

State of the Coalition, April 20, 2011

This past year is one of considerable accomplishments for the Coalition. COBWRA completed a productive year updating our Community Plans under the leadership of **First Vice President, Stu Caine and Gerry Morrison** working with the Planning Departments of Palm Beach County, the City of Boynton Beach and some of the original authors.

West Boynton Area Community Plan, written 1991 to 1995.

COBWRA Design Guidelines, last revised in 2002, are being updated and extended to cover all major roads within the COBWRA area.

In the Ag Reserve, Medical Office land use is no longer allowed under Agr Institutional. This committee is working on a hospital district surrounding Bethesda West Hospital.

Soon we will bring these plans before the Delegates and a public hearing for input and final approval before submission for City and County approvals and acceptance.

Gerry Morrison and Steve Slade led the Growth Management Committee in a busy year. They completed two training sessions: one on workforce housing and affordable housing and another on Green building design and LEED certification. Every month, they consider new projects in our area.

Under the leadership of **Harriet Doctor**, the Education Committee has an active group now involving mothers of school children. The Education Committee Facebook page is up and running.

The Legislative Affairs committee, led by **Bonnie Cohen**, travelled to Tallahassee and gained valuable exposure with the State Legislature. To push the issues you voted on, the delegation met with chairs of key committees and the President of the Florida Senate. Committee Vice

Chair **Paul Fass** is tracking how bills affecting HOAs and Condos are doing in the legislature.

The Bylaws Committee, under the leadership of **Myrna Rosoff**, produced the Restated and Amended Bylaws that were approved by the Delegates on February 16, 2011. Copies of the Bylaws as approved will be mailed shortly to all Delegates and Alternates.

The Presidents Forum, led by **Stan Brizel and Steve Kirschtel**, continues meetings for Presidents and Directors to discuss common problems and share information. Last December, this committee completed a survey of vendors used by the 39 communities responding.

Our Safety & Security Awareness Committee was active under the leadership of **Ralph Moccia** until last December. A new chair was appointed and yesterday, he told me his health problems require he steps aside. We are looking for a new chair

Quarterly Evening Meetings continue under the leadership of **Mitch Rubin** bringing new people to their first ever COBWRA meetings.

Last October, for the first time ever, a sitting Florida governor spoke to COBWRA.

COBWRA had more congressional candidates for Candidates Day than any other civic organization in PBC.

COBWRA plays a more visible role in the Boynton Beach Area by serving on the Boards of Directors of the Greater Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce and Greater Boynton Beach Foundation. We

write a column in *Nostalgic America*. Some 200,000 copies are distributed every month in Boynton Beach, Delray and Boca. Almost every week, COBWRA is mentioned in the local press. Our Media and Public Relations Chair, **Sharon Geltner**, is constantly working to gain favorable exposure for COBWRA.

Our membership reached 94 communities with several more considering joining our Coalition. We have no authority – but we do have a lot of influence. Recently a prominent attorney told me he heard it said when he was in Tallahassee that “COBWRA is the most powerful organization in the State of Florida that is not a government.”

Two new all purpose athletic Fields were completed next to Canyon Town Center allowing hundreds of kids previously on waiting lists to enjoy playing soccer and other sports. One field is lighted and money has been authorized to light the second field. We still have to convince the officials that the baseball field at Sunset Palms Elementary School should be made available for Little League games.

Looking ahead, we have a gala 30th anniversary celebration planned for June 15 with lunch at Indian Spring Country Club. All Presidents, Delegates and Alternates will receive an invitation around May 1st. The cost of the luncheon will be \$35 and invitees may bring a guest. We are expecting between 350 and 400 people.

The COBWRA Reserve Account will be replenished by the generous sponsorship of Bethesda Memorial Hospital and FP&L and by the advertising in the commemorative program book. We already have over \$27,000 paid and pledged.

At the Anniversary Luncheon, the Coalition will present the inaugural Carrington Award for Civic Leadership. This award is named after Dr. Richard Carrington, the founder and first President of COBWRA, whose spirit lives on. It recognizes individuals or an organization whose vision, leadership and civic service are exemplary and whose contributions made a difference in the quality of life for the people of West Boynton.

All these accomplishments are the work of many volunteers who give tirelessly of their time and energy. The Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and committee workers are the people who make COBWRA tick and keep it running. Today, we welcome new volunteers as Officers. Please join me in thanking all these volunteers.

[APPLAUSE]

I believe that Dr. Carrington was a true visionary when he founded the Coalition. He wanted an organization that would make a difference for the people of West Boynton. I believe that today, COBWRA is keeping Dr. Carrington's dream alive.

Earlier, I swore to faithfully perform the Duties of the President and to uphold the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. It is my goal to please you, to please the people of West Boynton and to please Dr. Carrington. If I disappoint anyone, it will not be because I did not give it my best efforts.

I thank you for entrusting me with the presidency of COBWRA for another year. I am honored and humbled. I will not let you down.

I believe the State of the Coalition is stronger than ever and that the Coalition is ready for new accomplishments for the people of West Boynton. I am ready to begin work!

Nominations and Election of Directors

Article V of the COBWRA Bylaws say:

Section 4. Directors – Directors shall be_nominated by the President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Delegates at the April meeting. The six Directors shall be Delegates or Alternates.

Please stand when your name is called:

I nominate the Delegate for Savannah Estates, **Bonnie Cohen**. She has agreed to serve. All in favor say AYE. Opposed say NAY

I nominate the Alternate for Valencia Isles, **Stanley Kazerman**. Do you agree to serve? All in favor say AYE. Opposed say NAY

I nominate the Delegate for Bellaggio, **Gerry Morrison**. He has agreed to serve. All in favor say AYE. Opposed say NAY

I nominate the Alternate for Aberdeen, **Myrna Rosoff**. Do you agree to serve? All in favor say AYE. Opposed say NAY

I nominate the Delegate for Cobblestone Creek, **Mitch Rubin**. Do you agree to serve? All in favor say AYE. Opposed say NAY

I nominate the Delegate for Cypress Creek, **Chris Sonia**. Do you agree to serve? All in favor say AYE. Opposed say NAY

Congratulations to the Directors and thank you for your service to COBWRA. [APPLAUSE]

Growth Management Committee Motions

The Chair calls on Chris Sonia, the Director assigned to work with the Growth Management Committee to present the next report:

The first motion of the Executive Board is to recommend approval of the request to change the zoning from Commercial General to Community Commercial in order to build a 5,000 sq ft structure to house a **martial arts studio** on the 0.69 acre property on Lantana Road with the following condition:

- That the petitioner comes back to COBWRA with architectural elevations and a landscaping design that meets COBWRA design guidelines.

Is there any discussion or any questions?

All in favor of the motion to recommend approval say AYE Opposed say NAY.

The second motion of the Executive Board is to recommend approval of a request by Temple Torah for a Development Order Amendment to permit a non-sectarian charter school housing up to 300 hundred K-8 students in the 10,200 sq ft of administrative office space previously approved for the site. This recommendation is made with one condition:

- That during school days, from 7:00 am until 4:00 pm, joint egress from Temple Torah and the Jewish Community Center be limited to a right turn only.

Is there any discussion or any questions?

All in favor of the motion to recommend approval say AYE Opposed say NAY.