

BEACH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES

August 21, 2019

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
Lenny Stamos, Member
Linda Borgia, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Alex Rey, City Manager
Mike Clarke, Public Works Director
Ginny Keeter-Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk

1. Changes to the Agenda

Chairwoman Fontana asked for any changes to the agenda and there none.

2. Audience Comments

Chairwoman Fontana asked for audience comments and there were none.

3. Approval of Minutes – 08/15/2018

Member Stamos made a motion to approve the August 15, 2018 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Member Vice Chair Rothenberger and was unanimously approved by a voice vote (5-0).

4. Agenda Items

Public Works Director Mike Clarke updated the Beach Stewardship Committee on the following items:

- a. **Replacement of Dune Crossovers at 12th & 16th Avenues in Pass-a-Grille:** This Capital Improvement Project is fully funded by a grant from Pinellas County. The complete design is in place and work on the beach will begin after the turtle nesting period concludes.

City Manager Alex Rey was in the audience and introduced himself to the committee.

- b. **Restroom Improvements at Pass-a-Grille:** New fixtures will be installed as well as new partitions, renovated walls, doors, windows and lights. The project should start in late September. Portable facilities will be available during the renovation. Restrooms at 15th and 16th Avenues (Hurley Park) are also being renovated.
- c. **Beach Rinse Stations at Pass-a-Grille:** A permitted design is in place. The county has put in a new water supply line and this project is waiting for them to install a meter and tie in valve to pick up and run north to the crossovers. Member Stamos commented that the foot rinse stations often keep running; Mike Clarke indicated he would look into drains or other solution.
- d. **Beach Trash Pick-Up Update:** As of October 1st, the trash pickup from the cans on the sand between 1st Avenue and Upham Beach will transfer from the contractor to city staff. A beach trash pickup vehicle has been purchased and there will be a dedicated staff member.
- e. **Coastal Restoration Study Update:** Kimley Horn has provided a final report on Phase I of the study, which gathered scientific information from agencies and universities on the outlook for St. Pete Beach in terms of climate change and sea level rise from storms for the purpose of making informed decisions. A team of engineering firms is looking at the effects of sea level rise for seawalls, low-lying neighborhoods and inland rainfall disbursement. A \$70,000 grant has been secured and other grant funding is being investigated.

Discussion followed on excess water drainage during storms. Mr. Clarke explained that the new sanitary sewer force main project construction will begin in January. He detailed the flow to the pump stations and the increased capacity for the island under all circumstances.

Member Stamos suggested that the public needs to understand why Gulf Boulevard will be under construction. Mr. Clarke explained that 700 businesses were invited to a public meeting last month to learn about the project and its importance. There will be another widely publicized public meeting in November after the contractor has been chosen and the city's Public Information Officer will be getting the information out.

- f. **Beach Signs:** The proposal is to replace the 'beach ball' signs on the sand with new signage that can be seen prior to entry to the beach; the City Commission has reviewed the prototype once and the design firm is revising for a second viewing next month.

Mr. Clarke stated that he had a few other updates that were not on the agenda:

- The Merry Pier is going to be significantly renovated or replaced; there will be a meeting with a design team and vendor this week; construction may begin by the end of November.
- City-owned piers at 7th and 11th Avenues need renovations.
- The entire seawall from 12th to 1st Avenues needs renovation or replacement. This is going through review.
- A coastal biologist team is studying the sand dunes between 1st and 7th Avenues as they are lacking vegetation.
- The 1st Avenue fishing pier is closed; the contractor is going through preliminary concepts of what that may look like and that will be going to Commission for direction.
- New streetlights on Pass-a-Grille west side and Pass-a-Grille Park will be replaced with dark skies compliant fixtures.

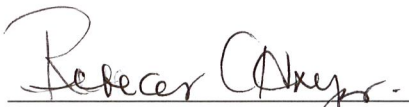
A brief discussion followed on bicycle lane signs and swim buoys. Mike Clarke explained that two to three times per year, missing buoys are replaced.

Chairwoman Lynda Lind Fontana welcomed new Beach Stewardship Committee member Linda Borgia. Ms. Borgia has replaced Michael Welch who had to resign. The next meeting is November 20, 2019.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Attest:


Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk


Lynda Lind Fontana, Chairwoman


Dan Rothenberger,
Vice Chair

Minutes approved on: 11/20/19