

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

December 11, 2002

1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Robert Minning, George Greenfield, Sully Lowe, Barbara Blush, Chuck Coward, Rick Raus; Cliff Truitt, Coastal Tech;

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

1. There were no additions or changes to the proposed agenda.
2. The draft minutes of the November 13, 2002 meeting had been distributed prior to this meeting. Upon appropriate motion the minutes were approved as drafted.
3. Chuck Coward reported on his follow-up to the Committee discussion in November on the Trailhead Park dune restoration and landscape planting. The possibility had been discussed of using volunteers to assist with the park work to gain citizen support through participation and some 'hands-on' planting knowledge. Chuck said that the main section of the park was already under construction and the Contractor felt that having citizens actually working on the construction site during his normal work time would present potential liability and contract completion issues. However, the Contractor was receptive to planning a special "education day" at some point to show volunteer 'observers' basically how the planting was done. He also was willing to build a citizens' planting day into his work schedule for the dune restoration work on the second phase project for the two properties south of the main park. Barbara Blush asked how many people might be accommodated for the citizens' planting day. Chuck said he did not know for sure, but expected it would be on the order of 6 to 8 – about the size of the Committee. Commissioner Blush said that she had once participated in a planting day at Pass-a-Grille beach and felt that smaller groups of that size would be better than very large ones. There was discussion of who might benefit, including the volunteer education piece trainers, and a suggestion to perhaps expand to two days.
4. Robert Minning reported on discussions and Email with Andrea Henning at Paradigm Learning and Susan DiBona with the Sunset Homeowner's Association about the education piece rollout. The February meeting of the Homeowners Association had been proposed last month as the rollout date, but it appears that the January 6, 2003 meeting is a better choice at the request of the Association. Susan DiBona will meet tonight with the Association Board and confirm the agenda and other details, but the rollout is expected to be January 6th at 6:30 PM in the Community Center. Arrangements will be made to accommodate up to about 90 people at 'small group' tables suitable for the map/game. Treasure Island-TV will carry announcements about the meeting; it will be in the Association newsletter and meeting notice; Commissioner Blush will announce it at the Commission's December 19th Special Meeting; and, Paradigm will

handle publicity with local press. Paradigm will also bring their trainers and take the lead at this first meeting, with our volunteer trainers assisting.

There was additional discussion of a suggestion by Paradigm that some type of mascot or 'symbol' representing the project be developed to provide more focus and identity. A sea turtle mascot was discussed, but no immediate consensus was reached.

Mr. Minning detailed a breakdown Andrea Henning had provided of Paradigm's direct costs to date associated with developing the maps. The costs were largely printing charges for the full-size table maps, the card decks and 'take-away' map sheets. The total is about \$3,700 and Don Hambidge is in the process of preparing a Purchase Order to allow them to be reimbursed.

Discussion continued about what other resources and 'sign-up' type activities should be at the rollout. It was noted that Harry Hickson has announced that he wants to 'retire' as head of his volunteer beach clean-up group. It was suggested that he be invited to the meeting – perhaps in hope of recruiting additional volunteers and/or a replacement leader. It was also suggested that the officers of other homeowners' groups be invited to see the learning activity that might later be offered to their groups. Sully Lowe suggested inviting Dennis Jones because of his past interest in beach stewardship. Robert Minning will also confirm with Paradigm that they are planning on some level of evaluation/feedback on the program by participants as was done after the pilot presentation.

5. Cliff Truitt reported on the status of the Sand Sharing project permit application. The State DEP staff had acknowledged that although the completed response package from Coastal Tech had been received in October, some internal departmental error had resulted in the materials not reaching the review staff person until the 29th day of the 30 days allowed by law for agency review. Rather than request additional time from the applicant to do a comprehensive review, the staff had hastily put together a 'pro forma' response which was largely contained the same issues as the initial review last August. Cliff indicated that he would prepare a response letter to DEP by the end of this week, essentially re-submitting the same material in order to keep the review 'time-clock' back in the agency.

6. Committee Member Remarks:

Dr. Greenfield commented on the discussion at the November meeting about the beach trail extension and remarks reported in the minutes to the effect that there had already been some residents' concern expressed about the extensions. He felt that one issue was the potential for exacerbating already existing conflicts associated with having both bicycle and pedestrian uses on the same path. He provided Chuck Coward with a brochure describing a similar trail along Chicago's Oak Street Beach and said he had used the trail and their design seemed to work very well.

Robert Minning said that he had received a call from some residents wanting to report the destruction of some sea oats in their neighborhood. In the process of following-up with the City staff and the FDEP representative, there had been some discussion of the Committee's role in such matters. It is not within the purview of the Committee to get directly involved in

enforcement issues; the State and/or the City Code Enforcement staff should handle these situations. However, there seems to be a role for the Committee as an educational forum to help explain to the public the laws, codes and enforcement procedures. Chuck Coward agreed with this idea and will coordinate presenting informational sessions at the Committee's March and April meetings on how the City manages the beach including Code issues and the turtle protection ordinance.

The Chairman also reported on the status of the Beach Maintenance fund in response to a question last month. As of September 30, 2002 the fund had a balance of approximately \$585,000. Projections for the next year include an additional \$112,500 in revenue and \$197,000 in expenses, for a net projected balance at the end of FY 2003 of about \$500,000. The projected expense includes about \$78,000 to pay the Pavilion staff as the City Commission had directed. The projected balance is within the 'ballpark' amount the Committee had originally discussed as a reserve fund to form the core of emergency funding for a sand sharing project if it ever became necessary.

Barbara Blush reported that the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council had an announcement out calling for 'projects' to be nominated for environmental and other awards. She felt that the Committee should be nominated for our work and will take the lead in getting the necessary forms and information together.

There were no further remarks.

7. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for January 8, 2003 at 1:30

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.