

CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BEACH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2007 at 1:30 PM

A meeting of the Beach Stewardship Committee was held on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at 1:30 in the City of Treasure Island Auditorium.

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Commissioner Robert Minning, Dennis Velasco, John Burke, Rick Raus, and Nicole Elko from Pinellas County. COMMITTEE ABSENT: Cliff Truit, Coastal Tech, George Greenfield, and Lisa Martinez-Romano.

Dennis Velasco, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

The draft minutes of the meeting of August had been distributed and reviewed by the Committee members. Upon appropriate motion, the minutes were approved as drafted.

The Chairman asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Minning stated he had items to go over, but he would hold until Comments. The Sand Sharing Report will be given by Nicole Elko in Cliff Truit's absence. Since Nicole was running late, the agenda item regarding sea oat planting will be moved ahead of Sand Sharing.

A discussion took place as to where the sea oats would be planted. Dennis Velasco reviewed the outline previously completed by the Committee. He stated that the Sunset Chateau was the first item on the outline which had been completed and was successful. The next item on the outline is the Island Inn. Commissioner Minning stated he had contacted Harry Black, Manager, regarding approval for the planting, however, Mr. Black has not responded. Commissioner Minning did speak with an owner of a unit at the Island Inn, and he was enthusiastic. He will call Harry Black again and offer to attend a meeting outlining the plans for the plantings including a pathway at the Inn's access to the beach and various paths through the dunes.

Mary Daughtry suggested planting at the City's property/easement just south of Caddy's. She stated she felt the previous plantings were too sparse and more plants should be added. She felt this would deter people from walking on them. It was also suggested that more signage be installed. It was suggested approximately 50 more signs are needed for the sea oats. The signs were provided by Ray Green previously, and Dennis Velasco will contact that sign company regarding pricing.

Other areas considered for planting are the primary dune at 10098 Gulf Blvd, the Perry residence, at Wekesser Park (Lot4), and the Sand Pebble. Previous plantings in the Sunshine Beach area were not successful since most of the sea oats were trampled. John Burke suggested a more defined planting area and Nicole stated that temporary flagging may also help against this type of problem. Rick Raus then recommended the railroad vine and the other plants to be provided would be disbursed between the previous sea

oats planting. Nicole stated the other plants would enhance and provide the dunes with color, but sea oats should be the primary plant in any dune system.

Commissioner Minning felt that the home owner at 10098 Gulf Blvd be contacted prior to any planting. Since a pathway has been cut through the existing dune, provide the owners with the reason for the dune and suggest they walk over the dune instead of cutting through it. It was then decided that the Island Inn and Wekesser Park be completed and the Committee will review the Sand Pebble and the private residence. The plantings will also include the easement area at the south of Caddy's.

Definite distribution areas and number of plants per area will be outlined after the Committee's review of all the area has been completed.

The dune walkovers were then discussed at length. Dennis Velasco wanted clarification as to the advantage of the dune walkovers. Nicole stated there were basically several schools of thought about the walkovers. There are those that do not like the walkovers specifically the "turtle people" who feel that after a storm, the walkovers collect debris; and if a turtle hits anything, it will become disoriented and turn away. The dunes do grow over the walkover and increase maintenance but they are a direct public access to the beach without any destruction to the dunes.

Rick gave an update on the dune walkovers. He stated he identified 3 specific areas in Sunset Beach. He presented them to the City Manager; and the interlocal agreement with Pinellas County will be discussed at this evening Commission Meeting. It will then be 2 weeks for the Commission to approve the contract. When the contract is received from the County, selection of contractors may then begin

After considerable discussion, it was recommended that only 1 walkover be constructed north of the Sunset Chateau. The other 2 will not be completed due to resident concerns and the fact that Nicole stated a walkover would not be necessary if the traffic patterns do not indicate a need for the walkovers, which is indeed the case. Nicole advised the Committee the grant would also be available for any walkovers that needed to be removed, but after discussion, no walkover fit into that criteria. Nicole suggested completing the contract as is to encumber the money and the City will have a year to either use it or loose it She informed the Committee the money would be available in the future, however, due to budgetary constraints the funds may not be as generous.

Nicole gave an update on the Sand Sharing program. A letter from Mayor Maloof to the Secretary of the DEP was distributed to the Committee members. Apparently the conflict is within DEP between their lawyers and the State Land people. Nicole stated that she and Cliff received numerous emails in anticipation of this letter asking various questions, which they have answered many times before. To date, she has not heard anything else. She did advise the members that she and Commissioner Bildz were able to speak to Mike Barnett, Director of the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, and he stated he didn't have an answer yet, but to be sure they are working on it.

Commissioner Minning asked Nicole regarding the interlocal agreement between St. Petersburg and Treasure Island. She advised him that Attorney Maura Kieffer requested they send to her all the attachments. Cliff did send her these attachments and work will go forward from there.

Remarks from the Committee: John Burke stated the beach clean-up for the north and central part of Treasure Island took place on September 8th with 20 people in attendance. They picked up 255 pounds of trash.

Mary Daughtry brought an interesting article from the St Pete Times of September 7th with a story of a gentleman who maintains the beach property in front of the Envoy Point Condo where he lives. She stated it was a terrific idea for a private citizen to take the initiative to care for the property and more people should do it.

Commissioner Minning gave an update on Elnor Island Project. He advised the Committee that Lynn has a draft of a contract to be executed by the vegetation removal company. She will ask the City Attorney to approve it, and she will send it out. Commissioner Minning anticipates by the next meeting the contract should have been brought before the Commission for approval and a timetable will be able to be put together as to when vegetation removal/killing of trees can be completed and the volunteers can begin to clean-up.

He also gave an update on the \$365,000 grant from NOAH for the trails and trying to get additional work from that grant. He met with them approximately 2 weeks ago, and they drove through parts and walked through parts of the area. He is still waiting for word back from them as to their thoughts and what we will need to submit in written form. In answer to Dennis' question regarding use for the mid-island section, Commissioner Minning explained the NOAH grant cannot be used for the mid-island section. This criterion was incorporated into the agreement and the key component of the grant is to increase access to the beach and visibility to beach access points.

He spoke with the Department of Public Works regarding repair/replacement of the beach walk wall. The cost for repair would be approximately \$3,000 with replacement of wooden slats where the concrete is either missing or damaged. To replace the wall with concrete would be in excess of \$750,000.

He stated that over the Treasure Island email, an advisory remains in effect for the Treasure Island beaches. He spoke with the Health Department at the County and they explained the process to him. The samples are taken from the St. Pete Beach area every Tuesday and results should be back on Wednesday. If the criteria are too high, a re-reading is done on Thursday. They stated there is an extreme fluctuation from Tuesday to Thursday, and they are looking into a cause and effect for this situation.

Rick Raus gave an update on the grant from FDOT for replacement of walk-overs and boat ramps. He advised the Committee a verbal notification was received. This

grant will be used to re-do 19 existing walkovers north and south and 3 boat ramps. The City will put together a scope of work over the next 2 weeks and advertise for contractors.

Nicole advised the Committee she will not be attending the October meeting. Cliff will be here with any updates on the Sand Sharing issue.

Nicole stated that the Florida Shores & Beach Preservation Assoc celebrated 50 years of the Association. They invited speakers' specific to beach preservation and the evolution over the years. Nicole was asked to present on Pinellas County and its history. She spoke of sand sharing and beach erosion control specific to Treasure Island and gave a thorough history to the Committee with an erosion control study completed in 1953 and Treasure Island was one of the first re-nourishment programs. At that time, the Federal Government only allotted 5% to renourishment and it is up to 60% presently.

The next regular Committee meeting date was set for October 10, 2007 at 1:30.

The meeting was adjourned.