



**BEACH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH**

155 Corey Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 - 9:00 AM

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

REGULAR MEETING

1. Changes to the Agenda
2. Audience Comments - **Comments shall be limited to 3 minutes per person**
3. Action Items
 - a. **Approval of Minutes - 11/18/2020**
4. Items for Discussion
 - a. **Beach Ordinances; Update Recommendations Vehicles on Beach; Follow Up Previous Motion**
 - b. **Status Amber Lights - Sea Turtles - Previous Motion**
 - c. **Status of Ban on Single Use Plastic Bags; Follow Up Previous Motion**
 - d. **Status of Ban on Plastic Straws on Beach; Follow Up Previous Motion**
 - e. **Status of HB 0239 and SB 0334 - Regulation of Smoking**
 - f. **Volunteer Beach Cleaning Basket Station**
 - g. **Grease Trap Upgrade Upham Beach Concession**
 - h. **Update 1st Ave. Fishing Pier**
 - i. **Update Merry Pier, 7th & 11th Avenue Renovations**
 - j. **Update Pass-a-Grille Way Seawall 1st to 12th Avenues**
 - k. **Update, Research FDEP Permits on Gulf Sand**
 - l. **Update Upham Beach Parking Lot, Extension, Lighting**
 - m. **Update Restroom Improvements Upham, Pass-a-Grille, Hurley Park**
 - n. **Update USACE Beach Nourishment/Resiliency Plan - Upham & Pass-a-Grille**

5. Other Items
6. Adjournment

APPEAL: In accordance with 286.0105, Florida Statute (Notices of meetings and hearings must advise that a record is required to appeal), if a person decides to appeal any decision made by this committee, board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Florida Statutes, if any person with a disability defined by the ADA needs special accommodation to participate in this proceeding, then not later than two business days prior to the proceeding, he or she should contact City Hall at (727) 367-2735.

**The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting.
All agenda material is available for review at City Hall or www.stpetebeach.org.**

DRAFT BEACH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 18, 2020 - 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Linda Borgia, Member
Janet Harris, Member
Dan Rothenberger, Vice Chair
Lenny Stamos, Member

ABSENT: Lynda Lind Fontana, Chair

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Clarke, Public Works Director
Ginny Keeter-Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk

1. Changes to the Agenda - Member Borgia asked to add an item regarding beach signs (added as item l.). Mr. Clarke stated that the City Manager asked to add two items – the use of plastic straws (m.) and plastic bags (n.).
2. Audience Comments – There were no audience comments.
3. a. Approval of Minutes – 2/19/2020

Member Borgia moved and Vice Chair Rothenberger seconded the approval of the February 19, 2020 minutes as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Member Borgia moved and Member Stamos seconded the appointment of Vice Chair Rothenberger as Chair. Vice Chair Rothenberger accepted and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Member Borgia moved and Chair Rothenberger seconded the appointment of Member Stamos as Vice Chair. Member Stamos accepted and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Action Items - There were no action items.
5. Discussion Items - Mr. Clarke provided updates on the following items:
 - a. Invasive plant removal along dunes between 13th and 14th Avenues - Many of the plants have been pulled and proper permitting is in place to do so. Staff are trained to identify specific plants and remove precisely.
 - b. Dune Crossover Program - This program has been suspended indefinitely pending a beach nourishment project led by Pinellas County and the Army Corp of Engineers focusing on beach resiliency and storm mitigation.
 - c. Restroom Improvements at Pass-A-Grille - The project is nearly finished, and restroom improvements have begun at Upham Beach.

d. Evaluating Possibility of Restricting Smoking on Beaches - SB 670 - The Bill has passed in the Senate and has moved to the House. Per the City Manager's request, the Committee unanimously confirmed that they do wish to bring their February motion in favor

of banning smoking on the beaches to the City Commission in December or January.

e. 1st Avenue Fishing Pier Update - The City Commission has selected the replacement style of pier. The existing pier will be removed and replaced almost as it is now with some ADA required upgrades. It will be a monolithic concrete structure with a stainless steel railing; this will negate the need to replace pilings in the future.

f. Merry Pier, 7th and 11th Avenues Renovations Update - The Merry Pier sustained some damage during Tropical Storm Eta. Design for the replacement is at 100% and a contractor is in place reviewing the drawings. The concessions may be back in operation in February or March if scheduling moves well. The 7th and 11th Avenue Piers are bundled into this project. The 11th Avenue pier was lost in TS Eta and will be a new structure that will look the same with some added ADA requirements.

g. Pass-a-Grille Way Seawall 1st to 12th Avenues Update - The wall is older and in need of repairs; several blocks will be replaced at the new required height – this should be approved by the City Commission in early December.

h. Turtle Season Lights - Turning Back On - It was a good year; lights have been turned off, but now coming back on.

i. Identification of Lights to Change to Amber and Notifications - The lights on Pass-a-Grille Way from 1st to 12th Avenues on the bay side are currently LED white acorns, which are perceived as too bright; the City Commission will consider changing to lights that are in a wave length that turtles cannot see in a Sanibel type fixture to lessen the reach of the light.

Each year the City receives a report from Pinellas County in which they identify every building and light that shines on the beach, potentially disorienting the sea turtles. They are largely on private property/condominiums. Discussion followed on mobilizing assistance to make the owners aware and see if they would be willing to changing to amber lights. Mr. Clarke could arrange for a direct mailer to these residences.

Member Borgia moved and Member Stamos seconded, that the Beach Stewardship Committee will provide support to Public Works in following up on amber light notifications. The motion passed unanimously.

j. Consideration of Bicycles and/or Motorized/Electric Transport Vehicles on Beach - The Committee discussed pros and cons of wheeled vehicles on the beach and whether there is an existing ordinance as none could be located. Mr. Clarke asked for the Committee's recommendation absent an ordinance.

Member Borgia moved and Vice Chair Stamos seconded that the Beach Stewardship Committee recommend to the City Commission that bicycles and all wheeled

conveyances, including motorized, be prohibited from use on the beaches. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Member Stamos added that this should be fast-tracked if not already in the Code of Ordinances and signage should follow.

k. Research with FDEP to Determine What Permits Exist on Gulf Sand - Mr. Clarke explained that some businesses are permitted, by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), to shape the sand, including dunes. The recent storm highlighted the fragility of the sand and dunes in the event of water threats. Manpower, time and diligence will be required to evaluate who holds what permits, what the permits allow and make decisions based on that information.

Chair Rothenberger moved and Member Borgia seconded that the Beach Stewardship Committee will support the City in evaluation of the FDEP permits on the beaches to the maximum of their ability. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

l. Beach Signs (added item) - Member Borgia reported that signs at Upham Beach say restroom available at 10th and 16th Avenues, which is misleading. Beach regulation signs are not well placed. Mr. Clarke will take on having the signs updated and moved to more suitable locations.

m. Use of Plastic Straws (added)

Member Borgia moved and Member Harris seconded that the Beach Stewardship Committee would endorse a plastic straw ban on the beaches. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

n. Use of Plastic Bags (added)

Vice Chair Stamos moved and Member Harris seconded that the Beach Stewardship Committee would encourage the City Commission to consider a ban on single use plastic bags. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Other Business - Mr. Clarke reported that in the coming weeks, there will be a station going up at Upham Beach with containers encouraging people to fill them with trash and put in the garbage.

6. Adjournment - There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

These minutes will be considered for approval at the February 17, 2021 Beach Stewardship Committee meeting.

HB 0239	Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities	Altman	Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities: Authorizes counties & municipalities to further restrict smoking within boundaries of public beaches & public parks under certain circumstances. Effective Date: July 1, 2021	House Professions & Public Health Subcommittee (Current Reference)	01/22/2021 HOUSE Now in Professions & Public Health Subcommittee	Compare SB 0334 (Gruters)
SB 0334	Regulation of Smoking in Public Places	Gruters	Regulation of Smoking in Public Places; Revising a short title; authorizing counties and municipalities to further restrict smoking within the boundaries of public beaches and public parks under certain circumstances; prohibiting smoking within the boundaries of a state park, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021	Senate Environment and Natural Resources (Current Reference)	01/27/2021 SENATE Now in Environment and Natural Resources	Compare HB 0239 (Altman)

Building Back the Sand Dunes



Building Back the Sand Dunes

Sand dunes are naturally occurring dynamic coastal features which are formed by the accumulation of wind blown sand. When sand dunes are damaged from storms or human activity they can be repaired or restored. The basic steps are simple but careful planning is needed. Your dune restoration project should be designed to create a dune that matches the existing natural dune pattern in the area. You can help speed up nature's work by using sand fences and dune plants to collect sand more rapidly.

Before You Start...

Permits from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and possibly local governments may be required for installing sand fences, constructing dune walkovers, and dune plantings. This brochure does not provide all the necessary information or authorize any construction. Please contact the appropriate FDEP district office listed on the back for information about obtaining a permit or for guidance to help you get started. There is usually no cost for sand fencing and dune planting permits.

2 Ways to Help Rebuild Sand Dunes

Dune Planting. Plants build and anchor the sand dunes. The roots and stems of sea oats and other native coastal plants trap wind-blown sand. As the sand piles up around the plants, new roots develop on the recently buried stems while new stems emerge from the sand's surface. This traps even more sand and the sand dune builds. Sea oats and other vegetation can be planted along with the installation of sand fences or by themselves.

Sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*) should be planted first and should cover 60-80% of the total area. Bitter panicum (*Panicum amarum*) can be planted in the remaining areas. Seedlings should be planted at least 6 inches deep since shallow plantings may fail. Space



the plants 24 inches apart in alternate staggered rows. Planting should occur during the early fall or spring so that minimal watering is needed. Planting at other times of the year may require more watering depending on the amount of rainfall. It is better to water heavily and less often than to water lightly and more often. Check with your local nursery, appropriate state or federal agency, or county extension agency for plant sources.

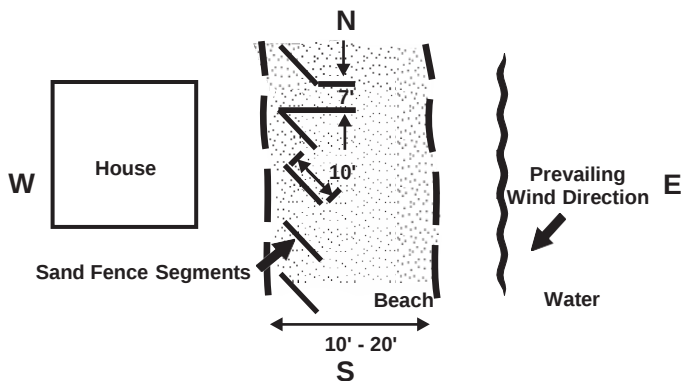
Sand Fencing. Sand is carried along the beach by the wind. Sand fences help build sand dunes by trapping and collecting this wind driven sand. Sand fences are usually made of wood, biodegradable, or plastic material. To keep the dune "growing", raise the fence before the sand accumulates to a depth of 18 inches. If the fence is buried, it will no longer work and it may pose a hazard to nesting birds and sea turtles.

The use of sand fencing may be restricted along the southeast coast due to the potential for adverse impacts in high density marine turtle nesting beaches. Sand fencing may also be restricted in other places such as the barrier islands along the southwest coast where the dry beach area may not be wide enough to supply the necessary amounts of wind driven sand.

The initial dune restoration project area should be about 10 to 20 feet in width. To maximize sand building, the fence should be located as far landward as possible and the spaces between and waterward of the fences should be planted with dune vegetation. The fence should be placed in 10 foot sections with at least 7 feet between each section to provide space for sea turtles to approach the beach, lay their eggs, and return to the sea. Each segment of fence should be angled to take advantage of predominate wind direction and strength. Please refer to the chart below for the recommended sand fence alignment for your area.

SAND FENCE ALIGNMENT	Northern Atlantic coast:	NW-SE
	Southern Atlantic coast:	NE-SW
	Eastern panhandle coast:	NE-SW
	Central panhandle coast:	NE-SW
	Western panhandle coast:	NW-SE
	Southern Gulf coast:	NW-SE

Change the alignment to take advantage of local and seasonal variations in the predominate wind direction and strength.



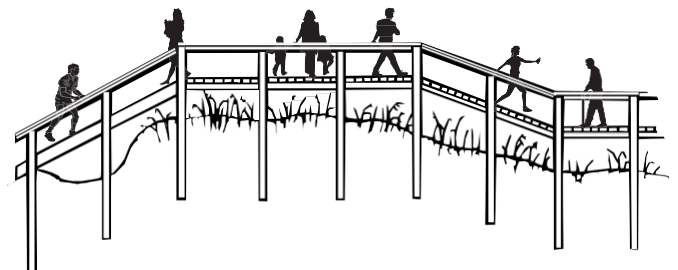
The figure above illustrates the placement and NW-SE alignment of sand fences for the northern Atlantic coast.

3 Things You Can Do to Protect Sand Dunes

Use Dune Walkovers and Designated Beach Access Points to Cross the Dunes. Without dune vegetation, sand dunes become unstable. Dune plants tolerate harsh beach conditions including wind, salt spray, storms, scarce nutrients, limited fresh water, and intense sunlight and heat. However, they cannot withstand the pounding of feet and vehicles.

Restore Damaged Sand Dunes. Established sand dunes provide a strong defense against storms. When sand dunes are damaged, you can help speed their recovery by installing sand fences and planting native dune vegetation. Increase the benefits of your work by encouraging your neighbors to join with you in your dune restoration projects.

Learn More About Sand Dunes and the Ways You Can Help Protect Them. If you aren't a good steward of the coastal environment, who will be? Tell others about the importance of protecting sand dunes and the coastal environment. You don't have to be an environmental expert to help protect sand dunes, you just have to care. For more information about the coastal environment and volunteer opportunities in your area, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at the numbers listed on the back of this brochure.



FDEP District Offices

*For Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa,
Santa Rosa, or Walton Counties:*

Northwest District

160 W. Government Street, Suite 308
Pensacola, FL 32502
(850) 595-8300

For Duval, Flagler, Nassau, or St. Johns Counties:

Northeast District

8808 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100
Jacksonville, FL 32256
(904) 256-1700

For Manatee or Pinellas Counties:

Southwest District

13051 N. Telecom Parkway
Temple Terrace, FL 33637
(813) 470-5700

For Brevard or Volusia Counties:

Central District

3319 Maguire Boulevard, Suite 232
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 897-4100

For Charlotte, Collier, Lee, or Sarasota Counties:

South District

Post Office Box 2549
Fort Myers, FL 33902
(239) 344-5600

*For Broward, Dade, Indian River, Martin, Palm
Beach, or St. Lucie Counties:*

Southeast District

3301 Gun Club Road, MSC7210-1
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
(561) 681-6600



State of Florida
Department of Environmental Protection
Coastal Construction Control Line Program
Mail Station 3522
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-8336
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/>



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov/>
<http://southeast.fws.gov/>

Jacksonville Field Office:
7915 Baymeadows Way
Suite 200
Jacksonville, Florida 32256
(904) 731-3045

Panama City Field Office:
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32405
(850) 769-0552

S. Fla. Ecosystem Field Office:
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960
(772) 562-3909