City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

July 8, 2009 **1:30 PM**

Committee Present: George Greenfield, Bob Minning, Don Nolan, Ruth Philipon,, Alan Bildz, and Rick Raus

George Greenfield called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:30 PM in the City Hall Auditorium, 108th Ave., Treasure Island, Florida in Chairman, Dennis Velasco's, absence.

Due to a computer file extension problem, minutes of the June 10, 2009 were not received by all the members, therefore, approval of the minutes will be deferred to the next meeting on August 12, 2009.

Changes to the Agenda – There were no changes to the agenda.

Elnor Island Project – Bob Minning gave an update on the Elnor Island project indicating a proposal has been received and submitted to the City Manager from Toby Hariston. The proposal is a 2 year program including rat extermination and 7 quarters of monitoring, which extends to the end of the grant period. The proposal has been submitted to the Fish and Wildlife for their approval before proceeding.

Mayor Minning advised the Committee that a representative from Tampa Bay Watch will be touring Elnor Island to look for the areas to start the oyster beds and the salt marsh grass planting. Bob Dowling will accompany them to the Island, and hopefully this will begin in the fall when it is cooler and hurricane season is over.

He noted that in October, the Tampa Bay Estuary sends out grant applications and Bob Dowling suggested submitting a grant application for osprey platforms. Mayor Minning spoke with the Audubon Society who has all the specs for this project including 2 poles. The City will apply for a grant, and also check with Flatiron, Inc (contractor for the John's Pass Bridge), for assistance with installation of the poles.

Beach trail update – No progress has been made regarding the funding possibilities in the form of grants and contributions from the Islettes and the business community. The Committee will come up with a fund raising plan to advise the public and discuss at the next meeting.

As discussed, Rick Raus was asked to estimate how much of the walkway could be completed with approximately $10,000. His estimate was a length of 350 feet which includes a 6 foot wide shell walkway with a border, and this does not include any benches or trash cans. The original plan is for the trail to be 3500 feet; and the $10,000 will cover approximately a 10th of the trail.

Remarks by members – Don Nolan reminded the Committee of the Beach Cleanup on Saturday morning at 7:45 for breakfast at Rick T's or 8:30 behind the Waffle House. Don stated there is a considerable amount of firework residue on the beach from the 4th of July, but the volunteers will attempt to get this cleaned up. He stated the City did a great job cleaning up after the 4th but since there was so much trash, there is still quite a bit of trash remaining.

Commissioner Bildz stated that due to Nicole Elko leaving the County; and since she has been an integral part of this Committee, the Committee should write a letter of appreciation for all her help. As he stated, the beach renourishment and the building of the dunes would have been difficult to do without her assistance. Therefore, Commissioner Bildz will draft a letter for all of the members of the Committee to sign. It was also suggested by Ruth to send the poster of Treasure Island along with letter and George Greenfield will include his book of pictures of Treasure Island. These will be brought to the next meeting for signatures and mailing.

George Greenfield noted the severe erosion at the north end of Sunshine Beach and is concerned of the consequences of a strong storm since the renourishment will not be completed until October.

Rick Raus distributed the photos that Dennis sent him showing the erosion in the Sunset Beach area.

Bob Minning stated the sea oat planting went well even with the difficulty of dry sand. He advised there were many volunteers and he wished thank them and Kevin Johnson who did a lot of planting on his own. He also thanked the Lion's Club for erecting a make shift fence around the sea oats plantings since the fencing has done a good job keeping people from trampling the sea oats.

Mayor Minning noted the Commission, at Tuesday's meeting, agreed to move ahead with submitting the plans to the NOAA Trustee Counsel and authorized Volkert and Assoc to draw up the plans. Volkert will be contacting Ruth to discuss the overall design. Also, the new Treasure Island park, formerly the County Park, will be incorporated into the plans. He stated that Cathy Hayduke from Recreation will be coming out with a "Name that Park" campaign which will be City wide.

Mayor Minning discussed the offshore oil and gas drilling indicating that this bill was dismissed at the last Legislative meeting; however, this could be an issue once the Legislature reconvenes. He noted that the gas companies have come up with a lot of funding for this offshore drilling and in some cases they are proposing drilling within 3 miles of the shore. He stated that the Big C is trying to come up with a unified position regarding the drilling along the entire stretch of the Pinellas County shoreline. Mayor Minning advised that Dennis Jones, State Senator is very much opposed to this drilling as well as Senators Nelson and Martinez and Congressman, Bill Young on the federal level. He asked the Committee to consider researching this bill including the position of the Senators and Congressman Young, be aware of what the actual bill looks like, and get various information on the subject. He asked the Committee that if they felt this was appropriate, to come up with a position and make a recommendation to the City Commission. This will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

He reminded the Committee that the City is not in a position to do any emergency repairs regarding sand sharing at the present time. He stated the permit has been obtained but the final step is to get construction plans and specs and get a contractor "on board" so that when a scope is defined, the contractor would be ready to go within 30-60 days. Mayor Minning stated the proposal from Coastal Tech, noted 4 tasks, and the 4th task is in the event of a storm or event, they would complete the necessary survey.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Members were reminded the next Beach Stewardship Committee meeting is on Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 1:30 here at the City Hall Auditorium.