

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

June 4, 2008

1:30 PM

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

Chairman Dennis Velasco called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:38 PM in the City Hall auditorium, 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida. A voting quorum of the Committee was not present.

1. The draft minutes of the May 14, 2008 meeting had been distributed and reviewed by the Committee members. However, because of the lack of a quorum no formal action could be taken to adopt the minutes.
2. Without objection, the published Agenda was amended to add items to discuss the next dune vegetation delivery order and planting event, issues about work on the beach trail and the next Elnor Island clean-up day.
3. Cliff Truitt reported that Coastal Tech had completed and submitted the request to FDEP to modify the current permit application. The modification request revises the proposed borrow area and eliminate the City of St. Petersburg property. The FDEP staff will have 30 days to respond, which should be before the next Committee meeting.
4. Dennis Velsaco and Rick Raus had met earlier and reviewed aerials to identify possible locations on the beach where additional dune vegetation could be planted. Those spots included in-filling previous plantings between 120th and 121st, an approximately 300-foot long section from Caddy's to the Lion's Club property and a similar size section north of the Island Inn on to 126th. Potential weekends in July were discussed for the volunteer planting, but there are already conflicts with the Elnor Island effort and regular pick-up the beach days. Rick Raus said that the plants could be stored after delivery by the County and kept watered for a few weeks, but the longer that is delayed, the more likely there will be losses. It was also noted that planting into August may result in plant losses anyway from the heat if rainfall is not adequate. Committee members discussed possibly 'skipping' this planting opportunity. Rick Raus will call Nicole Elko at the County and discuss any options for later delivery.
5. Commissioner Minning reported that the City Commission had reaffirmed that they wanted to get 'something' started on the Beach Trail, but were looking for input from the Committee on what the priorities should be. Bob had copies of Phil Graham's original bid schedule listing items and estimated prices for the larger trail replacement project. He noted that based on the current thinking that the present trail would be retained and not replaced in its entirety, many of the items in the bid/cost would not be applicable. Bob said that the Commission was planning a formal 'site visit' to the trail sometime within the next two weeks and members of the Committee were encouraged to participate.

John Burke said that he had already made a detailed visit to the trail and had listed a number of items that he felt should be improved, repaired and/or modified. He discussed a couple of larger items, such as relocation of some sections of the sand wall for better effectiveness, and he then provided the Committee with his written list/notes. He noted that, other than the wall relocation, most of his other suggestions related to basic maintenance, clean-up and some new vegetation – all of which would be relatively inexpensive. However, he did note that a lot of that type of possible work would depend on what formal agreements exist already between the City and upland property owners over maintenance and use of the land abutting the trail itself.

Dennis Velasco said he would like to see some effort go into substantially improving and expanding at least one central gathering spot similar to Trailhead Park, where larger groups could congregate and events could take place. Other than that option and the addition of more benches generally along the trail, he felt that basic maintenance and new plants were all that were needed. Bob Minning asked that the Committee and any interested public viewing the meeting, contact City staff or their Commissioners with additional suggestions and idea.

6. Dennis Velasco said that the next Elnor Island clean-up day is still scheduled for June 28th. He had notified the various groups discussed at the last meeting [Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Bay Watch, Kayak Nature Adventures] of the date and requested their participation, although so far none have formally replied. Commissioner Minning said that he had discussed the project funding with Lynn Rosetti and they had confirmed with the agencies that more of the grant money [beyond the initial \$14,000 for exotics removal] could be used for hiring an exterminator to deal with rodents and other predators on the island and for DPW costs to haul debris to the landfill. There was further general discussion about plans for the clean up. Also, it was noted that Elnor Island has its own ‘page’ linked on the City website and that Jeff Jensen has put together a video of the last clean-up and posted it on YouTube.

7. Committee Member Remarks:

There were no further remarks.

8. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for July 9, 2008 at 1:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40.