

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MINUTES
March 3, 2009**

The workshop was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Consideration of Res. 09-08, Sand Sculpture Event

Meredith Corson from Sanding Ovations gave a brief update on this item. In 2001 Treasure Island was named the Sand Sculpting Capital of Florida. Since then Treasure Island has only hosted one sand sculpting competition. Sanding Ovations has teamed up with Celebrity Marketing to raise funds for a competition. An event of this nature could have families planning their vacations annually to attend the event. She introduced Dominique Reiter, Ken Hautmann and Dan Doubleday.

Mayor Maloof asked a question regarding the texture of the sand and whether it would cause a problem with turtle nesting. Ms. Corson stated that they have been using this type of sand on our beaches for over 20 years. It is not that much sand. There will be eight sculptures with a demonstration sculpture in the center. She stated that it would not interfere with the turtles. The material used is our sand without the shells and rocks in it.

Commissioner Collins asked how long the sculptures would stay up. Ms. Corson stated that they would be up until they naturally dissipated. Ms. Reiter stated that they have hired overnight security guards. She explained that they were planning this as a family event that would have many activities for the children.

Ms. Corson stated that these are not sand castles. They are sand sculptures that are works of art.

Commissioner Minning has heard rumors that there is going to be some media coverage. Ms. Corson stated that they will be nationally televised on local sports stations. Treasure Island will have its own one hour show. The plan is to add more events next year.

Commissioner Bildz asked Ms. Hayduke about the vehicles driving on the beach before the event. Ms. Hayduke explained that the media would be coming out, but would be encouraged to park in the county lot. The city will be taking over the parking for this event.

Commissioner Collins asked Mr. Silverboard about fencing. Mr. Silverboard explained that the only fencing would be to protect the sand sculptures. There would be no fencing to charge a fee, and is only there at night for security. Commissioner Collins asked about the cost for police coverage. Ms. Hayduke stated that they can't come up with an exact staff cost at this time. She has estimates, but if during the event they need more coverage that will be an additional cost.

This item will move forward to the March 17th meeting agenda.

2. Consideration of Ord. 09-03, Definition of Tourist Dwelling

Ms. Kiefer gave a brief explanation of this item. She stated that the Planning and Zoning Board had agreed to amend the definition of a tourist dwelling. She believes that it was a scribe's error to exclude multi-family dwellings from the definition of tourist dwelling. This is

a constant battle in the State of Florida. She recommends that they follow the LPA's recommendation.

Lynn Rosetti reported that the LPA held three public hearings and voted by unanimous consent to recommend that the Commission pass these changes.

This item will move forward to the March 17th meeting for first reading.

3. Discussion Regarding County Funding of Gulf Boulevard Improvements

Mr. Silverboard gave a brief explanation of this item. We have reached a point in the project that we need the funding promised by the County to BIG-C communities. This started off as an effort to underground utilities on Gulf Boulevard. The cost has since escalated considerably. It cost over \$6 million for Redington Beach to underground one mile. It is clear that we are not going to be undergrounding utilities as it has become too expensive. The County has agreed to split the Penny for Pinellas money set aside for this based on the linear footage along Gulf Boulevard. Mayors Queen and Lawrence have met with Commissioner Stewart regarding this. There is no written agreement on these expenditures, and because of the economy we don't know that the County will collect sufficient revenue to pay for it. He has spoken with staff regarding the types of projects that would be eligible for funding according to the Phil Graham plan. He has asked staff to put together a submittal for the projects. The process is to submit the plan to the BIG-C who will make a decision as to whether it meets the requirements. If approved by the BIG-C it moves forward to the County Commission for application for reimbursement. Some of the projects are traffic lights and turn signals, installation of decorative street lighting along Gulf Boulevard which will allow us to put a light at each intersection and crosswalk along Gulf Boulevard. We are also suggesting that we hard surface the beach street ends along the bay side of 102nd and 103rd Avenues. We would improve drainage. An additional project would be bike trail improvements, depending upon what comes out of the bike trail project that we are already working on.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he is not ready to abandon the City's dream of undergrounding the utilities along Gulf Boulevard. We have asked for a proposal for years and have not received a proposal. He asked about the \$6 million figure that was received for one mile and whether that included both side of the street. We have no idea what it would cost to underground. He gave a description of the different areas along Gulf Boulevard and what they would need. Most of the cables on Gulf Boulevard are Bright House cables. We are already complete on the East side of Gulf Boulevard from John's Pass to 119th. On the West side we only have five streets, which is 250 feet. We are not talking about any more than 1,500 lineal feet on the north side of this island until you get to 104th. We have a small section from 104th to 99th that needs to be done. Once you pass 99th to Blind Pass Road it is complete. This could be our last chance to do it, and there is supposed to be money available. He asked the Commission to take another look at undergrounding the utilities and get an estimate. He stated that the ideas that Reid came up with were fine and took care of safety issues, but we are looking for beautification. We should take a look at it even if we have to do one section at a time.

Mr. Silverboard stated that if they authorize him tonight he can get Bob Brotherton going on a study that would be a non-binding estimate. It would cost less than \$10,000. He has asked Progress Energy for a non-binding estimate but has not received it. He gave a brief explanation of how the undergrounding is done. It is one trench that is used for both sides of the road. The City is responsible for resurfacing the road once they have installed the pipe for the line. The other utilities don't do it for free. Verizon has not been cooperative with any city in an undergrounding project and will require that all their costs are paid for, as do Brighthouse. Progress Energy only requires us to pay 80% of the costs.

Commissioner Gayton stated that if the pole belongs to Progress Energy then they have the right to take the pole down. Mr. Silverboard stated that the other utilities have the right to use the poles. The legislature took away a lot of our rights when they de-regulated the utilities. If there is not sufficient land in the right of way then we will have to get easements. If they authorize him tonight he will get it going. Progress Energy's costs will not include cable or the telephone, and will be non-binding. Commissioner Gayton stated that this is money appropriated by the county, and if we spend it on something else we will never get this opportunity again.

Commissioner Collins commented that the money is available in the year 2011 and is for a five year period. It will include projects that go past the year 2016 if they are started. He doesn't think that \$3,777,000 will be sufficient, but he hopes that we can do some of it. We still have to get estimates from Bighthouse and Verizon. Mr. Silverboard explained that the reason that he recommended Bob Brotherton is because he will give them a cost for Bighthouse and Verizon and will factor in the costs for future years. He has experience in doing Indian Shores and Redington Shores. Commissioner Collins stated that those costs are non-binding. Mr. Silverboard stated that we would have to finance the project, and he isn't sure that the County's commitment will stay there because there is no guaranty that they will collect the entire \$35 million. Commissioner Collins stated that his only concern is that if they get an estimate at a cost of \$10,000 it may not be useful later. Mr. Silverboard stated that it may not cost \$10,000. Commissioner Collins clarified that that estimate would include all three utilities.

Commissioner Minning asked if we could get non-binding estimates from all three utilities. Mr. Silverboard stated that Progress Energy will provide a non-binding estimate. A binding estimate will cost more. Verizon will not provide a non-binding estimate. Commissioner Minning stated that when they looked at it on Paradise last year the estimate was \$1.4 million. He would like to see them look into this. Mr. Silverboard stated that he has asked for an estimate from Progress Energy, but has not received a response.

Commissioner Gayton stated that we will never know and will regret it if we don't get the estimates. Mr. Silverboard stated that whatever they decided to do they should do it quickly.

Commissioner Collins asked for clarification as to what was included in the price. Mr. Silverboard stated that the easements were an additional cost. Indian Shores was able to convince property owners to donate the easement. If you underground utilities there is an additional cost to change the meter boxes. In Belleair Beach it was approximately \$2,500 per residence. There was a concern with older structures that the wiring inside would necessitate doing additional wiring that would not be covered. Commissioner Collins commented on flooding and that those costs would not be covered. Mr. Silverboard explained that it is more difficult to restore service with undergrounded service, but there is less problem because there is less problem with wind damage.

Commissioner Gayton stated that they have undergrounded cables on the Isle of Palms and have had no problems. Progress Energy does not want to underground their lines. He wants to try it.

Mr. Silverboard asked if he could go to Brotherton for the estimate. He is authorized to spend up to \$8,000. If it is more he will come back to them on a regular meeting to ask for permission to spend more.

Commissioner Minning stated that he had lunch with Commissioner Moroni yesterday who told him that it is likely that the money will be less due to the economy.

Commissioner Bildz stated that it irks him that the county would spend money on a state highway. We have control of our bridge and the state should take that over. He went over

some of the suggested projects on the list. His first choice would be to underground the utilities. Mr. Silverboard stated that it is true that it is a state road, but we are not in their funding plan for at least five years or more. We can't wait that long. We can try to do some type of a LAP agreement where we would front the money and they would pay us back when funding is available. The other issue is that if we don't spend the money within the five year period it is returned to the fund and allotted to other communities. If we don't use it somebody else will. Several communities have done projects already and are asking for reimbursement.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Collins stated that he has noted that the City has been on Capri Boulevard on numerous occasions working on the solar light. It goes out a lot.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he was on the north side of 126th where we have the parking, 125th, and 124th. There is no ADA access on the Gulf side, but there is on the street side. Mr. Silverboard explained that wheelchairs can't be operated on the beach. We followed the requirements for the walkovers. Where there is no access on the gulf side there is a viewing platform.

Commissioner Bildz commented on the speed study report. We got police patrolling the area, but that isn't what we asked for. We wanted a 24 hour study done. Mr. Silverboard explained that we are having the traffic warrant studies done and that information would be provided as part of that study. Commissioner Gayton asked if it gave the speed of the cars, or just the number of cars. Mr. Silverboard stated that it would give them the number of cars, speed of cars, and the direction that they are turning in. It will be started very soon.

III. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Ms. Kiefer gave an update on the Gulf Coast Recovery case. They have a slot in November, 2009 if they have not received a summary judgement on the two remaining issues.

Mr. Silverboard reported that Bands on the Sand will be held on May 23, 2009. If you want to volunteer please contact either Dominique Reiter or Cathy Hayduke.

Mr. Silverboard stated that Sunset Beach near Caddy's was very crowded on Saturday. We are trying to handle it through enforcement of traffic and parking laws. One shift issued 52 parking citations, the midnight shift issued 10 citations, and there were 10 directed patrols. There was one vehicle towed, and ten other citations for other complaints issued. We will continue to monitor the area and get the word out that traffic enforcement that will be very strict there. Commissioner Bildz asked if the bar owner was responsible for paying for the five hours of traffic control that our officer had to do. Mr. Silverboard stated that he was not but he was going to contact him about it.

Mr. Silverboard announced that the County is willing to deed over their portion of the county park on Gulf Boulevard so long as we agree to keep it open for beach access and do all maintenance and improvements. This would allow us to put in meters and beach access. If we are willing to accept we need to let them know as it will be going to the County Commission in about eight weeks. This is a great opportunity for us to better serve the public. Commissioner Collins asked if we would have any liabilities. We would be liable as it will be city owned property at that point. We would have to maintain the rest rooms, which we believe we can do with existing staff. We would have to add it to our insurance. We can more than make that up by the parking meter revenue. The Commission agreed to support this.

Mr. Silverboard gave a report on the public hearing regarding the bike trail. There were about 40 residents that showed up. There were fifteen speakers, with 5-7 speakers in opposition. When

they voted on the four alternatives there were 27 votes, and 13 who did not vote. We met with the consultants today to plan the next step. We suggest that we have a special workshop meeting on March 24th at 6:00. It would be the only item on the agenda. The consultants would be there to make a presentation based on the comments received at the meeting. We would invite the public. We can then go from there as to whether or not we want to proceed, and if so, how to proceed. What wasn't as clear as it could be was what the improvements would be on the various routes. On 108th there would be no construction needed. All it would need would be striping and signage. On 104th there would need to be construction on the perimeter of T.I. Park. An additional sidewalk would be added to create a two way trail system. That would be done by city crews. There would also be additional street markings and signage. The 107th Avenue route would involve no construction. It would involve striping and signage. That is a more short term immediate solution until we know what projects will be done in the downtown area. The bike lanes on 107th would not start until you get past the initial driveways on the west side as you approach Gulf Blvd. The 4th alternative was doing all three of those. The costs for these things are relatively modest, particularly when it involves just striping. In terms of the St. Petersburg connection, they propose to have a formal connection between the Pinellas Trail and the bicycle trail that we have installed at the most easterly bridge. That isn't planned for another four or five years. They have a proposed route which was shown at the presentation. We talked about a second route today. If you go down 1st Avenue south from Park Street there is currently two bike lanes striped out. We could easily connect from there.

Mayor Maloof asked Mr. Silverboard to discuss the funding for this project. Mr. Silverboard stated that we have \$130,000 of Penny for Pinellas money set aside for this project. Each route has advantages and disadvantages. It is important that the public hears the information on the routes first hand.

Commissioner Bildz asked Mr. Silverboard to ask why 106th was not considered. Mr. Silverboard stated that they have asked the consultant to look at that.

Mayor Maloof stated that people on Treasure Lane and Paradise Lane are concerned about this. She doesn't think that there will be that many more people coming in. There are already people coming to the beach on their bicycles. Mr. Silverboard stated that he doesn't think there will be a big increase in bike traffic. There is already a bike lane there that is being used. The bridges were designed to accommodate it. There will not be a big impact in the amount of traffic but it would make a big impact on the safety.

Commissioner Collins stated that he is not available on the 24th and asked if they could meet earlier. He asked if the date could be set tomorrow. The Commission agreed to meet on Thursday, March 19th.

Commissioner Gayton discussed the comments regarding making 107th one lane in either direction. He feels it would cause traffic problems on Gulf Boulevard.

Commissioner Collins commented on some of the estimates received.

Mr. Silverboard will confirm with the consultants that they can be there on the 19th of March.

IV. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Collins gave a report on the February BIG-C meeting. There was a speaker that discussed fertilizing and how most people over fertilize their lawns. It is injurious to the environment and the aquifer.

Commissioner Collins announced that the Isle of Capri will be having a St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 16th at the Community Center. Ricky T's will be providing the food.

Commissioner Collins gave a reminder of the Spaghetti Luncheon to benefit Team TI and Relay for Life to be held on Friday, March 6th.

Commissioner Collins reported on the recent automobile break-ins at Madeira Beach.

Commissioner Collins commented on Larry Hoffman's passing. He will be missed.

Commissioner Gayton agreed with Commissioner Collins regarding Larry Hoffman.

Commissioner Gayton gave a reminder that they are still looking for applicants for Planning and Zoning Board for District 2. He gave an explanation of the areas that comprised District 2.

Commissioner Gayton reported that the annual Isle of Palms garage sale will be this Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will also be a food court.

Commissioner Minning added his condolences to the Hoffman family.

Commissioner Minning made comments on the fertilizer issue, and stated that there would be a fertilizer ordinance going around. Pinellas County is currently considering the ordinance. He feels that it is a good step forward in the right direction. There will be information provided that explains that there are sufficient nutrients in the reclaimed water that fertilizer isn't necessary.

Commissioner Minning reported on yesterday's Beach Stewardship Committee meeting. They have been looking at a Bal Harbor type trail. They will be discussing it further at the March 11th meeting. The intent is to get a consensus from the Beach Stewardship committee as to what it might look like and to give their recommendation and cost estimates to the Commission. There have been questions about the existing beach trail. The concrete beach trail that currently exists will not be impacted in any way.

Commissioner Minning stated that he was approached by former Commissioner Ellsworth about a fishing pier in John's Pass. There is currently a construction pier at the inlet. They were approached by Flatiron Construction as to the possibility of leaving the construction pier there. He is requesting that Mr. Silverboard look into it.

Commissioner Bildz reported on the library board meeting that they had last week. The finances are now being taken over by Madeira Beach. He will have better figures next month. There will be a special meeting next Monday to interview for the new library director. The Food for Thought fundraising event will be held on Saturday evening at the Library.

Commissioner Bildz reported on the Sunset Beach Civic Association meeting that was held last night. Mayor-Elect Minning gave the "State of the City" report. Commissioner Bildz asked about signs regarding the dog waste ordinance. He requested extra signs to be installed at Sunset Beach. Caddy's was also discussed at the meeting due to the crowds from Saturday.

Mayor Maloof commented on the funeral of Officer John Paulina, who passed away last week.

Mayor Maloof gave a reminder of the Ikebana exhibit to be held on March 21st and 22nd.

Mayor Maloof stated that Vice Mayor Minning and the City Manager attended the Legislative breakfast with her last week. There are 21 military bases here in Florida. There is discussion about closing some of them. Dennis Jones commented that there are places that we can't cut, such as the prison system. Vice-Mayor Minning agreed that the situation in the state is dire. It will affect all of us. Mr. Silverboard stated that they don't expect the economy to start turning around for at least another year or so. The state has essentially said that they have no money and don't ask for any. Commissioner Minning stated that the stimulus money can help on the

short term basis, but only 3% of the budget can be from non-recurring funds. Mayor Maloof has written to our legislative delegation asking them to support new revenue sources and our home rule rights.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Carol Coward stated that several people have asked her about the Golf and Tennis Challenge. It was very successful. They think they made about \$6,300. That will be shared with the City.

Mayor Maloof announced that Commissioner Elect Coward's husband is the new City Manager in Indian Rocks Beach.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

The workshop was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.