

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

December 13, 2000 1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Robert Minning, Barbara Blush, George Greenfield, Sully Lowe, Dennis Velasco, Chuck Coward, Rick Raus; Richard Davis, USF; Cliff Truitt, Coastal Tech.

Chairman Robert Minning called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:35 PM in the City Hall Auditorium at 120 - 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida

1. The draft minutes of the November 8, 2000 meeting had been distributed to the members for review. After discussion, and on appropriate motion, the minutes were accepted as drafted.
2. During discussion of the section of the November minutes describing dune revegetation work being proposed by "Dune Doctors," Dr. Greenfield noted that Hurricane Gordon had pushed water through gaps in the existing dune line resulting in substantial flooding. He suggested that while dune planting and "sand fences" were positive steps, more proactive measures might be necessary at several locations such as placing sand fill in the obvious low spots or dune gaps. After further Committee discussion it was agreed to ask the City Public Works staff to identify such problem areas that they were aware of and to have "Dune Doctors" include filling and/or other structural measures in their scope of work.
3. The north groin project has reached completion and the County is in the process of settling the final costs with the Contractor. There was Committee discussion of several issues related to the groin. Don Hambidge had received a call from an annual visitor about the apparent lack of handicap access. Access to the groin walkway requires crossing a portion of the sandy beach. Chuck Coward noted that the City has a special beach wheelchair available without charge for use in such cases. A handicapped beach user need only call and request the chair and the City will make it available at a specific time and location. It was suggested that a sign be placed at the groin walkway stating this special chair availability and noting the phone number. Litter has become a problem with the increased use of the groin/park area. Public Works will place additional trash cans at the site. There was further discussion of the beach south of the groin and observations that sand is beginning to bypass around the groin into the pass indicating that the groin's "trapping" potential is probably reaching it's maximum.
4. Copies of the third draft of the Beach Management Plan were distributed to Committee members. This draft corrects some earlier errors and incorporates wording changes and suggestions provided by reviewers in November. The first issue discussed was the funding section. A detailed discussion of various funding options was included in the first draft, but it has been eliminated from this version. It was felt that funding options should be identified by the Committee as a separate task and a recommendation made to the City Commission independent

of the more technically-oriented management plan. There was discussion again about the recommendation for monitoring surveys and how it relates to the County and USF monitoring. Mr. Terry was not present to explain the details, but Dr. Davis indicated that the present USF contract would expire this coming summer. A survey is scheduled for January. Several Committee members reinforced the importance of the monitoring in implementing elements of the management plan and felt that the City should be prepared to take on the responsibility if other resources are not available. Further coordination with the County and Corps is needed.

It was decided by the Committee members that their review comments on this draft would be due to Don Hambidge by January 5, 2001 for transmittal to Cliff by January 12th. The final revisions will be returned to Don by January 31.

5. Chuck Coward noted that the City Commission had passed a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with Pinellas County to reimburse the City for expenses incurred during preparation of the City beach management plan and for design and permitting of a future 'sand sharing' project. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved by the Committee to request that the Commission approve a notice to proceed for Coastal Tech to begin the sand sharing project design.

6. Because of the non-availability of the auditorium in January and the timing of the completion of the management plan final draft, it was decided not to meet in January.

7. Remarks by members.

Barbara Blush noted that four residences on Sunset Beach seemed to have installed sand fencing on their dunes, apparently without securing state or local permits. Discussion concluded that fencing may offer some benefits in dune building, although the results here are not nearly as significant as in areas with high rates of wind transported sand. In addition, some types of fencing and placement configurations have the potential for negatively impacting marine turtle nesting, so permit review is important. The City will follow-up with these property owners.

There were no further member remarks or suggestions.

7. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for February 7, 2001 at 1:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.