

## City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

July 14, 2010

1:30 PM

Committee Present: George Greenfield, Don Nolan, Ruth Philipon, Commissioner, Carol Coward, 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 June 9, 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 were no changes to the agenda.

**Shade Tents on Sunset Beach:** Rick Raus informed the Committee that Commissioner Bildz wanted to make a recommendation to the Commission to change the ordinance about having shade tents on the beach. Since the beach is so narrow at the present time, the police and others are having difficulty driving due to the shade tents. Rick stated that because of the beach renourishment, this item may correct itself. Rick didn't know how far Commissioner Bildz wanted to go with this item; and since he is out of town, this will be tabled for the present time until his returns.

**Sand Wall Maintenance Update:** Ed Gayton asked if the Committee was following up with the Commission on the recommendations made to remove the large dunes on the beach; and if the Committee didn't wish to follow-up on this, he would go to the Commission himself. Rick Raus informed Mr. Gayton that the small areas were being taken care of that did not require a permit from the state. To destroy the large dunes, the City would have to come up with funding as the state requires a survey of the area, and a land surveyor and architect to draw it all up. It is estimated to cost \$10,000-\$12,000.00 which would require a \$500 permit fee to send along with all the paper work. Rick noted that the \$10-\$12,000 is just a ballpark figure depending on how extensive it needed to be and could be more or less. He indicated that the Committee can go ahead and make the recommendation to the Commission, but budgeting could be an issue. Rick informed Mr. Gayton that because a new sand wall is being considered when funding is available, it is felt both projects could be done under 1 permit.

Mr. Gayton also stated that one of the questions from the Visioning Committee's survey states, "Do you support the current beach renovations?" His question to the Committee is if we can't maintain what we have now, how are people going to say yes to put in another beach trail? George Greenfield indicated the Visioning Committee is looking at improvement for the City in 5-10 years. Due to limited funding, there isn't

any money to address the questions from the Visioning Committee at the present time. Commission Coward stated that she was under the impression that Phil Graham was going to do a scaled down version of the beach walk, and she would like to know the status of that. City Manager, Reid Silverboard, gave an update of the working committee with Phil Graham, and they have currently engaged Mr. Graham to update the cost figures for certain improvements and better define the proposed plan. Once this has been completed, it will be brought to the Beach Stewardship Committee for review and recommendation to the City Commission. At that time, the City Commission will decide, as part of an overall funding plan for major projects, whether or not it wants to proceed with it or just a portion. The plans include replacement of the sand wall as well as the trail. It is being worked on, and Mr. Graham should be submitting these plans in the near future.

Mr. Gayton reiterated his question regarding the permits to remove the dunes from the sand wall. He stated the recommendation was made to the Commission and Commission made a recommendation to the City Manager. Rick stated the plan has not been dropped as Mr. Gayton has assumed. The City Manager is working with Phil Graham, who has been involved with this project for 2-2 ½ years; and as stated previously, Phil Graham is working up new figures to replace the sand wall and will then present it to the Beach Stewardship Committee. At that time, if appropriate, then the plans will then be submitted to the Commission. As stated previously, the Commission must consider the funding options. At that time, application for the permits will then be decided. Rick stated the major issue is funding. Commissioner Coward suggested that if the pricing per Phil Graham is too much; and it will not be able to be completed for 3-5 years, that the City get the permits now to remove the sand from the sand wall; because in her opinion, the dunes will have grown again.

Mr. Silverboard informed the Committee that the small dunes are being addressed; however, Steve West of the DEP stated the larger dunes require a permit. In order to get the permit, a landscape architect must submit plans which would be approximately \$10,000 of which is not budgeted at this time. If the Commission determines that the time frame is too long to get those larger dunes excavated, then the Commission could allocate money to get an architect to do the necessary work to get the permits. Mr. Silverboard stated he sees the time frame of about 2 years to begin working and perhaps be under construction on the wall and sidewalk at that time. Once a decision is determined; then it must be decided how to pay for it in the upcoming budget year. At that time a referendum may be consider because the property tax may be involved or whatever the methodology needs to getting it approved and specific plans drawn up and bid. He informed the Committee, there is some funding in the budget for upfront engineering and also there is money in the budget for a financial consultant to develop the financing plan for the beach walk as well as additional money needed for undergrounding utilities and bridge replacement for Isle of Palms and Capri.

Mr. Gayton questioned whether the current permit includes taking away sand from the beach entrances that are closed with the sand. Rick informed him that the permit currently on file, allows the City to remove minimal amounts of sand from the

sand wall without sea oats on it. If there are dunes 4-5 feet high with sea oats on it, it cannot be touched without the permit from state. The current permit mentions "wind blown" sand which can also be removed. Mr. Gayton questioned about opening entrances on the beach. Rick stated that 2 of the entrances are behind the Buccaneer property; one cannot be touched at all without a state permit and the other one cannot be done from the annual permit, but possibly from a FDEP field permit in the near future. Mr. Gayton read a letter from Jim Murphy, Public Work Director to the City Manager stating that Steve West's recommendation and input in regard to the permit states, "removal of sand and dune structure of existing access point within the sand wall is allowed. Rick recommended the only alternative, since the city cannot do that without a permit from the state, would be to remove a couple of the panels out of the existing wall either north or south of that area.

Ruth Philipon stated that after the trip to Clearwater and a number of beach communities, the access points to the beach are wider. The Treasure Island beach has many access points and there are some areas where people have to walk a little. Ruth felt that once the project clears, it is necessary to make it as attractive as possible. There are many areas that are accessible.

#### **Remarks by Members:**

Ruth Philipon agrees we need to wait for Phil Graham. As discussed previously, it may be necessary to do certain levels, but the need for a new sand wall and sidewalk is necessary

Commissioner Coward asked regarding the permit stating removal of sand was not allowed by the tractor, but may be moved by hand. This was more of a verbal from Steve West when the sand spurs were an issue, he stated the sand spurs are not protected but they are native, and people can pull them out. The hand raking is allowed when 2 dunes are closing in on each other and limiting the raking in between, then hand rakes may be used to keep it open for people to pass through.

Don Nolan stated there were 32 people and 450 lbs of trash was collected last Saturday at beach clean-up. He stated that at least beach clean-up is trying to keep the beach clean, and his only worry is the oil.

Rick Raus advised that the beach renourishment is getting closer. The main staging area is in Sunset Beach at Lot #2. He stated it will take about 2 weeks for them to get all the pipes welded together and the pipes will go along the entire length of the beach. Also, he noted, the booster pump was delivered and is approximately mid-way between the north and south on the beach so in the next couple of weeks the renourishment will begin.

George Greenfield stated the Visioning Committee commented about the trash cans being far up on the beach especially at the wide area of the beach and why couldn't they be moved forward where the majority of the people are located. Rick Raus informed the Committee that at the wide part of the beach, the City is attempting to utilize the automated cans because of the size, a lid, and ease of pick-up. He stated that

putting trash cans closer to surf may cause the trucks to get stuck in the softer sand. Ruth Philipon stated that she parks at the 124<sup>th</sup> Ave beach access, and there is a trash can before the walkover. Every morning when she gets there, there is trash just an arm's length away from the can. She felt that it is a personal effort of the individual to try and control their trash and take responsibility of utilizing the existing trash cans. Rick remarked that there are cans at every beach walkover and cans every 20-30 feet and there is still littering. Commissioner Coward asked whether the new signage will comment about no littering, however, Rick stated there will be new trash cans and bike racks, but no signs. It was suggested that signage be put on the trash cans. Don Nolan stated the "no signs" located on the crossovers and people don't read them, and therefore, don't adhere to them. Ruth stated she carries a plastic bag on the beach picking up trash while she is walking and she feels everyone should do that.

Since there were no further comments, the meeting was adjourned. The Committee was advised that the next Beach Stewardship Committee Meeting will be on August 11, 2010 here at the City Hall Auditorium.