

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

June 9, 2010

1:30 PM

Committee Present: George Greenfield, Don Nolan, Ruth Philipon, Mary Daughtry, Commissioner, Alan Bildz, and Rick Raus

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

A draft of the minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed by all committee members. Upon appropriate motion, the draft was approved as submitted.

Changes to the Agenda: There are no changes to the agenda.

Rick Raus gave an update of the beach re-nourishment project stating that it is still on schedule for mid to late August. The question was raised regarding the possibility of the oil spill making its way to Treasure Island, and it was felt that the only way it will hit Treasure Island is if there were a major storm.

Remarks by Members:

Don Nolan advised the Committee that the Coast Guard and Pinellas EOC contacted "Keep Pinellas Beautiful" for volunteers for an oil spill emergency clean-up. The volunteers will be contacted approximately 72 hours prior to the oil getting to shore; and at that time, clean up of trash will be done to eliminate the possibility of it turning into toxic waste if the oil does get to it. These organizations just want to have people in place in the event of this possibility. He stated this weekend is the monthly beach cleanup, and hopefully this will keep the trash at a minimum.

Ruth Philipon contacted the Seabird Sanctuary, and they reported to her that the majority of their people are heading up to north Florida. They stated if anyone wished to volunteer it would be appreciated since their staff is going to be greatly reduced. They told her that presently they are collecting supplies and looking for storage facilities to store these supplies.

Commissioner Bildz received a complaint regarding a problem at the Beach Pavilion. There is a 3 foot bank just south of the jetty with benches at the shore line; and since most of the people using the benches are seniors, they are not able to access them. He also stated there are people putting shade tents up in that area making it difficult for the police to access the beach, and the police have been chasing them away. It is his

opinion that the Beach Stewardship Committee recommend to the Commission to not allow shade tents until, at least, after the re-nourishment is completed. It was recommended to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Rick Raus advised the Committee that the City is scheduled to get some free sea oats the last part of June. There will not be very many, only about 500, and thoughts were to put them where the sea oats fire occurred. Of course, no planting will be done north and south of the beach until after the re-nourishment is completed. He indicated that the City has not been raking as scheduled because the tractor has been in and out of the repair shop. Since it is again at the repair shop, the City rented a tractor which was just delivered today, and normal raking will start again.

Ed Gayton wished to discuss the memo that the Beach Stewardship Committee sent to the Commission on December 16 with the recommendation to clean up the sand and weeds from both sides of the sand wall and move sand from behind the wall to areas that need leveling to avoid injuries. He presented pictures from August, and it is his opinion that he does not see a difference between then and now. He asked the Committee to walk the beach walk specifically behind where the Buccaneer used to be and see the "supposed" opening from St Beach Municipal beach. He indicated that at least 4-5 openings are 6" high with sand. It was his understanding that the City Manager was going back to DEP for a new permit where the City would be allowed to clean it. His main concern is the question of whether the Beach Stewardship Committee is going to follow up on this request that was made to the Commission. He stated that if the Committee did not want to do it, he would make the request directly to the Commission. He stated that he has seen absolutely nothing being done around that sea wall and it was promised that this would get done. George Greenfield asked that this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. During this time, the Committee will get the copies of their memo and any available materials so they are better able to answer any questions. Rick indicated that the permits obtained are not for everything that is requested to be done. He noted the City has begun taking sand from the west side to level off the openings and cleaned up the east side of the sand wall from approximately the Treasure Sands northward. He stated that east of the sand wall is pretty much level with no plant growth. He indicated the City has been trying to keep up with the leveling. He further stated that as far as Treasure Sands southward, no work has been done, and the City is clearing up as much as they can. He stated that hopefully by the next meeting, the City will be starting the south. It is Mr. Gayton's opinion that behind the Buccaneer is a disgrace and should be cleaned up as promised.

Mr. Gayton also asked regarding a contract with Phil Graham for the beach walk. He was informed by Mary Daughtry and Rick Raus that they are only to the point of updating figures and eliminating items which are not necessary. When that has been completed, it will then be presented to the Commission. George Greenfield asked if

attention was being discussed regarding the bicycle/pedestrian traffic on the beach walk. Due to the width of the beach walk, this may not be possible.

Since there were no further comments, the meeting was adjourned. The Committee was advised that the next Beach Stewardship Committee Meeting will be on July 14, 2010 here at the City Hall Auditorium.