

BEACH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES

AUGUST 16, 2017

9:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Fontana called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Lynda Lind Fontana, Chairwoman
Dan Rothenberger, Vice Chairman
Janet Harris, Member
Michael Welch, Member

ABSENT:

Lenny Stamos, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Mike Clarke, Public Works Director
Mary Jo Murphy, Deputy City Clerk

1. Changes to the Agenda

Chairwoman Fontana asked for any changes to the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

2. Audience Comments

Chairwoman Fontana asked for audience comments.

David Westmark, P.O. Box 845, St. Petersburg, Florida, Blue Turtle Society, spoke in regard to alcohol on the sand beach creating a pathway for plastic waste to enter the Gulf of Mexico.

David Connor, Chair of the Suncoast Rise Above Plastics Coalition, spoke about protecting the marine environment and eco systems by working with consumers, working with businesses, and advocating for sustainable policies and ordinances at the city, state and county level.

Holly Parker, 1229 Mitchell Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32303, Florida Regional Manager for the Surfrider Foundation, spoke about the following items: protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches; plastic in the ocean; consider alternatives to plastic; educational component to the community; and Leave No Trace ordinances.

3. Approval of Minutes – 5/17/17

Member Welch made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Rothenberger and was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

4. Agenda Items

a. Beach Ambassadors Group: Volunteers to Assist Tourists

Chairwoman Fontana reviewed the purpose of the Beach Ambassadors Group with the Beach Stewardship Committee members and asked members to assist with finding volunteers.

Mr. Clarke, Public Services Director, stated he would review the aspects of the Beach Ambassadors Group with the City's Human Resources and legal department to ensure the group is authorized to officially represent the City.

b. Owl Statues on the Beach

Mr. Clarke updated the Committee members that a property owner had placed owl statues on the beach to scare Skimmers away, and it was reported that the task was unsuccessful.

c. Dune Removal: Plaza Beach Hotel, Permitted Actions

Mr. Clarke informed the Board that there are permits issued to property owners to protect properties from moving dunes, as long as the sand being moved returns to the beach into the dune system, to keep walkways open for traffic.

d. Upham Beach Groin Replacement Project Update

Mr. Clarke informed the Committee members that the project is a county project and that the permanent rock groins will be going in with a seven-month projection for completion.

e. Dune Crossover 12th Avenue and 16th Avenue Project Update

Mr. Clarke stated that the project is a 100 percent, non-matched, County grant of \$120,000.00 to design and replace the crossovers. It is scheduled to be on the City Commission agenda for approval on August 22, 2017.

f. Removal of Public Beach Access Signage at Cabrillo Avenue

Mr. Clarke informed the Committee that at this location the property owners adjacent to the access point requested that the sign be removed because it is private property and the City complied.

g. Sand Wall at Pass-A-Grille Painting and Repair Update

Mr. Clarke updated the Committee in regard to the following items:

- a neutral sand color will be selected this week to paint the wall
- concrete repairs are taking place
- benches are being replaced
- concrete patchwork is taking place

h. Fishing Pier at 1st Avenue Repair Update

Mr. Clarke updated the Committee in regard to the following items:

- the railing has been replaced
- the concrete decking has been restored

i. Restroom Improvements at Pass-A-Grille FY18 Proposed CIP Project Update

Mr. Clarke updated the Beach Stewardship Committee that the City Commission has a Capital Improvement project in the budget for consideration entitled Pass-A-Grille Restrooms. The project will be enlarging and improving the restrooms at Paradise Grille on 9th Avenue, and the budgeted amount is \$120,000.00.

j. Ordinance 2016-09 Amending CH 6, Alcoholic Beverages and Transient Lodging

Mr. Clarke informed the Committee that the City Commission will be discussing how to enhance the experience of guests when hotels allow beverage service within their property on the sand.

k. Beach Trash Pick-Up Date

Mr. Clarke updated the Committee in regard to the following items:

- contract with Waste Connections specifies the number of containers and the locations
- contract to be renewed this month
- requesting to increase the number of containers
- City Commission is moving forward with staff's recommendation to acquire a trash truck with a hydraulic arm

There was Committee discussion in regard to the following item:

- consideration for a Leave No Trace ordinance

Mr. Clarke stated he would prepare a document for the City Manager to bring to the City Commissioners to see if they would like Staff to develop an ordinance or policy.

- I. A recommendation to the City Commission to approve a proposal from Jeff Blair, Facilitated Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$38,500.00 to assist the City to develop a comprehensive Beach Management Plan.

Member Welch spoke about having all interested parties coordinated in an effort to improve the beach, as far as the environment, with a professional organizer.

Chairwoman Fontana stated that the Committee could make a recommendation that the City Commission review the proposal.

Member Welch made a motion that the City Commission review the proposal.

There was Board discussion at this time.

Deputy City Clerk Murphy informed the Committee that a motion had been made and there should not be any discussion before a second is made.

It was the consensus of the Board to have further discussion at this time.

Chairwoman Fontana asked for a recommendation.

Member Welch made a motion to recommend to the City Commission to review Jeff Blair's plan for beach coordination. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Rothenberger and was unanimously approved by a roll call vote, (4 yeses – 0 nos).

Mr. Clarke stated he would prepare an agenda item for the September 12, 2017 City Commission meeting.

m. FY 18 Proposed Budget for Beach Improvements: Recommendations from the Committee to the Commission

Mr. Clarke explained that the City Commission is interested in improving the beach and is prepared to allocate \$100,000.00 for FY18. Mr. Clarke asked the Committee for their input about types of beach improvements to incorporate into the project.

The Committee made the following suggestions:

- have a plan with a consultant
- have a discussion with stakeholders
- obtain a marketing firm
- offer recycling near the trash cans
- enclose trash can areas
- develop a branding for St. Pete Beach
- install benches
- plant trees
- increase the amount of handicap accesses to the beach
- obtain attractive trash cans

6. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Attest:


Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk


Lynda Lind Fontana, Chairwoman

Minutes approved on: 5/16/18