

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

February 11, 2009

1:30 PM

Committee Present: Robert Minning, Don Nolan, Mary Daughtry, Ruth Philipon, and George Greenfield.

George Greenfield called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:37 PM in the City Hall Auditorium, 108th Ave., Treasure Island, Florida in Chairman Dennis Velasco's absence.

A draft of the minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed by all committee members. Upon appropriate motion, the draft was approved as submitted.

Commissioner Minning informed the Committee that Nicole advised him that all the permits required for the sand sharing project have been received. Therefore, next action will be to continue the planning process with DPW to gather an RFP in search of a contractor to do the work should it be required. This plan will be recommended to the Commission.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the beach path. It was the Committee's opinions that for the north end of the beach, where the dunes are established, to incorporate a meandering trail through and around the dunes with a crushed shell walkway and lighting. The possibility of Japanese-type bridges throughout the walkway was also discussed; however, consideration must be given to handicap accessibility. Mary Daughtry stated there is a condo in St Pete Beach where a resident created a walking path by natural plants. She suggested contacting this person and perhaps visiting to get some ideas. The question of budgeting was raised. Commissioner Minning advised there isn't a budget presently for the beach trail; and the NOAA grant of \$385,000 cannot be used in the mid-island portion of the beach trail. The grant can only be used for enhancing accessibility and signage. Budgeting considerations must be made including meeting ADA requirements, a bicycle path as well as walking and maintenance for the crushed shell walkways, turtle friendly lighting, and protection of the view.

Commissioner Minning advised the Committee the only money "ear marked" for the beach trail is \$20,000 for plantings. He asked that the Committee come up with design concepts and submit to the Commission for review and consideration. He stated the City Manager is presently looking into getting funding from the Stimulus package.

Assistance from the property owners for funding was raised. Commissioner Minning informed the Committee of the various owners who have already enhanced their property, and in view of the economy, funding from them may be difficult. It was suggested to invite those particular property owners after the design concept has been established for input and/or financial assistance. It was also suggested to possibly include the whole community for this meeting

Commissioner Minning reminded the Committee of the meeting on Monday March 2 at 8:30 am in the Auditorium to review everyone's concepts.

Remarks from members:

Don Nolan stated how impressive the walkovers are, and he feels the contractor is very good; there is no mess lying around, and he cleans up after himself which is commendable. Beach Clean-up is this Saturday 8:30 am at the Waffle House or 7:45 am at Ricky T's for breakfast.

On the issue of ADA requirements, Ruth Philipon advised that there are always areas that cannot be accessed by the handicapped and to be realistic the sand does make it difficult for pushing a wheelchair or walking which is a major part of the area.

Mary Daughtry had no comment.

George Greenfield felt that a wooden platform at the end of the trails which would be accessible to the handicapped to enjoy the sun, sand and Gulf be beneficial to incorporate into the beach trail

Commissioner Minning advised the Committee that he received letter from Bay Watch, who assisted with Elnor Island clean-up. They are proposing a project to place an oyster bar along the shoreline of Elnor Island. In addition to creating the oyster bar, Bay Watch is also committing to plant salt marsh plugs on the inside cove of the island in the shallow water. This is another excellent volunteer project for the Committee to coordinate with Bay Watch on planting the oyster beds and the salt marsh grass. He also stated the grant from the Fish and Wildlife Commission was for once a year for 4 years in the spring for removal of exotic vegetation, and the second spring has just been completed. Lynn Rosetti is still looking for additional funding from the Fish and Wildlife Commission for rodent control.

George Greenfield advised all that the next Beach Stewardship Committee Meeting is on Wednesday, March 11 at 1:30 here at the City Hall Auditorium. The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.