

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
COMMISSION WORKSHOP SESSION
September 26, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Sand Castle Replacement

Meredith Corson, from Sanding Ovations was present to discuss the replacement of the existing sand sculpture. The mayor explained that they would like to see something done in conjunction with the bridge opening.

Ms. Corson explained that the sculpture is starting to look a little tired. There is discoloration due to berries falling on it from the trees. The bird has been repaired several times. She would like to look at the proposed location, and is in favor of doing something for the bridge opening.

This item will be taken up at a future meeting.

2. Humane Society Wag the Beach

Dominique Reiter spoke representing the Chamber of Commerce to introduce the representative from the Humane Society, Laura Ashford. Ms. Ashford gave a presentation regarding the Wag the Beach event. There will be four organizations involved. Dogs will be allowed on leashes only. There will be several demonstrations and training. It will be held in an enclosed 660 x 300 foot area behind the County Park. The reason for this event is to build community good will, and to educate the community. There are now more families with dogs than with children in the State of Florida. There will be a microchip clinic to insert and also check microchips. They will stress in all advertising that this is a one time event. The animals are monitored at all times, and there will be a pooper scooper patrol on duty the entire time.

Commissioner Kraus commented that allowing dogs on the beach has historically been a controversial issue. He thinks as a one day event that it is a great thing.

Commissioner Bildz asked if there was a charge to participate. Ms. Ashford explained that there will only be a charge for some of the amenities. He also asked about the time that the event will be held. It will be from 9:00 to 1:00. He asked if this will become an annual event if it is successful. Ms. Ashford answered in the affirmative.

Commissioner Gayton commented that he thinks it is a great idea, and wants to put the time in the resolution. It will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This item will move forward to the October 3, 2006 meeting agenda.

3. City Parking Lot – Sunset Vistas

The City Manager gave a brief overview of this item. Public Works has provided an estimate of what it would take to bring the lot up to our standards. They have elected to try to piggy back with the street resurfacing project. We took this item to the Beach Stewardship Committee, and we have listened to Mr. Minning's comments and would propose to use LOISS funds instead.

Commissioner Kraus commented that he was pleased to see this project done without using an outside consultant. He would like to see more of the street ends looked at and a report issued. The City Manager commented that this item will be on the next workshop agenda. Commissioner Kraus commented on the pricing breakdown. He asked why this was being addressed without the developer completing their part of the previously agreed upon work. It included repaving the parking area, and he thinks that they should do that before we proceed with the rest of the work. The City Manager will research that and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Collins asked about the number of meters that will be installed. There will be 21 parking meters installed. The Finance Director will report back at the next meeting with an estimate of how much revenue these meters bring in.

Commissioner Gayton wants to clarify the resolution establishing the minimum fund balance for the Beach Fund, and what procedure would have to be followed to change the policy. The City Manager explained that they could adopt a resolution granting a one time waiver of the policy for a particular project. Commissioner Gayton stated that he doesn't agree that it should be done. He feels that the policy should be changed rather than waived. He does not approve of using Beach Fund money for anything other than what it is intended for.

The City Attorney asked for guidance on the source of the funding for this project.

Commissioner Kraus stated that he doesn't feel that it is an improper use of the Beach Funds. He is not opposed to using LOISS funds if they are available in order to keep the Beach Fund balance at the appropriate level.

Commissioner Bildz commented that last year's budget projected the fund balance to be \$500,000. This year's balance is over the \$500,000. There are street ends all over the city that need to be done. If you keep taking asphalt and landscaping out of that fund it will be down to zero before we know it. He does not think that the money should come from the Beach Fund for paving.

Commissioner Kraus commented that the parking lot at 100th Avenue near the Island Inn is paved and metered. The paving is in very bad shape. We should go in and repair it before it gets much worse.

Bob Minning spoke representing the Beach Stewardship Committee. He appreciates the support of the commission for the Beach Fund.

John Burke commented that he was happy to hear the Commissioner say that the developer should do their part. He does not like the design. He feels that the landscaping is a waste because you don't see the parking lot. You see the landscaping at Sunset Vista. He is

opposed to putting in a sprinkler system and adding landscaping that will take away from the number of parking spaces.

The City Manager explained that he requires that all City projects meet the same codes and requirements that private projects, and obtain the same permits. If we were to follow Mr. Burke's recommendations we would have to ask the Planning and Zoning Board for a variance.

Commissioner Kraus commented that he thinks the entire lot needs to be paved rather than just patching the pavement.

This item will move forward to the October 3, 2006 meeting agenda.

4. Gulf Boulevard/107th Intersection/Crosswalks Design

Mr. Dabkowski, the City's Traffic Consultant, gave a power point presentation on this item. He explained that the State's requirements would have to be followed in the permitting process.

He presented each location, and discussed the changes that would be made. Most locations involved texturizing and colorizing in the crosswalks. There would be flashing signs installed as well.

The State and County have reviewed the design drawings. The State has two issues – if we are going to replace these crosswalks, they want to ensure that where the crosswalks end up they want to be sure that they are ADA Compliant. This may or may not increase the cost of the project. They have an approved vendor that can do the texturized colorized work. There is only one approved vendor.

Commissioner Kraus commented that landscaping could be eliminated as a cost savings. Is this an element in the Gulf Boulevard Streetscaping that they would address? Mr. Dabkowski explained that the plants in the two islands are low maintenance plantings. The islands provide protection from the pedestrians by stopping the left turning traffic from turning across. There needs to be some type of barrier to ensure the driver stays out of the general area. Commissioner Kraus asked how the pricing of the crosswalks correlated with the grant money. Mr. Dabkowski answered that we will try to keep the project within the grant amount. There could be a problem if we had to move drainage structures that are next to the ADA Compliant ramps that are currently there.

Commissioner Collins asked how long the islands are in the area of 125th. Mr. Dabkowski answered that they are approximately 20-25 feet long on each side of the crosswalk. Commissioner Collins also asked if there would there be irrigation? No, it is zeroscape landscaping.

The City Manager commented that the Paradise intersection has already been approved. It has gone out to bid twice, and has come back high both times. There will be a combination of grant and LOISS funds to fund this project as it will come in above the grant amount.

Mr. John Burke expressed concern with people turning left on Gulf Boulevard on 106th. If a vehicle can't turn left there, where will they turn around? Mr. Dabkowski indicated that they

would be able to, but the Commission may want to put in a left turn lane. He feels that it may have been striped the way it is to avoid left turns in that area.

Commissioner Bildz commented that he likes the solar signs and the xeriscape landscaping.

The Mayor commented that she thinks it looks terrific and is happy to see the signs in such close proximity to the crosswalks.

This item will move forward to the October 3, 2006 meeting agenda.

5. Segway Tours Along the Beach Trail

The Segway item was moved from the meeting agenda the workshop. Commissioner Gayton commented on the recent recall of all Segway units. When he voted for it he thought it was very safe. Even though they have put new software in, it is unproven software. He is concerned that there could be more problems. Based upon the recall, and new software, he wants to ask the Commission to reconsider allowing Segways along the beach trail. He feels that it increases the liability to the City. Only time will tell if they are fixed, and he feels that the liability is 10 times higher now.

Commissioner Bildz disagrees and feels that Segway is being overcautious. There were only 6 problems, and they were at the highest speeds and under very specific circumstances. Privately owned Segways are allowed. The Clearwater Segway distributor explained that it was a simple, 10 minute fix. If we got rid of a car every time it got recalled there would be very few cars. The Mayor concurred with Commissioner Bildz.

Commissioner Gayton commented that there is a lot of prototyping involved with items of this nature. He is concerned and wants to see it brought up again.

Commissioner Collins commented that his mind remains unchanged.

Mayor Maloof asked Mr. Dobrzeniecki to give them an update on the software update. He commented that the software is not new, it is an upgrade. The day that the recall was announced he took in all of his units. It was done from a laptop, and took about 10 minutes per unit. He has a stamp of approval on each unit.

Commissioners Collins, Gayton, and Kraus want the item to go to the next meeting for a revote. Mayor Maloof and Commissioner Bildz do not see the need for a revote.

Mr. Dobrzeniecki explained that this is a guided, narrated tour, and is not a race down the trail.

This item will move forward to the October 3, 2006 meeting agenda.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

None

III. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

The City Attorney gave a brief update on the challenge to the proposed charter initiatives. The municipalities have been successful. Yesterday the judge denied all of the County's motions. The judge is determined that this will be solved before the November election. The trial date is set for October 20th. There were a lot of municipal representatives at the last hearing. Commissioner Kraus commented that he watched a County Commission meeting, and there were angry members of the public commenting on the expenditure of \$150,000 to defend this suit.

Attorney Kiefer made brief comments on the Federal litigation of Gulf Coast Recovery regarding comments made earlier in the meeting. This is not fair to the City. This is not an action on a parking ticket. This is major federal litigation. We have already had some victory, and she is pleased with the project. We cannot get into detailed discussion on everything that happens. She would like to request an executive session as there are decisions to be made. It will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3rd, before the next meeting.

Commissioner Gayton asked about the code enforcement on the other properties. Attorney Kiefer stated that they are ready to send out the notices of violation. They are ready to schedule a hearing time. Hopefully it will take place within the next couple of weeks. They will be given time to comply. If they don't then they will be required to come in for a hearing.

IV. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Collins reported on the FL League of Cities conference in Orlando on legislative issues. The committee will be focusing strictly on issues of interest to municipalities. Among the pressing issues that they will be discussing are property taxes, insurance, home rule, and public safety issues. There is a meeting on Oct. 17th in Tampa that is open to the public regarding real estate tax reform.

Commissioner Kraus reported that there is a bridge closing tomorrow between 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. for a concrete pour. Anyone not signed up for e-messaging should sign up. They will send out e-mailed announcements, so it is a great feature. Tomorrow is the Big-C meeting hosted by Indian Rocks Beach. There will be a pedestrian expert, a discussion of land use density issues, and discussion on municipal wireless service, a legislative update, and a beach update.

Commissioner Bildz gave a report on the Florida Shore and Beaches conference. It was a very nice topic of events. He couldn't make all of it due to the Wednesday Commission meeting. There was a presentation of Sea Oat planting in Brevard County. They charged their residents \$43.20 for 96 of them. In three years they planted 127,000 of them, which is a lot of money. They are looking to plant 12 feet wide by 18.25 miles. There was a presentation by a sea turtle lady, who discussed planting native vegetation at the street ends to stop light pollution from hitting the beach. He gave a reminder on the Sea Oats planting on Saturday, October 28th, with another planting of the majority of them in December or January. The next Beach Stewardship meeting is on October 11th. He also reported that at Harrell & West Gulf Blvd. a moving truck got stuck. The trailer hit the road. How do we stop this? We can't have trucks get stuck there. The City Manager will call Jerry Dabkowski and ask him to check it out.

Mayor Maloof reported that the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation will be starting public hearings on local bills. The first one will be held on November 16th at 9 a.m. at the Tarpon Springs campus of St. Petersburg College. You can speak, but have to be put on the agenda.

You must call the delegation office by October 20th. The 2nd public hearing will be held on January 4th.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

V. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Maloof at 9:00 p.m.

Mary Maloof, Mayor

Phil Collins – District 1

Ed Gayton – District 2

Richard Kraus – District 3

Alan Bildz – District 4