

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

January 8, 2003

1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Robert Minning, George Greenfield, Sully Lowe, Dennis Velasco, Rick Raus; Cliff Truitt, Coastal Tech;

Chairman Robert Minning called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:38 PM in the City Hall auditorium, 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida.

1. The draft minutes of the December 11, 2002 meeting had been distributed prior to this meeting. Upon appropriate motion the minutes were approved as drafted.
2. There were no additions or changes to the proposed agenda.
3. Robert Minning reported on the 'roll-out' of the beach revegetation education piece with the Sunset Homeowner's Association. Paradigm Learning's staff presented the program at the January 6, 2003 meeting of the Association in the Community Center. We estimate that between 50 and 55 people were present and participated in the map game. The general impression of the Committee members who were present was that participants became very engaged in the activity and seemed to enjoy it. Observers also felt that we could strengthen the "call for action" at the end of the program and give future groups more specific direction on what they might do to implement some response to the leaning piece. Future presentations will be arranged for the other homeowners' groups on the island, the commercial associations, and at Mayor Atkins' suggestion, an "at large" meeting.

Dennis Velasco agreed with the need for a stronger call for action and suggested that we might re-visit the Sunset homeowners at a future date, especially following the Corps's maintenance fill placement scheduled for this summer. Parts of the beach are so narrow now, and with disruption expected during the fill placement, I would be better to wait until the Corps' construction is finished.

Dr. Greenfield read excerpts of a newspaper article and a 'call for volunteers' to plant sea oats at Fred Howard Park, north of Tarpon Springs. The article also described a planned talk by the local chapter president of the Florida Native Plant Society. There was discussion by Committee members about a similar call for volunteers and perhaps a similar speakers program in addition to the Paradigm map game. Rick Raus was asked if the City had heard any more from NOAA about the status of the second Trailhead Park grant application and he replied that he had not.

Dr. Greenfield asked several questions about potential planting on the north end at Sunshine Beach and said that the dunes in that area are already in pretty good shape. It was noted in the subsequent discussion that there is no City-wide plan or project being proposed. If the residents in the area were satisfied with the existing conditions, then presumably nothing would need to be

done, although the aeriels seem to show some small sections that might be ‘reinforced’ with additional plants at some future time. Dennis Velasco noted that developing such a list/plan for reinforcing any existing bare spots could constitute the “call for action” for that homeowners association.

Lastly, it was noted that the Paradigm map boards, card decks and other game materials had been turned over to the City and Public Works will store them between uses.

4. Cliff Truitt reported on the status of the Sand Sharing project permit application. Follow-up contact with Rick McMillen at the Corps of Engineers indicates that the District staff has reviewed the proposal and will not object to FDEP processing the permit. Further review and work remains to be done in order to get the permit approved, but this concurrence will allow a Public Notice to be published and the process to move forward.

5. Committee Member Remarks:

Dr. Greenfield read an “interest item” about several recent bay beach closures by the health departments because of bacteria concentrations. He observed that such water quality problems could, and perhaps have arisen in the Gulf because of overflow from manholes during severe rainfall events.

Rick Raus said that Barbara Blush was out of town, but had left a draft of the application for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council environmental awards and asked for any input, and especially photos that might accompany it. A suggestion was made to include some photos taken at the Sunset Homeowners’ Association meeting.

There were no further remarks.

7. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for February 12, 2003 at 1:30

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.