

## City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

January 9, 2008

1:30 PM

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

Chairman Dennis Velasco called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:35 PM in the City Hall auditorium, 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida.

1. The draft minutes of the December 12, 2007 meeting were distributed and reviewed by the Committee members. Upon appropriate motion, the minutes were approved as drafted.
2. No changes were offered to the published Agenda.
3. Robert Minning confirmed that the draft resolution supporting an interlocal agreement in place of establishing an Erosion Control Line (ECL) had been approved at the last Treasure Island City Commission meeting. Cliff Truitt reported that there has been no response from the City of St. Petersburg since Maura Kiefer forwarded the drafted local agreement to their legal staff for review and appropriate action. It was suggested that we ask the Mayor to send a letter to St. Petersburg if we don't have some acknowledgment within a few weeks.
4. Committee Member Remarks:

Mary Daughtry initiated a discussion about the potential for the Committee expanding its role to address greater awareness and use of native vegetation. (Because the Committee did not modify the original agenda, that discussion is reported herein under "Remarks.")

Mary said that she had recently participated in a Sierra Club-sponsored event focusing on the use of native plants in landscaping. The event included tours of several properties that had incorporated such landscaping. Her suggestion was that the Committee interpret its mission statement dealing with "beach" issues to more broadly include the waterways and the vegetation and other environmental factors that affect those waterways. In particular she would like to see the Committee ensure that the City itself is more aware of the need to use native plants as replacements for non-native in City projects, and to also raise the general public awareness of better landscaping practices.

There was general Committee discussion of the topic, including some members who felt that the issue was already within the scope of the City's Beautification Committee and others who agreed that it was a 'habitat' issue and part of our mission. Rick Raus noted that the DPW Grounds Foreman does sit on the Beautification Committee and is very knowledgeable about the issues. The City already tries to use best management practices on City projects with respect to species selection, irrigation, and fertilizing; there is also a 'tree inoculation' program for disease prevention. George Greenfield suggested that TITV615 would be an ideal way to develop

public awareness by including photographs, information and videos available from the Extension Service. Robert Minning suggested contacting the Beautification Committee chairman to see where common ground exists between the two committees and if any changes to either committee's mission should be considered. Mary Daughtry noted that this question might be appropriate to consider and discuss as part of our planned joint meeting with St. Petersburg Beach because they already address broader topics like fertilizing practices. She also said that the new St. Petersburg Beach City Hall where we will meet is one of the 'demonstration' sites that had very successfully used all native plants.

John Burke announced the details of the next beach pick-up day this coming Saturday.

Dennis Velasco noted that the St. Petersburg Beach committee was scheduled to meet on January 14, 2008 at 2:30 in their City Hall. Treasure Island Committee members were invited to attend.

George Greenfield read from an article in the St. Petersburg Times about an inland city in Hungary that built an artificial beach for tourists, but while the area was closed during the off-season, almost 8000 cubic yards of the 'beach' sand was stolen.

Robert Minning said that it appeared the 'no-rake' protocols were not being as carefully followed along the northern dunes as they were originally. Rick Raus will follow-up with the raking machine crew to see what is going on. There is no new information on the Elnor Island contract. Bob and Rick discussed the status of the dune walkover replacement work. The City asked FDOT for clarification of several items concerning the grant funds and now needs to send information about the bid process to the State for review and approval before continuing with the design work.

Commissioner Minning also distributed copies of the Committee's Mission and Vision Statements for Committee members to review and see if we needed to 'refresh' the language, particularly in response to Mary Daughtry's suggestions. There was additional discussion of the process by which the Vision Statement was originally adopted and how it could be changed.

There were no further remarks.

5. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for February 13, 2008 at 1:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10.