

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

October 14, 2009

1:30 PM

Committee Present: Chairman, Dennis Velasco, Don Nolan, George Greenfield, Commissioner Alan Bildz and Rick Raus

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

A draft of the minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting had been previously distributed, however, not all committee members had the opportunity to review, therefore, approval of the minutes is deferred to the next meeting.

Changes to the Agenda – County interlocal agreement.

The county will be paying for the services of Coastal Tech. Rick indicated the next step is to get Commission approval to contract with Cliff Truitt, of Coastal Tech, to prepare a scope, put it out for bid, and get a contractor on board in the event of an emergency.

There are no further updates on the beach re-nourishment only that it will be delayed until December or January.

Mayor Minning was unable to attend this meeting to discuss off shore drilling, however, he indicated the Big C did reach a resolution to ban drilling off shore. He will present a more detailed report at next meeting. Commissioner Bildz indicated the Suncoast League of Cities will be having a meeting to discuss off shore drilling at the Gulfport Casino on November 5 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Discussion will include panel of researchers, proponent, and opponents of the off shore drilling. If anyone would like further information from the League of Cities, you may contact Bernie Young at 864- 4711 or the Gulfport Casino at 893-1070.

George Greenfield informed the Committee that an editorial from the St Pete Times states that the beaches and coasts bring in over 3 million tourists a year; and including, marine, fishing, boating, tourism, recreation and ocean transport industries, bring in over 400 billion every year to FL. He requested Commissioner Bildz take the column to the meeting.

Dennis updated the Committee regarding the NOAA Oil spill grant money. He indicated a Committee was put together by Jim Murphy, Public Works Director, which included himself, Ruth Philipon as representatives from the Beach Stewardship Committee, Rick Raus, Jim Murphy and Mayor Minning. The Committee met regarding the new signage along Gulf Blvd from John's Pass to Trailhead Park. Volkert & Assoc Engineering presented the new signage incorporating Ruth's design. The Volkert representatives will meet with the Committee to make a formal presentation on November 10. They recommended the first stage will be installing the signs at 23 possible accesses on the west side of Gulf Blvd on the street side and the second stage will be educational signs at each of the locations. Educational signs would include topics of turtle nesting facts, turtle hatchlings facts, sea oats, dunes, waves and their effect on shoreline, shore birds, Gulf ecosystems, mangroves, stingrays, weather features and Gulf fish. They indicated they will handle the process including getting the signs installed and permits and approvals from FDOT. They indicated that FDOT requires certain specifications including type of material, that the signs are break away, and other details, and these will be presented at the next meeting. They informed the Committee that also included in the grant money are trash

receptacles, turtle friendly lighting, and bicycle racks where feasible. Informational signage regarding handicap accessibility, etc will be directly below the main sign where appropriate.

Remarks by Members:

Commissioner Bildz reminded the Committee that at the last meeting Nicole indicated the ASBPA Conference will be held, and a tour of Pass-a-Grill and Treasure Island Beaches will be held on October 16 for \$25.00. He encourages the Committee to attend this tour if at all possible.

Rick indicated that the Department of Public Works was raking the beach from water line to 100' and now has been instructed to come up further on the beach. Currently raking is being done approximately 15-20' from the dune so they have a chance to expand, and as they expand, raking will be moved further out. In the large expanse of beach where weeds and grass has grown, no raking is being completed and pathways have been cut for walking paths at the beach accesses. He recommended that a recommendation from the Beach Stewardship Committee to the Commission on the Committee's thoughts should be made regarding the raking. It was recommended that this item be discussed when more members are present, therefore, this will be included on the agenda at next month's meeting.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The members were advised that due to Veterans' Day being on Wednesday, November 11, the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting will be changed to Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 1:30 here at the City Hall Auditorium. Volkert and Assoc will be presenting their recommendations following the meeting.