

## City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

**January 14, 2009**

**1:30 PM**

Committee Present: Robert Minning, Don Nolan, Mary Daughtry, Ruth Philipon, and Rick Raus.

Mary Daughtry 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.

Changes to the Agenda included beach raking, beach signage and beach trail. These issues will be moved to the top of the Agenda. Sand sharing will be discussed at the next meeting due to Nicole Elko's absence.

A draft of the minutes of the December 10, 2008 meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed by all committee members. Upon appropriate motion, the draft was approved as submitted.

Commissioner Minning gave an update on the beach raking; and it was the Commissions' opinion not to do anything at the present time. It was their suggestion that if the private property owner wishes to contract with their own private raker, they may do so as long as the raker is licensed through the City and permitted with the DEP. It will be their responsibility to contact DEP as to the area approved for raking. Rick explained to the members that raking only at the shoreline was due to budget reasons. This allowed the employee to spend more time in the WPC Department which lost a position and, of course, the rising fuel costs. The question of a contract with the City which had previously been discussed was raised, and Rick explained this would require hiring a part-time person. He also stated the City doesn't want to get into a business which would compete with the private rakers.

Commission Minning reviewed the beach signage with money coming from the NOAA Grant delineating accesses off Gulf Blvd to the beach. He also reviewed the County's plan for beach signage for their County Parks with the hope the beach communities would take the overall theme and use this theme up and down the beach. He attended a meeting at the County where the County was meeting with the different companies to select a design the concept for the signage. They selected a company from California who came up with an overall concept the County was looking for. They have approximately 1 year to come up with their final product. NOAA was notified as to the City's wish to use the same theme as the County's and they agreed; however, they wished to be kept updated with the progress. Ruth Philipon was asked to help with designs when the overall idea of the County's decision of the variations of the theme is established. Commissioner Minning received handouts from the County at the meeting he attended with their concepts, and he will bring them to the next meeting.

The beach trail was discussed, and Commissioner Minning stated the Commission is looking to the Beach Stewardship Committee for recommendations on how to improve it, beautify it, enhance it, etc. The Committee was asked to come up with a list and/or drawings of recommendations and also to prioritize these recommendations. It was recommended the Committee meet outside the Beach Stewardship meetings and come up with some ideas. The members will be advised as to the time and place.

Beach parking was reviewed including the dune walkover project. It was felt that the walkovers were coming along well and should be completed in 4-6 weeks. Rick Raus informed the Committee that plans have been completed for parking on the street ends to the north. At 121<sup>st</sup> Ave there will be no parking, however, additional parking was planned for 123<sup>rd</sup>, 124<sup>th</sup>, 125<sup>th</sup>, 127<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The plan is to have meters installed, and the parking areas will have a shell base. The City will go out for bids for the additional meters in the near future.

Remarks from members: Don Nolan stated that last Saturday was beach clean-up with 33 people present and collected approximately 360lbs of trash. It was suggested that residents who walk the beach, take a plastic bag and pick up litter when they encounter trash. It was recommended that the responsibility of picking up trash should fall on everyone – residents and visitors alike.

Mary Daughtry informed the Committee that Sunset Beach is going to get back to their beach clean-up schedule in February. She asked that all watch for the details.

Rick Raus stated he had received an email from Nicole in which she stated that the sand sharing permit is just about finalized. Rick spoke with Cliff Truit regarding getting a proposal together for bid spec for a sand contractor, and he should have a figure on the cost of that at the next meeting.

Rick suggested the notices and agendas for the meetings be emailed to save on postage expense. Ruth Philipon currently does not have a computer, so he will continue mailing her notices. This was thought to be an excellent idea, and the notices will be emailed next month.

Mary Daughtry advised all that the next Beach Stewardship Committee Meeting is on Wednesday, February 11 at 1:30 here at the City Hall Auditorium. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.