

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 26, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Mayor Minning.

SILENT ROLL CALL:

Mayor Minning		Present
Commissioner Collins	District 1	Present
Commissioner Caldwell	District 2	Present
Commissioner Coward	District 3	Present
Commissioner Bildz (Vice Mayor)	District 4	Present

Mayor Minning introduced Phil Graham who gave a slide presentation on the updates that he has done on the beach trail plan.

Commissioner Coward asked how long it would take to get the permitting done. Mr. Graham stated that it would take three or four months. They could get a maintenance permit, which would be simpler. Commissioner Coward asked if they would have to have a special permit to move sand. Mr. Graham answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Coward asked how long the project would take after permits were received. Mr. Graham stated that it would be three or four months.

Mr. Silverboard stated that there were some features that were not mentioned in the presentation. On the seaward side there would be a scored line. Mr. Graham explained that it would be a decorative line that would show the height that they wanted the sand up to.

Mayor Minning asked how the lighting included in the NOAA grant would blend in with what is proposed for the trail. Mr. Murphy stated that it could be moved, and it would work with what is being proposed for the trail.

Commissioner Caldwell asked if the concrete would be colored all the way through so that if it were chipped it would not show. Mr. Graham stated that the new concrete would be.

Mayor Minning asked about the square footage. Mr. Graham stated that there would be some reduction in the square footage in some areas. The entire trail would be twelve feet wide, with some areas a little wider.

Commissioner Bildz commented that some of the areas that could be retained have not been deducted. Mr. Graham stated that some of the square footage has been removed, but Commissioner Bildz is correct regarding the areas that could be retained. Commissioner Bildz asked about the savings if colored concrete is not used. Mr. Graham stated that it would be a savings of approximately \$1.50 per square foot.

Mayor Minning asked if the beach entrances would line up with the existing walks to the hotels along the beach. Mr. Graham explained that they would try to keep them as close as possible. There would be an entrance approximately every 200 feet.

Commissioner Bildz asked if the \$125,000 for the City of St. Petersburg would be deducted from the total. Mr. Graham explained that it was already deducted.

Mayor Minning commented that the original portion of the trail was built 43 years ago. They should plan on building something that will work for the next 50 years.

Mr. Silverboard stated that the current trail has about a two foot space between the trail and the sand wall. The new trail and sand wall would eliminate that space, therefore eliminating some of the maintenance to the area. The new wall would be wide enough to sit on, which will be more comfortable than the existing wall. We wanted to be sure that we had the most low maintenance trail as possible. They should have a concept that can be utilized in the future, and use to develop a good partnership with the beach front businesses.

Mr. Murphy gave a brief explanation of what might be done with the dune structures. Commissioner Coward asked for assurance that the dunes would not be removed. Mr. Murphy explained that they may be moved, but not removed. One reason for relocating them would be to make maintenance easier and less expensive.

Dennis Velasco commented about the cost of the cap on the sand wall. Part of that cost could be offset by the cost of benches, as they could reduce the number of benches. They could also save some cost by not running the cap along the entire wall. He felt that by reducing it it would defeat the purpose of having the multi-use cap on the wall. He also commented on the cost of etching the existing concrete versus replacing the entire length of the trail. He expressed concern that they didn't know what expenses they might have in the future if they didn't replace all of it. He feels that they should do a whole new wall and walk system.

Commissioner Coward suggested that they ask for everything in the bid process, and then select what they would need to delete after they receive the bids. Mr. Silverboard agreed with Commissioner Coward. Mr. Murphy stated that there could be some things that come up in the engineering process that could add or subtract from the cost.

Mayor Minning asked Mr. Silverboard to comment on the financing. Mr. Silverboard stated that it would be premature at this point. The Beach Stewardship Committee is making a recommendation to the Commission that they implement this plan. Commissioner Bildz stated that they had no recommendation about the money. Mr. Silverboard stated that that was correct. It is now up to the Commission to adopt or modify the plan. They need to have an agenda item with a resolution that either adopts or modifies the plan so they can begin the process of deciding how to pay for it, as well as figuring out a schedule for the project. He proposed that they put an item on the agenda for the second meeting in November.

Commissioner Collins asked if they should adopt the plan and then modify it. Mr. Silverboard suggested that if there are things that they wanted to drop at this time they discuss it now. He stated that Commissioner Coward was correct in her suggestion to ask for prices for everything before deciding what they wanted to modify. Permit requirements might also require some modifications.

Mayor Minning asked Mr. Silverboard to explore some grant opportunities for the project. Commissioner Collins asked if there were any grants available for this year. Mr. Silverboard stated that most of the grants available were for transportation and energy. Most grants dealing with recreation are from the state, and that money has dried up. Commissioner Collins asked if Mr. Silverboard knew of anything available next year. Mr. Silverboard stated that the grant cycle

is usually the same each year and they would look at everything that was out there. Commissioner Collins asked if there would be a way to link this to the Pinellas Trail, and if so, would there be funding available there. Mr. Silverboard stated that the first step to do so would be to complete the bike trail. We still have the money for that project to complete our beach trail with the Pinellas Trail and downtown St. Pete. Commissioner Collins asked if the Pinellas Trail has to be continuous, or could it pick up at another point. Mr. Silverboard stated that other cities have legs off the trail. They don't call it the Pinellas Trail specifically, but they are identified on the maps. Commissioner Collins stated that if they could make it some part of the Pinellas Trail they might be able to get funding. Mr. Silverboard stated that they have asked if there is money left from the Penny for Pinellas money could we use it for this project. So far we have been told no.

Mr. Murphy stated that the City of Clearwater puts a tremendous amount of effort into the maintenance of their new trail, and they need to consider that when making decisions about this project. Commissioner Collins suggested that they go back up to Clearwater and take another look at what is there.

Commissioner Coward stated that they needed to keep in mind that what we have now is old and needs a lot of repair. When we have a new wall and trail it will take less maintenance, but we will not be able to avoid maintenance. Mr. Murphy stated that to maintain it as an attractive centerpiece it will take routine maintenance that they do not have to do now.

Mr. Velasco stated that he feels that it is important to make another trip up to Clearwater to see that project again, and suggested that they encourage people to walk our trail, and then to visit the Clearwater trail. This is one of the most important projects that will be done in a very long time.

Ms. Philipon stated that the condition of the wall and trail now does not make people feel proud. Once you decide to redo the trail it will bring a sense of pride. Once you do something like this it will attract more tourists and benefit the business community. She hopes it will go through.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m. by Mayor Minning.