

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
August 7, 2007
6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Maloof

B. ROLL CALL:

Mayor Mary Maloof	
Commissioner Phil Collins	District 1
Commissioner Ed Gayton	District 2
Commissioner Bob Minning	District 3
Commissioner Alan Bildz – Vice Mayor	District 4

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mel Lenehan, and her son Ross Lenehan were present to discuss incidents that happened in the Treasure Island summer camp. She feels that her child has been abused in camp, and that the coaches have not addressed the issues. She requested a review of the rules of the camp, and gave recommendations on addressing “bullies”, the coaches, and recommendations for the Director.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the July 3rd and July 17th meetings and workshop, and the three budget workshops are available for approval. It was moved by Commissioner Gayton and seconded by Commissioner Bildz to approve the minutes as corrected. Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

E. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Ord. 07-06 – Drum Circle 1st Reading and Public Hearing

It was moved by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Minning to approve the ordinance.

Commissioner Gayton asked for clarification on which version was being considered. Mr. Silverboard, City Manager, gave a brief explanation of the changes.

Commissioner Collins stated that he is in favor of the cut off times in the ordinance, but had received a suggestion from a resident to make it 9:30 year round. Commissioner Collins supports the ordinance that addresses the time change.

Commissioner Bildz commented that he read the police report and was pleased that the last week was better. He is in favor of an ordinance stopping all drumming on the beach.

Mayor Maloof opened the public hearing at 6:17 p.m.

Doug Sergent spoke in favor of the drum circle. He stated that he realizes that there has been a problem with illegal activities, but he does not participate in those illegal activities. He is known as the Peace Keeper, and the Can Man. He tries to keep the litter down. The drum circle has been going on for 25 years. He feels that by bringing the time down it is a means to just shut it down. He wants to see it continue, and wants people to realize that they do not want to cause trouble; they just want to have a good time. There are people from all over the come to the drum circle. It is a place for unity and diversity.

Donald Caron asked why they would be shut down for something that was one night a week. They are there to have fun, and respect the rules.

Lane Barrs stated that he has attended the drum circle for the past four weeks. He has met interesting people and made friends.

Milena Mateev stated that she is standing in for Signe Santiesteven. She is here to provide answers to some of the questions. There are three drum circles in the state of Florida. They want to see the drum circle continue, and appreciates the support they are receiving. The drum circle is not a place for a party. She is happy with the police presence. There were no incidents this past Sunday. The additional trash cans and the opening of the public restrooms have helped with those issues. They are asking for help to preserve what they have. It can be worked out. The time really doesn't matter. They just need support.

Noel Johnson stated that people that want to have events are supposed to get a permit and have a clean up crew and insurance. That is the policy in Treasure Island. Treasure Island is in a budget crunch. How much does it cost for the Police coverage each week? They should go before the board like anyone else to get the permits. The tax dollars need to be spent wisely, and not on policing this event. She urged the Commission to shut down the drum circle now.

Derek Erickson stated that he is a regular attendee of the drum circle. He finds it a stress reliever. He doesn't understand why a permit should be required. He volunteered to help with organizing the circle, and suggested that they take donations to help cover the costs of clean up and policing it. It is only the negative that has been pointed out, and not all the positive aspects. Most people are there just to have a good time. He feels that it is unfair that it be shut down before the time in the current ordinance, when others can make noise as individuals. He offered to represent the drum circle and participate in the decision making process.

Cathy McInerney stated that the 9:30 time was a suggestion only. She met with the others in the group, and felt that they had a good meeting. They are in favor of the 10:00/9:00 cut off times. They do not want to stop the circle. She stated that it isn't fair for the business owners to have to pay for private security, or deal with the issues that arise. The last two Sundays it stopped by 10:15. Most people left, but there were a few people that stayed and started up again. They want to compromise and bring a peaceful element to it.

John Johnson stated that he has no problem with the concept of the drum circle, and has participated in them in Sedona. His problem is that there is a minority group that is ruining it for everyone. He lives on the beach, and the other night he removed 16 beer bottles out of the dunes. It has gotten out of hand, and someone has to be responsible. They should get a permit like everyone else. He understands what they are trying to do, but the situation is being abused. It was nice when it started, but it has gotten out of hand. Restricting the hours is not going to solve it.

Mayor Maloof closed the public hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioner Minning explained that this ordinance is an effort by the Commission to address the rights of all citizens. He feels that this ordinance is a good compromise and a step forward in the right direction. They are not trying to shut the drum circle down – they are trying to do the right thing for everyone.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he doesn't feel that the time change will change anything. He feels that they should be required to have a permit. Around the country there are very few drum circles on public property. There are still problems with cigarette butts and other litter on the beach. The Burning Man drum circle that was mentioned previously is in a deserted area, and participants are required to remove all their trash when they leave. He is in favor of ending the drum circle.

Commissioner Collins stated that nobody that spoke in support of the drum circle was a taxpayer of Treasure Island. In regards to donations, they will accept them in the form of permit fees. He agrees with Commissioner Minning regarding the time restrictions and it being a compromise.

Mayor Maloof stated that she agrees with Commissioners Minning and Collins. It is not about shutting it down. It is about compromise. She doesn't think that some of the people doing the drumming are aware of the problems that are occurring, and that is what is causing the problems. We need guidelines if it is to continue. They have the right to be on the beach, but there are responsibilities that go with using it for that. It is difficult to control crowds that large. They are only asking that the guidelines be followed.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was 4-1 in favor, with Commissioner Bildz dissenting.

2. Res. 07-59 – Mitigation Committee Appointment

It was moved by Commissioner Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the resolution as read. Commissioner Collins thanked Steve for being willing to serve. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

3. Res. 07-60 – Increase in City Attorney's Hourly Fees

It was moved by Commissioner Minning and seconded by Commissioner Bildz to approve the resolution as read. Commissioner Collins clarified that this is not an

increase of the monthly retainer, but an increase in the rates for work that is done outside of that contract. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

4. Res. 07-55 – Special Magistrate

This item was withdrawn from the agenda. Mr. Peck is no longer interested in the position.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.