

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

October 10, 2007

1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Dennis Velasco, Robert Minning, John Burke, George Greenfield, Rick Raus; Cliff Truitt, Coastal Tech.

Public Present: Heidi Horak

Chairman Dennis Velasco called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:34 PM in the City Hall auditorium, 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida.

1. The draft minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting had been distributed and reviewed by the Committee members. It was noted that Mary Daughtry's name was inadvertently left off the list of Committee members present. Upon appropriate motion, the minutes were approved as corrected.
2. Without objection the Agenda was changed to afford Heidi Horak an opportunity to address the Committee.
3. Ms. Horak said that she was concerned about some of the proposed uses for the expected NOAA grant money. She was very much in favor of finalizing whatever information NOAA needed to release the money to the City, but questioned some of the specific details of the City's plans. She was especially concerned about the use of the 3-foot markers in the Phil Graham plan proposed to mark the locations of beach access points; it was felt that these and similar features were in conflict with other efforts to emphasize historical elements of the City of Treasure Island. Other design features in the plan that she questioned included the addition of substantial new lighting, both from the perspective of energy conservation and the contribution to general light 'pollution;' the proposed use of 'specialty concrete' – typically colored and/or 'stamped' pavement - in that it would look bad in a very short time and contribute to visual 'clutter;' and, the use of very traditional signage for the educational component. In this regard, she mentioned a "GO" travel magazine that had a recent story on the use of POD-casts and other wireless local area network technology [Wi-Fi] that could be used to convey the information. There was also further discussion with the Committee about the need for keeping the walkway on the south end of the island, which Ms. Horak felt was used by a very limited group of residents, if at all.
4. Cliff Truitt was asked about the status of the work to establish an Erosion Control Line (ECL) or other ownership instrument as a requirement for the Sand Sharing project. In August Committee members had agreed unanimously to suggest that the Mayor send a letter to Mike Sole, the FDEP Secretary. As of the present meeting, no response had been received from the Department and it was agreed that City staff would follow-up to see where the Department was on a solution.

5. Committee Member Remarks:

John Burke announced the details of next Saturday beach clean-up.

Dennis Velasco went over details for the next dune planting project on October 27th. Parking plans and sending volunteers in two groups to the planting sites were discussed. Bob Minning and Rick Raus added other information including that the FDEP's local permit representative had been contacted about the work. Also, final plant numbers were discussed – 1000 sea oat liners and 600 gallon-sized sea oats, along with 800 other varieties are expected.

Robert Minning reported on several items including that the Elnor Island clean-up contract had been approved and the selected contractor, Biological Research Associates, would be submitting a schedule to staff in the next week. He also mentioned the NOAA grant and said that the City Manager had received a verbal agreement from NOAA – some type of Memorandum of Agreement might be the best way to get the money released while keeping the details of the final design flexible and within staff discretion.

Commissioner Minning also provided both an overview and detailed information about bacteriological testing done over the past several months by the Health Department on local Gulf water samples. The issue has received a lot of public attention because some test results appeared to exceed criteria for specific pollutants, including fecal coliform. One key element of the discussion is that a single 'high' reading from one sampling event can skew the results for several weeks because it continues to be counted in a moving average. Commissioner Minning has taken several water samples himself, as well as had duplicate Health Department samples tested independently, and there does not seem to be a persistent, long-term concern. The results do show a lot of variability. George Greenfield asked several follow-up questions and Committee members discussed the situation.

Rick Raus reported that the dune walkover construction package was out for bids with a closing date of October 24th.

There were no further remarks.

6. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for November 14, 2007 at 1:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35.