

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

August 13, 2008

1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Dennis Velasco, Don Nolan, Ruth Philipon, 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 1:34 PM in the City Hall auditorium, 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida.

1. A draft of the minutes of the July 9, 2008 meeting had been distributed and reviewed by the Committee members. Upon appropriate motion, the draft was approved as submitted.
2. There were no proposed changes to the published Agenda.
3. Cliff Truitt reported that informal contact with FDEP staff had indicated that they were likely to approve the request for modification of the permit as submitted in July. However, they have 90 days on the regulatory 'time clock' within which to act and they will likely wait for most of that time – into October – before formal action. There was Committee discussion and questions about the next steps after the approval is received including preparation of draft specifications and requests for Letters of Interest or similar responses from potential contractors.
4. Dennis Velasco reported on the results of the last dune vegetation planting event. Committee members felt that the event had been very successful and that we had probably the largest turnout of volunteers ever. Over 12,000 liners and 600 gallon-sized plants were planted in just a few hours. Dennis then asked Nicole Elko about the total number of plants the City had used in projects over the past years and she estimated that it was about 70,000. There was discussion about the possibility of getting another order and planting day in before the end of the year. Nicole will check the County's 'balance' with the plant supplier and let Rick Raus know what could be available. This would likely be in the end of October or early November. She will also provide staff with the name and contact information for the plant supplier the County uses in case residents might want to purchase plants to place on their private property.
5. Committee Member Remarks:

Don Nolan said that at the last beach pick-up day 40 participants collected 500 pounds of trash.

Ruth Philipon noted on a recent walk that there had been quite a lot of vandalism to the beach benches and to some of the resort umbrellas. Rick Raus said that the problem really comes in cycles, but he agreed that there seemed to have been a recent increase; the police aware of the step-up in damage.

George Greenfield and Nicole Elko discussed the plans and scheduling for the next maintenance fill events. Nicole said that the sand search/borrow area investigation was underway at the

present time with a goal of having the permits modified and the project underway in the fall of 2009.

Robert Minning reported on the July Elnor Island clean-up day. Another 2.8 tons of debris was collected by volunteers and removed to the landfill by DPW. This amount brings the total tonnage of the three cleanups to 9.7 tons. Bob thanked the DPW staff for their work and Jeff Jensen for getting information and publicity out for the effort. He noted with appreciation that the Friendly Fisherman had donated lunches for all the volunteers in July just as Sid Rice and Gators had done in June. Also, an idea was brought up in the last City Commission meeting and Lynn Rosetti has already been asked to investigate whether a professional rodent control firm could be hired using a portion of the grant money.

Nicole Elko had mentioned last month that turtle nesting numbers were 'up' and she confirmed that there are now 105 nests in the County. She thanked residents and the City staff for their cooperation following the required night-time lighting surveys last month.

There were no further remarks.

6. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for September 10, 2008 at 1:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00.