

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

December 10, 2008

1:30 PM

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

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 November 12, 2008 meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed by all committee members. Upon appropriate motion, the draft was approved as submitted.

Commissioner Minning asked that the following items be added to the Agenda: 1.) Beach trail; 2) Beach access signs; 3) Sea oat planting; 4) Beach raking.

It was decided to discuss the new items following Nicole Elko's comments on the sand sharing permit. Nicole stated she had nothing new to report since the last meeting. She is hopeful the permit will be finalized before the next meeting. It was suggested that a contractor for the sand sharing project be completed in the near future so as to have the contractor "on board" in the event of an emergency. Concern was expressed regarding the financial aspects of an open ended contract due to the economy. Commissioner Minning felt that as long as the RFP is worded in such a way as to cover a long term contract, this concern should not be an issue. Nicole also suggested keeping the wording vague for the various issues which may arise.

The beach access signage was reviewed from the last meeting. Nicole informed the Committee the finalization for the design team to design the County's signage master plan will be held tomorrow, December 11 at 1:00. She feels that since the City is ready to move ahead with their signage, she invited a member of the Committee or City staff to represent the City's plan explain where the City is fiscally, and if what is seen presented is going to work as far as implementation. After discussion, it was felt that Commissioner Minning would be the best representative due to his wider knowledge of the island and the placement for the signage.

Commissioner Minning reported the success of Saturday's sea oats and sea grape planting in which 8500 plants was completed in 2 hours. Richard Dowling, from the Sands asked that the property owners who are affected by the plantings have input and an opportunity to enter into the discussion. Commissioner Minning felt that in the future a plan be devised, and the Committee review, agree, and approve the plan before starting the planting, and this will be implemented.

The raking had been done previously by the City, however; with the current budget, those funds were taken out except for 100' along the waters edge. Private

property owners asked for consideration of hiring their own private rakers. After discussion, it was the Committee's decision that as long as the private rakers adhere to the guidelines required by the City, they be allowed to rake for private parties. The Department of Public Works will be requested to "police" the rakers to be sure they adhere to those guidelines. Mary Catherine suggested the Committee consider the possibility of the private parties contracting with the City to do their raking. The City already has the tractor, and this would create a way to generate income for the City. The Committee agreed to investigate the feasibility of this suggestion. Commission Minning will bring this before the Commission and DPW. It was also thought that these additional funds may aid with the Red Tide collections.

Dennis Velasco updated the Committee of the meeting which was held on the beach Monday morning regarding the beach trail with the objective of replacing the sand wall with dunes. He stated that Julian Fant joined them with pictures from the Miami area which showed a natural, low profile vegetation, which in turn would keep the dunes at a lower level. Nicole asked that the Committee keep in mind that it is the intent of the County's vegetation program for dune restoration and not landscaping. The east side of beach walk was discussed due to many areas being overgrown with exotics. The Committee will look into getting volunteers to help remove the exotics and plant with low profile vegetation provided by the County. Commissioner Minning advised that the Commission is looking for an overall cohesive plan for upgrading the beach walk. There is a budget of \$9,000 for planning/implementing of the future beach trail. He suggested taking as much from Phil Graham plans as are feasible and come up with a concept or plan to submit to the Commission. It was suggested this project be done in phases, and Nicole asked that consideration be made to remove the sand wall as the last phase. It was agreed, therefore, that a conceptual plan will be completed in February for review and eventual submittal to the Commission.

Remarks by members:

Don Nolan advised the Committee that Beach Clean-up is Saturday at 8:30 behind the Waffle House or 7:45 at Ricky T's for breakfast.

Ruth Philipon had no report except to reaffirm that Bob Minning is the best candidate for the County's representative.

Mary Catherine Daughtry had no comments.

Dennis Velasco had no comments except to also reaffirm Commissioner Minning agreement to be the County's representative

George Greenfield had no comments.

Bob Minning had no comments.

Nicole Elko wanted to be sure the dune walkover project will be completed by May 2009 and this was confirmed.

Public Comments:

Richard Dowling expressed concerns regarding the sand spurs invading the area that is not to be raked. He stated he agrees with Nicole in that the sand wall is still functional and will be a block until the dunes are established.

Dennis Velasco, Chairman advised all that the next Beach Stewardship Committee Meeting is on Wednesday, January 14 at 1:30 here at the City Hall Auditorium. He adjourned this meeting at 2:30 p.m.