

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

November 12, 2008

1:30 PM

Committee Present: Dennis Velasco, Robert Minning, Don Nolan, Mary Daughtry, Ruth Philipon, George Greenfield, Rick Raus

Chairman Dennis Velasco called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:30 PM in the City Hall Auditorium, 108th Ave., Treasure Island, Florida.

A draft of the minutes of the October 8, 2008 meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed by all committee members. Upon appropriate motion, the draft was approved as submitted.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Nicole Elko commented that a permit has been issued with the only exception being that we need to obtain an easement for the borrowed area. Coastal Tech will be submitting that info to FDEP in the coming month. The permit also contains monitoring requirements. Nicole commented that monitoring is currently being done and is just a matter of collecting the information. The County could possibly do that on behalf of Treasure Island.

Commissioner Minning discussed the permit in the event of an emergency sand sharing project and having a contractor lined up for emergency work. Rick Raus will contact Cliff Truitt regarding a list of specialty contractors and start the bidding process.

Dennis Velasco reviewed the Committee's meeting at the beach trail. It was decided that the Committee scale down the Phil Graham design regarding the condition of the sand fencing and signage. A discussion regarding the alternatives for the trail and sand fencing took place. Ruth Philipon provided prospective drawings on the signage for the public access points to the beach. Nicole Elko informed the Committee that the County has Public Arts Funding available to improve signage at the County parks' beach accesses in order that all beach signage be consistent throughout the County. The County will be holding a meeting in early 2009, and Nicole suggested someone from the City/Committee attend this meeting. Completion date for all the signage should be in the fall of 2009. The County's master plan is designed so each City will be able to tailor their signs with the County's. The City's may use designs relative to their City, however, the verbiage must be consistent

It was decided to check on the NOAA Grant's expiration date; and if time allots, implement the County's plan. If, however, the expiration date is before the County's, it would be necessary to move ahead so as not to lose this funding. Nicole agreed to take samples of the proposed Treasure Island signs for inclusion in the signage decision process. Dennis suggested getting the County's input on materials to make the signs.

The beach trail in general and the sand fence replacement was discussed. It was decided to gradually remove the sand fence and replace with vegetation of various kinds. A discussion took place as to the vegetation to use including the different varieties of grass and sea oats which would be the most effective vegetation to use for blocking the sand thereby creating a dune. Nicole suggested the use of the term “building a dune” as to removing the sand fence in order to avoid confusion. She also suggested to review the current dune system on the beach as a guide as to the height of the dunes. It was decided to do research on the different vegetation and their effectiveness to play a part in how high the dune will be.

It was decided, therefore, to review the length of the current sand wall and delineate those areas where the sand walls will remain due to the current vegetation. It was suggested to use computer maps to zoom in and thereby being able to measure the distances and see the actual structures. This will also enable the ability to super impose a dune system. Nicole was asked if she were able to attend a meeting on the beach as a consultant and assist in determining which vegetation and availability of the plants. It was suggested to meet prior to the next meeting, therefore, it was agreed to meet on December 8 at 8:00 AM across from Publix at the County Park. Rick will provide aerials for the whole sidewalk for this meeting.

Nicole asked the members if they wanted any additional vegetation such as sea oat liners and sea grapes since the County has 10,000 liners. After discussion, it was decided to accept these plants and will be delivered on December 5th with planting to be done on December 6th. It was agreed to begin planting the sea oats at the sand wall. Jeff will be notified regarding advertising for volunteers for the planting. Dennis and Rick will meet regarding the amount of vegetation required for the sand wall.

Reports from Members:

Don Nolan felt that the discussions today seemed like a good plan.

Ruth Philip wished to thank Nicole for attending the Committee Meeting with her busy schedule and her input is very valuable.

Mary Catherine Daughtry asked Nicole regarding the sea oats at Weckesser Park in regard to the recently planted liners on the one side are doing great, however, the other side looks like they were just planted. Mary Catherine asked if they are doing something wrong. Nicole stated it is just a part of nature.

Dennis Velasco also thanked Nicole for her presence since losing the presence of Cliff. She provides excellent information and suggestions.

George Greenfield complemented Ruth on the pictures. He stated the sea oats on Sunshine Beach looks scraggly; therefore, he recommended that no planting be done at the north part of the beach.

Commission Bob Minning asked Nicole if the City and/or Committee can be represented at the signage meeting in early January. She stated she would put the City on the list and advised that St Pete Beach has also asked to be represented.

Rick Raus advised the Members that the Public Works Department widened the beach sidewalk at 119th Ave. This will be used for an access for the police, fire, and emergency vehicles. Dennis complimented the Public Works Dept on the boat ramps stating they looked great. Rick advised the docks will be replaced in the next 3-4 months. Also, the same construction company that put in the boat ramps will be starting on the replacement of the dune walkovers in the next few weeks. They will be starting in the south and working northward, and demolish 3 at a time in phases of 6 each. This project should be completed by the end of January 2010.

Nicole Elko had nothing to report, however, she will try to make the meeting on December 8.

Dennis Valesco, Chairman advised all the next Beach Stewardship Committee Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10 at 1:30 here at the City Hall Auditorium. He adjourned this meeting at 2:20 p.m.