

## City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

June 9, 2004

1:30 PM

*As amended July 20, 2004*

COMMITTEE PRESENT: George Greenfield, Denis Velasco, Alan Bildz, Ruth Philipon, Rick Raus; Cliff Truitt, Coastal Tech.

In the absence of Chairman Robert Minning, Vice-Chairman George Greenfield called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:35 PM in the City Hall auditorium, 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida. Following the Call to Order, Dr. Greenfield introduced Ruth Philipon who is filling the Committee vacancy created by the resignation of Sully Lowe.

1. The draft minutes of the May 12, 2004 meeting had been distributed and reviewed by the Committee members. Upon appropriate motion the minutes were approved as drafted.
2. Without objection the Committee added an agenda item to discuss the general status and direction of the Stewardship Committee.
3. Committee members discussed the Committee's role in various beach-related projects and issues as raised in a letter from Bob Minning to the City Commission. Dr. Greenfield mentioned a recent article in the newspaper that described a number of diverse 'environmental issues' such as water pollution, wildlife impacts, over-development, and lack of recreation access – all of which could have beach-related parallels on Treasure Island. Dr. Greenfield suggested that the Committee recommend to the City Commission that ~~we work with the Planning, Zoning and Building Department to help identify potential impacts from proposed development or construction~~ *all beach related activities be within the purview of the Committee. The suggestion was approved unanimously by the Committee members.* There was additional discussion about planning a volunteer dune planting program again.
4. Rick Raus presented an update on the Request for Proposals (RFP) to retain an environmental consultant to conduct the baseline ecosystem data collection for future use in an expanded Beach Management Plan. The selection sub-committee consisting of Rick, Dr. Greenfield, Don Hambidge and Cliff Truitt had met, reviewed the submittals in detail and narrowed the original list to three firms. These three firms will be notified that they were 'short listed' for the project and asked to make presentations to the Committee at the July meeting.
5. Cliff Truitt updated the Committee on the Sand Sharing Project permit application. The most recent response from the FDEP was not favorable about approving the application. Coastal Tech is trying to arrange a conference call with FDEP and City staff to discuss how to proceed.

6. Committee Member Remarks:

Alan Bildz provided copies of an article and fact sheet from the Audubon Society about nesting tern habitat. Among the issues described is the significance of gravel-covered building roofs as an important substitute for lost natural habitat areas and that Audubon was focusing on preserving and adding natural habitat. Alan noted that a few years ago areas on the beach started being set aside and 'roped off' for nesting, but the areas are not marked this year. He suggested, and the Committee agreed, that we invite a representative from Audubon to speak at one of our meetings. Rick Raus noted that the City had been told not to place the stakes and tape this year because it identified the nests as an 'attraction.'

Alan also mentioned a Commission discussion about alternate routes for the beach trail and Dr. Greenfield noted that the route could be connected to the Pinellas Trail which will cross the new bridge. Mr. Bildz further discussed the need to publicize Treasure Island to potential visitors, both for commercial reasons and as a recreational/environmental 'jewel.' He suggested looking for ways to tie into the publicity and visibility that will continue to result from the Stanley Cup playoffs and Tampa's win. A motion supporting that suggestion was made and approved unanimously.

Ruth Philipon was welcomed again and asked if she had any remarks. She said that she often observed a gentleman walking along the beach who carries a bag and picks up other peoples trash, and she hoped we could find a way to recognize and encourage such efforts. Dr. Greenfield agreed and said that raising awareness about keeping the beach cleaner was one of our goals.

There were no further remarks.

7. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for July 14, 2004 at 1:30  
The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.