

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BEACH TRAIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**Joint meeting of the
PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD/LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY
BEACH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
CIVIC LEADERS GROUP
September 12, 2006**

1. ROLL CALL:

Stephen Gingrich	Present
Susan Givens	Present
Daniel Helton	Present
Heidi Horak	Absent
C. Susan Keller	Present (added to agenda)
Parker Lilya	Present
Harry Long	Present
Pam MacIntyre	Present
Joel Manings	Present
Frank McConnell (Vice Chair)	Present
Joe Roberts	Absent
Paul Schiano (Chair)	Present
Robert Shogren	Present
Christopher Sierra	Present
Ruthie Starkey	Present

Chair Paul Schiano announced to the Board the pending sale of his residence in Treasure Island. He stated that if all goes well at closing he will no longer be a resident of Treasure Island and therefore will resign as Chair. Mr. Schiano informed the Board that at the next scheduled P & Z meeting elections will be held for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm and noted that the City Attorney, Maura Kiefer, was absent, and that the City Planner, Lynn Rosetti and Planning Associate Steve DeMerritt were present. Mr. Schiano also introduced new member Stephen Gingrich who was appointed by Commissioner Bildz representing District 4.

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The Chair offered for the benefit of the public a brief explanation of the protocol to be followed for the meeting this evening.

2. BEACH TRAIL:

City Manager, Ralph Stone began the meeting with a thank you to the P & Z Board, and a welcome to all of the Committees in attendance as well as the residents of Treasure Island.

Mr. Stone offered a brief overview of the events beginning with the August 1993 oil spill, the Memorandum of Agreement which was entered into to fund two projects (the first being the Sunset Vista Trailhead Park and the second the Treasure Island Walkway Extension) and the progression of these projects and how we arrived at this point. Mr. Stone discussed the permitting process and the time element involved and the intent to proceed in three phases.

Mr. Stone introduced Mr. Phil Graham whose firm has been working on this project for the past 10 or so months.

Mr. Graham introduced members of his staff, Project Manager Karen Taylor, Alana Schwartz and also representing Delta Seven, Dr. John Cuba and Loren Waters. Mr. Graham then offered a slide presentation beginning with the phases of preparation necessary to begin the planning of the Beach Trail and pictures of some of the cities who now have trails along with their design. He expressed his intent to make the trail more exciting. Mr. Graham reviewed all the areas of the beach from the Johns Pass area to the Sunset Vista Park calling attention to the proposed amenities, the location of the trail path, the planned boardwalk section and the planned concrete section along with the details of construction and materials to be used. He noted that a parking study has also been conducted. Mr. Graham proceeded to discuss the projected costs of each section of the Beach Trail beginning with \$592,600 for the north section, \$1,893,164 for the central section and \$903,604 for the south section. He then offered a brief explanation of the permitting process which could take up to a year, the steps to be followed regarding future meetings and receiving input from the Committees involved.

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The Chair proceeded to open the meeting to public comments and informed all who wished to speak that a time of three minutes would be allotted to each speaker.

Mr. Don McLendon, 12615 Sunshine Lane addressed the Board and expressed his objection to the planned trail because of cost, maintenance and beach preservation.

Ms. Sharon McLendon, 12615 Sunshine Lane, addressed the Board and expressed her objection to the planned beach trail stating costs and beach preservation.

Ms. LeighAnne Hurt, 10237 Tarpon Dr. addressed the Board and expressed her support of the planned beach trail and favored repair of the present trail.

Mr. Robert Rosfeld, 9805 Harrell Ave. addressed the Board and noted that he began a petition of Treasure Island residents in the south area asking their opinion of the planned trail and secured 219 signatures in favor of the south section. He expressed support of the trail and suggested the project begin.

Mr. Richard McLean, 12274 1st St W, addressed the Board and expressed his objection to the planned trail because of costs and prefers that nothing be built on the beach.

Mr. Sid Rice, 47 Dolphin Dr addressed the Board and presented a video which showed the erosion of the beach after hurricane Alberto. He noted the narrowness of the northern section of the beach and although he is not opposed to the trail if done properly he suggested the trail begin at 123rd St.

Mr. Randy Hughes, 200 121st Ave. addressed the Board and expressed his objection to the planned trail because of the narrowness of the beach in the northern section.

Ms. Sue Jacobs, 10024 Gulf Blvd. addressed the Board and expressed her objection to the planned trail because of the intrusiveness and cost.

Ms. Noel Johnson, 9920 Gulf Blvd. addressed the Board and expressed her objection of the planned trail because of beach preservation and the cost of maintenance.

Mr. Kevin Johnson, 9920 Gulf Blvd. addressed the Board and expressed his objection to the planned trail because of beach preservation and costs.

Ms. Lara Valverde, 10692 Gulf Blvd representing Citizens for a Natural Treasure Island Beach addressed the Board and expressed her objection to the planned

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beach trail because of beach preservation and costs, but supports enhancing access points and repair of present trail.

Mr. Rick Perry, 10098 Gulf Blvd. addressed the Board and expressed his concern that Sunset Beach is excluded from this project.

Mr. Manuel Valverde, 10092 Gulf Blvd. addressed the Board and expressed his objection to the planned trail because of costs and maintenance.

Mr. Thomas Larson, 10088 Gulf Blvd addressed the Board and expressed his objection to the planned trail because of beach preservation and intrusiveness.

Mr. Dennis Velasco, 8406 W. Gulf Blvd addressed the Board and expressed his objection to the planned trail because of concerns with erosion causing very steep drop-offs in the southern section but supports repair of central section.

Mr. Harry Black representing the Island Inn property, 9980 Gulf Blvd. addressed the Board and expressed his support of the planned trail and noted after polling his owners they were in support of the trail. He stated that with the cost of a stay in Treasure Island increasing the trail would be an enhancement.

Ms. Susan Stephens, 24 Paradise Lane addressed the Board and expressed her concerns with the cost and suggested taking baby steps in the beach trail planning and repair the present trail.

The Chair invited members of the attending Committees to the podium if they choose to make a statement.

Mr. John Burke, 12405 3rd St, a member of the Beach Stewardship Committee addressed the Board and inquired as to why all the people who stated their love of the beach are not helping with beach clean ups.

Mr. Bob Minning, Beach Stewardship Committee noted the planned meeting of the Committee on September 14th and invited anyone with concerns or questions to attend.

Mr. Charlie Entwistle representing the Paradise Island Civic Association addressed the Board and expressed his concern with obtaining the necessary easements from property owners.

Ms. Dominique Reiter representing the Isle of Capri Civic Association addressed the Board and stated that even though her Association is remaining open minded, she

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would like to see the central trail repaired as planned.

The Chair opened the discussion to Board Members and decided to poll members one at a time for their opinions.

Mr. Helton requested the amount of money spent on this project to date.

Mr. Gingrich questioned the construction timeline.

Mr. Shogren expressed concerns with the cost of maintaining the planned beach trail and suggested starting with a repair of our present trail.

Ms. McIntyre inquired as to what the \$380,000 already on hand will allow in the way of improvements to the present trail and questioned the monies already spent.

The City Manager offered a brief overview of what costs have incurred and how the \$380,000 has been earmarked.

Ms. Giviens expressed her concerns with the extreme cost of the planned trail.

Mr. Lilya agreed that baby steps should be taken and was concerned with costs that were presented as well as costs that could incur.

Ms. Starkey expressed concern with the cost and would like to see the present trail improved.

Mr. McConnell supports the extension of the trail but has major concerns with the cost and questioned the purpose of the Board participation.

The City Planner explained that the Board is acting in an advisory capacity to the City Commission.

Mr. Manings would like to see the present trail improved and has concerns with cost of proposed plan.

Mr. Long expressed concern with overall cost as well as operating costs and questioned the permitting procedure.

The City Planner explained the permitting process.

Ms. Keller would like to see central area improved and stated that there is plenty of

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use of the beach the way it is and perhaps the funds could be better utilized.

Mr. Sierra expressed a concern with the cost of procuring easements from property owners and also the cost of providing private access for beach property owners.

Mr. Schiano expressed a concern for the cost of additional employees to maintain the trail as planned and property owner access to the beach.

The Board continued discussion regarding the planned trail in regard to a more natural trail and the ADA regulations as they pertain to access to public facility and also the funding of the Beach Trail project.

A request was made by Mr. McConnell to have included in the P & Z packets an explanation of the changes made to the definition of family that was previously approved by the Board.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Next meeting of the Planning & Zoning Board will be September 21, 2006 at 2:00 pm.

The LPA meeting will begin at 12:00 pm on September 21, 2006

A J. Sarko
Recording Secretary

Paul Schiano
Chair