

## City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

April 10, 2002

1:30 PM

Revised May 8, 2002

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Robert Minning, George Greenfield, Sully Lowe, Dennis Velasco, Barbara Blush, Sid Rice, Don Hambidge; Jim Terry, Pinellas County; Cliff Truitt, Coastal Tech;

PUBLIC: Ray Green

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. The draft minutes of the February 13, 2002 meeting had not been distributed and a motion was approved to postpone review until the May meeting.
2. The City staff had received correspondence from the Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) soliciting input and/or applications for State funding for beach activities under the Florida Beach Erosion Control Program (BECP). Jim Terry was asked if there was anything the City should do to respond. Mr. Terry explained that this was the typical annual request from FDEP and he was in the process of preparing the response for the entire County. He noted that the Sunset Beach maintenance planned for 2003 was already included in the *current* year's program and, therefore, nothing would be needed/included for Treasure Island in the funding cycle covered by the letter (2003-2004). Dennis Velasco asked that Jim clarify the "2003" date for Sunset. Jim said that the plans were being prepared for the "1<sup>st</sup> quarter" of 2003, but nothing more specific could be said at this time. He further confirmed that the borrow source for both Upham and Sunset Beach for 2003 is Pass-a-Grille pass. Discussion continued about possibly asking for previously appropriated but un-used State money to fund additional sand to fill-in the offshore borrow area dredged in 1969 as hypothesized at the March meeting. Mr. Velasco also asked Jim about funding for the recent Egmont Key project and had there been any Federal participation. Mr. Terry described how there must be a clearly defined "Federal interest" in any project in order to receive funds and that link had not been made for the Egmont project.
3. Jim Terry reported on a request he has already made for State BECP funds to construct "T-head" groins as a possible alternative to address the very high erosion losses at Upham Beach. There was discussion about how such structures might be useful on Treasure Island to address some of the localized erosion 'hot spots'. Specific mention was made of an increasing erosion problem along a section of Sunshine beach near Cedar Sands (123<sup>rd</sup> to 121<sup>st</sup> Avenue) as noted in a letter from Mr. McLean. Barbara Blush confirmed that she had noticed how narrow the beach was at that location during a recent trip with the turtle patrol and Code Enforcement staff. Jim Terry will follow-up with USF to get the most recent survey data for review. It might be possible to include some additional fill in the 2003 maintenance.

4. Cliff Truitt had prepared two draft dune planting schematics and discussed them along with some brochure-type dune protection/restoration information already available from FDEP. Following some general discussion and comments, Dennis Velasco introduced Ray Green, a Treasure Island property owner, who was in the audience. Mr. Green's consulting firm has assisted their clients with a number of market-type surveys, questionnaires and similar programs and he volunteered his resources to help with any future work on developing public support for a dune restoration project. Mr. Green spoke about the need to engage the residents and inform/educate them about the importance and role of dunes as part of the beach's "defense." Discussion among Committee members, and with Mr. Green, continued about the history of previous efforts, the differing perspectives of groups on the island (Sunset, Sunshine and the commercial section) and the goals for any further work.

Dennis Velasco suggested that the Committee accept Mr. Green's offer of assistance and try a survey again. Jim Terry noted that dunes in Pass-a-Grille were bulldozed down along the original public beach and the area suffered years of serious erosion until a later beach and dune restoration project. Since that time, the beach has remained very stable and not required any appreciable maintenance. Barbara Blush related that a North Carolina community's dune project, which was presented in a paper at the last FSBPA conference, had limited public support until three storms hit the area in a short period of time. The storms turned out to be the motivating factor. Mr. Green was asked if it would be better to 'target' only Sunset Beach (or, even just the Gulf-fronting owners) because they had both the greater need as well as (apparently) more positive interest. He replied that in general he would prefer to approach all property owners; but if targeting a smaller group would result in faster and more positive results, then that could be done, too. Mr. Minning asked how we would start and noted that both residential beach areas have homeowners' associations. Mr. Green said he would start with some type of education piece and he would expect the program to take about 3 months. It was suggested that a 'task force' from the Committee, consisting of Robert Minning, Dennis Velasco, Don Hambidge and Cliff Truitt, meet with Mr. Green. Don Hambidge said that he would draft a memo to the City Commission asking for their concurrence before scheduling any follow-up meetings.

5. Cliff Truitt reported on the status of the permit application. The 30 days in which the State can respond with any requests for additional information and/or clarifications will expire within the next few days and we expect their letter by the week of April 15<sup>th</sup>. Coastal Tech will review the requests and start to prepare responses immediately.

6. Committee Member Remarks:

Barbara Blush reported that she had been on the beach twice recently with Code Enforcement staff and that the department was working proactively with owners and residents to improve problem conditions such as turtle-impacting lighting.

7. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for May 8, 2002 at 1:30

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.