~~W/O~~ ~~Phil~~ Phil EW PHONE: (850) 449-943

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME: AIR

ADDRESS: 3390 Bayou Blvd Pensacola

SUBJECT: Land Conveyance Act.

bb words

**Proposed Ballot Language**

On \_\_\_\_\_, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners adopted a policy to ban any privatization through sale or lease of currently unleased properties, especially conservation and preservation properties on Santa Rosa Island. The resolution also confirms the County has no position on fee simple. Do you support this Escambia County policy?

\_\_\_ Yes, I support the Escambia BCC policy

\_\_\_ No, I oppose the Escambia BCC policy