

ANNA MARIA ISLAND
SUN

Sunshine lawsuit filed

The lawsuit alleges Sunshine violations occurred during recent CNOBB meetings.

BY JOE HENDRICKS

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BRADENTON BEACH – Six current and former city board and committee members are named as defendants in a Sunshine Law lawsuit filed Friday.

“This is an action of the Government-in-the-Sunshine Law against the defen-

dants seeking declaratory and injunctive relief for holding meetings outside the Sunshine Law and contrary to the express written directive of the city attorney,” the lawsuit complaint states.

Bradenton Beach Planning and Zoning Board member John Metz and former board members Reed Mapes, Patty Shay and Bill Vincent are named as defendants. Vincent, Shay and Mapes resigned from the planning board after

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Shown facing camera from left to right, former planning board members Bill Vincent and Reed Mapes and Scenic WAVES chair Tjet Martin have been named in a Sunshine lawsuit.

Charter amendment e-mails revealed

CNOBB members' efforts to amend the city charter have produced some insightful e-mail exchanges.

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BRADENTON BEACH – In their efforts to form the Concerned Neighbors of Bradenton Beach (CNOBB) group, several e-mails were exchanged that expressed an intent to empower Mayor Bill Shearon and others by getting three

proposed charter amendments placed on the November ballot.

Last week, six CNOBB members were named as defendants in a Sunshine Law lawsuit. Subsequent public records requests made by paralegal Michael Barfield indicate CNOBB members are concerned that Vice Mayor John Chappie might use the state's resign-to-run provision and challenge Shearon in the November election.

CNOBB members also expressed concerns about the legality of the charter amendment process they initiated with a petition drive last week.

STRONGER MAYOR?

On June 10, CNOBB founder Bill Vincent sent an e-mail to future CNOBB member Reed Mapes that said, “I had a lengthy telephone conversation this morning. Mayor Shearon suggested I contact (you) regarding an initiative I am pursuing. Both the mayor and I believe you might be interested and would certainly be of value to our group.”

On June 24, CNOBB member John Metz sent an e-mail response to Mapes about empowering the

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Aqua by the Bay denial recommended

County Commissioners now have two recommended denials to consider when deciding the immediate fate of Aqua by the Bay.

BY JOE HENDRICKS

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BRADENTON – Manatee County Planning Commissioners and county staff reversed their previous positions and now recommend denial of Carlos Beruff's Aqua by the Bay development.

On Thursday, Aug. 10, planning commissioners voted 3-1 in support of Matt Bower's motion recommending the County Commission deny the general development plan and rezoning requests on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

The recommended denial is based on concerns about 145-foot buildings and the project overall not being consistent with the county's comprehensive plan and land development code (LDC).

Planning Commissioners Al Horrigan Jr. and Tim Rhoades supported Bower's motion. John De Lesline opposed it, but also expressed concerns about building heights.

Rhoades again chaired the discussion after chair Bill Conerly recused himself because he works for the firm that provided the traffic study. Commissioners Mike Rahn and Paul Rutledge missed the meeting.

In April, planning commissioners reviewed the project based on an inaccurate staff report that listed one 145-foot building and one 75-foot high rise. By a 3-2 vote, they recommended approval, but it was then learned the developers were proposing four 145-foot residential buildings, up to 12, 95-foot residential buildings and an unspecified number of residential buildings between 35 and 75 feet tall.

Rhoades said he changed his vote because of the 145-foot buildings.

Bower maintained his previous opposition and cited concerns about building heights, the man-made estuary and retaining wall and the developers' self-imposed inability to create a constant 50-foot wide buffer zone from the landward edge of the coastal wetlands. The developers want a

**If it
doesn't
comply, you
must deny.”**

Dr. Randy Edwards

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