

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

July 9, 2003

1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Robert Minning, Barbara Blush, Rick Raus; Cliff Truitt, Coastal Tech;

Also present: Heidi Horak, Barbara Schmidt

Chairman Robert Minning called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:40 PM in the City Hall auditorium, 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida.

1. The draft minutes of the June 11, 2003 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Dr. Truitt noted that he had incorrectly described the limits of the proposed Corps fill [page 2, first paragraph]. Rather than the fill extending from R-140 through R-143, the minutes should be revised to the effect that fill would be placed centered on R-140 and extending north and south as needed based on pre-project surveys at the time. Upon appropriate motion the minutes were approved as amended.
2. Without objection Heidi Horak's request to speak to the Committee was added to the agenda.
3. Heidi Horak noted that a few months ago she had asked the Committee about adding to the Beach Management Plan one or more elements that would address aspects of wildlife conservation. The Committee felt that the enabling resolution was broad enough to include such considerations, but a letter to the City Commission asking for their input will be drafted and forwarded. There was discussion among members and Ms. Horak about the scope of the tasks and the resources to accomplish any necessary research or writing. A suggestion was made and agreed upon to review and possibly use the pending US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Biological Opinion as the framework for consideration of wildlife in the Beach Plan. Cliff will forward the Biological Opinion when it is completed by USFWS. She also stated that she would like to see the plan consider potential cumulative impacts – minor activities, each of which has limited effect on wildlife, but which multiply over time.

Ms. Horak provided the Committee with copies of a Ft. Myers Beach's Beach and Dune Management Ordinance which prohibits private fireworks of the beach. She also provided a fact sheet on the Florida Coastal Zone Management's "Waterfront Florida Partnership Program.

4. Rick Raus displayed a map showing the designated swim vs. boating zones in the City and discussed the activities allowed in each area. From the jetty to about 121st Avenue is designated "boating," but at idle speed-no wake. From 121st through the County Park is a "swim only" zone out to 300 +/- feet – no boats, jet skis or even kayaks or surfboards are allowed in "swim only" zones. From 104th Avenue to about 100th is a "free zone;" boats are allowed and can approach

the beach with caution. From 100th to Weckesser Park (90th) is “swim only.” From the park to Access No. 3 is “boating – idle speed-no wake.” From the Access to 77th Avenue is “Swim only.” And, from 77th to Blind Pass is “boating – idle speed-no wake.” Rick noted that the Public Works staff checks seasonally for missing buoys, damaged markers, etc. Each spring the buoys are removed and cleaned to remove barnacles and other growth. In response to questions and discussion, Rick said that enforcement is provided by Marine Patrol officers and information about the zones can be found at Code Enforcement or Public Works. It was suggested that copies of the map might be placed at hotels and motels.

5. Cliff Truitt reported on the status of the Sand Sharing project permit application. The Biological Opinion from the US Fish and Wildlife Service has been completed and a draft returned to the Corps for review and comment. As soon as the Corps accepts it, we will receive a copy and the contents will determine our approach to returning to the FDEP permitting and addressing their issues.

6. Committee Member Remarks:

Barbra Blush said that she had seen the Corps surveyors on Sunset Beach recently. The “Fact Finding” program/biological assessment for Eleanor Island is complete and the results will be presented to the Commission. The existing buildings on the additional property acquired south of Trail Head Vista Park are being demolished and the area cleared. This work will need to be completed before the dune restoration can proceed. Someone had asked her about the environmental signage along the beach being ‘missing.’ Some of the signs were loosening from their pedestals, so all of them were removed temporarily to re-design the supports. They all will be replaced as soon as that is finished. She also related some observations from a recent vacation to Turtle Bay on Oahu, including the history of a trucked fill beach that performed well for many years until an unusually severe winter storm with 30-50 foot waves suddenly eroded the beach fill and covered an offshore reef, destroying turtle foraging habitat.

There were no further remarks.

7. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for August 13, 2003 at 1:30

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.