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ABBY LAUGHLIN
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Surf Club
John Kelly Sign

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Gentlemen:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak tonight.

We are here because

Why are we here tonight? Why are we talking about "The Grand Birch"? We're here because the laws and ordinances of this city say you have to listen. We are here because this is important and you are our elected officials. You are the ones elected by your individual communities. So, we are here, truly as your neighbors. You are the ones to determine what "neighborhood compatibility" means. You are the ones to figure out what "significant impact" really means. You are the ones who will decide whether we follow the ideals of sustainability, and our ~~City~~ Visioning Plan. You are the ones who need to figure out the priorities of economic development for this city. And finally, you are the ones who need to make it a priority to adopt a master plan for the beach. For better or worse, at least we will have a document to guide us.

2035

The Developer of Grand Birch has every right to build a level three building. But if he decides to build a building that exceeds the criteria of a "level three building" then what he has is the right to have you look at his plans. He has the right to have you listen to his ideas. And the neighborhood has the right to speak about it in a public setting. The developer's property rights do not include automatic approval of ~~his~~ level 4 building.

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So here we are, arguing about neighborhood compatibility. Here is the core of the issue: *The residents of the beach believe that the neighborhood and the Intercoastal should not have to adapt to a building project, we believe that the project should adapt to the existing neighborhoods and the Intercoastal waterway.* After all, we have to adapt to the Turtles..... We're told the turtles were here first and they are endangered. Well, the pre-existing neighborhoods around Grand Birch were here first and they certainly are endangered.

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Why does this issue of neighborhood compatibility keep coming up again and again? Why are multi million dollar deals and the voice of a neighborhood always diametrically opposed? Because the zoning on the beach is broken. You cannot cobble together pieces of broken zoning from different documents and call it "Level four" or a "development of significant Impact". You cannot build a world-class city when you don't even have a clear definition of the semantics you are arguing about.

Beach

Because we have not adopted the Beach Master plan.

I would like to ask the commissioners to consider these questions as well. How does this building "support" the ideals of sustainable development? For instance, is this project even perusing the idea of becoming a LEED certified building? How does it contribute to the ideals of sustainable development contained within the Visioning

Ft Lauderdale Comp plan.

Plan that was just presented here tonight? How does it contribute to the "Complete Streets" Initiative? How does this project support the ideals and mandates of "Preserving our Intercoastal Waterway Views" ~~with the setbacks it is requesting?~~

Page 23
page

We have a lot at stake here. Five or six major parcels on the beach have changed hands in the past few months. Every body is positioning. Me, I just want it done right.

I feel this project can be successful for everyone if you just defer any decision on the Grand Birch until the developers and the neighborhood and the city can try again to come to a meeting of the minds: ~~I know we can do it.~~ I just ask the commissioners to table any decision on this project until you address the fundamental issues that are at stake here. Thank you.

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The Developer has not made any concessions. I find this disappointing considering the financials.