

BEACH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 30, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Hing at 10:00 am.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Markus Lehtovirta
Lynda Lind
Cleo Robertson
Maynard Hirshon
Kevin Hing, Chairman

Also Present:

Steve Hallock, Administration Director
Catherine Hartley, Senior Planner
Andrew Squires, Pinellas County
Phil Christman, Operations Manager
Ed Pickhardt, Contract/Grant Administrator
Theresa McMaster, City Clerk

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Maynard Hirshon nominated Kevin Hing to serve as Chairman and Lydia Lind as Vice Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Markus Lehtovirta and approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made that the Minutes from the November 23, 2009 Meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

UPHAM BEACH RE-NOURISHMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Andrew Squires reported that he received a notice from the State that the permit has been approved for the re-nourishment project. Mr. Squires stated that the project will begin sometime in mid to late June, starting at Treasure Island, so it

will be a month or so after that they will get to Upham Beach. He will be holding some pre-construction meetings with the State in late May or early June. Mr. Squires will be sending notices to beach property owners and hotels advising them of what is going on and when it will begin.

UPHAM BEACH STABILIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

Andrew Squires reported that on April 6, 2010, they will begin the contract to move forward with the repair to T 1 and T 2 groins. That repair will begin immediately following the re-nourishment of Upham Beach. In three years, 2013, re-nourishment will be done again along with installation of permanent structures; they will be starting that contract soon, in the next couple of months.

COASTAL CONSTRUCTION LINES

Catherine Hartley provided the Committee with a map and some material to clarify the coastal construction lines; she also gave a brief presentation and answered questions from the Committee.

BEACH CLEANING & MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Phil Christman prepared a brief power point presentation and will send it to the Committee members by email. Mr. Christman reported that the city has a brand new tractor and a brand new "rake"; he has applied for a permit from the DEP to do the mechanical cleaning.

Mr. Christman brought up the beach accesses, the "walkovers", especially in Pass-A-Grille. The structures were built to get to the beach, over the plantings, and they are now being covered by sand. His department is now trying to maintain basic access to the beach, cleaning the sand off the walkovers regularly. He also reported that he had a request to put some signage up on the water side of the walkovers; small signs have been installed on existing posts indicating the street nearest the walkover.

Due to budget cuts, Steve Hallock reported that the staff has been reduced down to the absolute minimum and he has recommended to the City Manager that no future cuts be made to Public Services staff.

A motion was made that the Committee go on record to support Mr. Hallock's position at the City Commission Workshop scheduled today. The motion was seconded by Cleo Robertson.

During discussion, Cleo Robertson brought up the "red tide" situation and suggested that the residents become involved in cleaning up the beach after such an occurrence. Mr. Hallock stated that the City would dig trenches into which the dead fish could be deposited by the residents.

Chairman Hing asked the Committee to vote on the pending motion.

The Committee unanimously approved the motion to support Mr. Hallock's recommendation regarding staffing at the City Commission Workshop scheduled today.

Cleo Robertson brought up the sea weed situation and suggested that it be moved up by the dunes instead of letting it wash back into the water. Mrs. Robertson stressed that the sea weed is "food" to the dunes.

Mrs. Robertson then mentioned new "paths" that have been formed through the sand dunes from 8th Avenue to 6th Avenue. It was suggested that sea oats be planted to cut off the paths; another suggestion was erecting signs saying this is a "purposely protected environmental area". Mr. Christman asked the Committee to come up with some suggestions as to wordage on new signs.

TURTLE LIGHTING PROJECT UPDATE

Ed Pickhardt brought in new lights for the Committee to see. Pinellas County offered a grant of \$25,000 funding new lights along Gulf Way. An agreement with Pinellas County was approved and signed; the fixtures were ordered and Progress Energy is now installing the new lights. The project should be completed by mid-April. Turtle season begins May 1st.

SEA OAT PLANTING

Chairman Hing stated that changes to the planting schedule are necessary. Last year 200 volunteers planted approximately 10,000 sea oats in about two hours. Chairman Hing suggested that the planting take place in the fall, instead of June, and they begin earlier in the day to avoid the heat. This year they need leaders to organize the event. Mrs. Robertson will write an article to recruit organizers and submit it to the Committee before publication in the "Paradise News". The Committee suggested "Clean Up" day at the same time.

MEETING SCHEDULES

After discussion, it was agreed that the next Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 4th at 9:00 am. Thereafter, Meetings will be held on a quarterly basis.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Chairman Hing asked for comments, hearing none the Meeting was adjourned.


CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


Deputy City Clerk