

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

May 14, 2008

1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Dennis Velasco, John Burke, Mary Daughtry, George Greenfield, Robert Minning, Rick Raus; Nicole Elko, Pinellas County; 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 quorum of the Committee was present.

1. The draft minutes of both the March 12, 2008 April 9, 2008 meetings had been distributed and reviewed by the Committee members. The March minutes had not been adopted last month because of the lack of a quorum. Upon appropriate motion both sets of minutes were adopted as drafted.

2. Without objection, the published Agenda was amended to add an item reporting on the Elnor Island clean-up day.

3. Cliff Truitt and Robert Minning reported that there still had not been any reply to Mayor Maloof's follow-up letter to the Mayor of St. Petersburg asking for a meeting to further discuss the Erosion Control Line/borrow area situation. Nicole Elko said that she understood that the two attorneys have been in contact but they seem to be indicating that no response will be forthcoming from the mayor. There was Committee discussion of the time expended so far and the options remaining at this point. Following the discussion, John Burke moved that Coastal Tech proceed to revise the proposed borrow area to eliminate the City of St. Petersburg property, and re-submit to FDEP as a requested modification. After a second by George Greenfield, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Dennis Velsaco said that although the Elnor Island clean-up day went well, he felt that the results showed that the need is much greater than the Committee originally anticipated. He felt that the volunteers probably got less than 10 percent of the debris on the site. Among other issues was the need to move 10 to 12-foot long timbers and piling through the dense mangroves to the fringe for pick-up. Rick Raus said that the City trucks moved almost three tons of trash to the landfill from the land-side collection site at Gators.

Dennis suggested that the Committee continue the clean-up effort, but try to get a much broader base of groups supporting the project and double or triple the number of volunteers. There was discussion about how to do this and suggestions about contacting Tampa Bay Watch, Keep Pinellas Beautiful and Kayak Natural Adventures. A tentative schedule was identified to have follow-up island clean-up trips at the end of June and end of July.

Several Committee members thanked the volunteers that came out for their efforts and discussed sending letters of appreciation from the Committee. DPW staff was mentioned and also Gators who provided space for the collection stockpile. It was also noted that this was one of the few

such events that had drawn the participation of all the City Commission members except one who was already volunteering for the pick-up the beach effort.

5. Committee Member Remarks:

John Burke reported on the last beach pick-up day, noting that there had been 33 volunteers including approximately 20 from the Home Shopping Network. John noted with appreciation to DPW staff that the Australian pines at the 124th avenue access had been removed. He also said that he had observed that the sea oat planting areas were really beginning to take hold and accumulate sand. John then asked about the follow up on apparent loss of planted seaoats at Caddy's. Dennis said that he had met with the City Code Enforcement staff and he described the process he had been told to follow to file a complaint. There was further Committee discussion of several points, but the end result was that we need to re-plant the area as part of the next planting day, carefully document the work with photos and let the Code office and Police know when the work is finished so they can subsequently check on it.

Dennis Velasco confirmed that he will follow-up with the volunteer groups discussed and get back to us with a schedule that works with their needs.

Commissioner Minning talked about the follow-up planning for meeting again with the City of St. Petersburg Beach committee. A follow-up meeting had been tabled until after the March city elections and any subsequent committee changes by either group. That time has passed and it was suggested that Chairman Velasco contact their group and discuss a meeting, including specific items that might form an agenda for the discussion.

Rick Raus reported that he had received an email from the County requesting input on dune vegetation orders for the summer – delivery to be at the end of June. Only liner-sized plants will be available this time. He will get together with Dennis and others next week to mark-up a plan for the necessary work and develop the plant numbers we need to request.

Nicole Elko provided an update on the plans for the next scheduled maintenance fill projects for Treasure Island and Upham Beach. USF is now taking vibracores from the shoal at Blind Pass to verify sand compatibility and test for any potential remaining oil contamination as required by permits. Similar sampling will start in Johns Pass next month. Updating the State and Federal permits will follow through the next year and construction should take place towards the end of 2009. Dennis Velasco asked about an area of apparent new accretion in Blind Pass ['dog beach']. Nicole responded that the pass seems to have reached an equilibrium condition in which sand bypassing is starting to occur and such new patterns of accretion are being observed. USF is still working on the County-wide computer modeling and they will include a more detailed look at Blind Pass. One goal will be to select those parts of the shoal system that can best be used for the borrow dredging without disrupting the positive aspects of the bypassing and accretion. There was further discussion of what appeared to be recent vandalism of the T-head geotextile groins at Upham Beach.

There were no further remarks.

6. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for June 4, 2008 at 1:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30.