

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

February 7, 2001

1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Robert Minning, Barbara Blush, George Greenfield, Dennis Velasco, Don Hambidge; Jim Terry, Pinellas County; 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 December 13, 2000 meeting were not available. There had been no Committee meeting in January because of on-going renovations at City Hall. The December minutes will be included with the minutes for February and considered at the March meeting.
2. Jim Terry was asked the status of the interlocal agreement between the City and Pinellas County for cost reimbursement of City-sponsored work. He indicated that the Board of County Commissioners had approved the agreement on February 6th. A focus of the approved scope of work is to develop the preliminary plans and obtain permits for a sand transfer project which, by design, would remove sand from mid-island and move it to other, more eroded areas. In approving the interlocal agreement, the Board of County Commissioners discussed and conditioned their approval on having the affected upland property owners at the potential mid-island borrow site agree to the project. This condition led to general discussion of ownership issues and a recommendation that the City Attorney likely will need to research the property rights questions and provide some guidance as the project progresses. Mr. Terry also noted that no additional funds are available in his budget for Treasure Island following reimbursement for the work proposed in the agreement.
3. Copies of the final draft of the Beach Management Plan had been mailed to Committee members for review. Chairman Minning asked for any comments and/or suggested revisions. None were forthcoming, so Dr. Greenfield moved to submit the draft plan to the Treasure Island City Commission with a Committee recommendation for acceptance. After second by Mr. Velasco, the Committee approved the motion unanimously. The Committee then discussed the next steps in the plan's implementation. Dr. Truitt will review the plan's recommendations and identify those which will require additional input and/or work by the Committee and staff, versus those elements which will be accomplished as an outgrowth of developing plans, specs, and permits for the sand sharing project.
4. Don Hambidge reported that "Dune Doctors" staff had visited the City and completed a draft report describing existing beach conditions, suitable types of vegetation and possible use of sand fencing. It was recommended that the Committee hold an evening meeting in order for residents to hear the Dune Doctors report and ask questions. Subsequent discussion identified a number of questions and concerns which they might address including seasonal windows for

successful planting and the use of elevated dune walkovers rather than on-grade access points. Mr. Velasco noted that there has been significant wind-blown sand accumulation already and was concerned that the opportunity for dune building might have been lost. The County already has ordered plants for its program and for some of the other municipalities. The Committee voted to hold a special meeting at 6:30 PM on February 28, 2001 pending confirmation with Dune Doctors and room arrangements.

5. Remarks by members.

Dr. Truitt described a project that Longboat Key in Sarasota had completed several years ago involving the development of a "Beach Maintenance Manual for Homeowners and Property Managers." The booklet addressed many of the same issues about vegetation, beach access and marine turtle protection. He provided copies of the manual to the Committee and suggested that it might be an appropriate follow-on task for the Committee and/or Dune Doctors to pursue after adoption of the Beach Management Plan.

Barbara Blush provided copies of information about preservation of dune areas which a resident had sent her for the Committee to review. She also reported that the person who was going to assist in developing web links to the Committee's information was still committed to another project - she is pursuing additional help.

Dr. Greenfield noted that the newspaper had mentioned a project of some type proposing a concrete walkway along the northern beach. None of the Committee members were aware of any details or other definitive information about the proposal. It was felt that such a walkway could be a successful amenity, but potential impacts to the beach, dunes and adjoining residences should be considered before allowing the project to proceed.

Dr. Greenfield also suggested that Treasure Island residents might respond favorably to some type of unique residents' automobile tag or decal. He described the oval metal tags used as international "Country IDs" as one possible example. The goal would be to promote residents' identity, pride and awareness.

There were no further member remarks or suggestions.

7. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for March 14, 2001 at 1:30. A special meeting on dune restoration will be held on February 28, 2001 at 6:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.