

BEACH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 17, 2021 - 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Linda Borgia, Member
Lynda Lind Fontana, Member
Dan Rothenberger, Chair
Lenny Stamos, Vice Chair

ABSENT: Janet Harris, Member

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

1. Changes to the Agenda – There were no changes.
2. Audience Comments – There were no audience comments.
3. Action Items – a. Approval of Minutes - 11/18/2020

Member Borgia moved and Chair Rothenberger seconded the approval of the November 18, 2020 minutes as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion Items - Mr. Clarke provided updates on the following items:

a. Beach Ordinances - Follow Up – In recent meetings, this Committee has put forth motions with recommendations to the City Commission, including the prohibition of vehicles on the beach. Mr. Clarke will present a statement to the Commission to convey these intentions at an upcoming Commission meeting for discussion. The exact date will be confirmed, and Committee members are welcome to attend or watch the meeting.

b. Status Amber Lights/Sea Turtles – The lights in Pass-a-Grille have been changed out to LED turtle-friendly amber lights on the bay side. Residential feedback has been positive. This project is closed out.

c. Status of Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags - The motion previously made will be included in the statement to be presented by Mr. Clarke to the Commission (Item 4a. above).

d. Status of Ban on Plastic Straws on Beach - The motion previously made will be included in the statement to be presented by Mr. Clarke to the Commission (Item 4a. above).

e. Status of HB 0239 and SB 0334 – Regulation of Smoking – A legislative update was included in the meeting packet and the Committee recommendation will also be going before the City Commission.

f. Volunteer Beach Cleaning Basket Station – A stand has been installed at Upham Beach which contains green plastic baskets and a sign inviting green-minded people to collect trash on the beach; there is a QR Code on the sign so photos of the good deeds can be uploaded to the website. This has been successful – data is being gathered on how much

trash is being collected and will be reported as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Report. Mr. Clarke will check into adding a stand between the Sea Mark and the Sirata properties, per Member Fontana's request.

g. Grease Trap Upgrade Upham Concession – Quotes to replace the grease trap at the Upham Concession stand have been gathered. This is important because undersize traps allow overflow into sand and grease debris collects and goes into sewer system. The project should be completed before the next meeting.

h. 1st Avenue Fishing Pier Update – The project is in the permit review phase for the final design. The County and State have copies; notification of the need for modifications or approval should come back in the next few weeks. The project should be completed this year.

i. Merry Pier, 7th and 11th Avenue Renovations – The project is in the final design stage; permit comments have been received and the final bid document is in review.

j. Pass-a-Grille Way Seawall 1st – 12th Avenues - The seawall itself is not in imminent danger but needs some maintenance in the next year or two. Soil under the sidewalk has eroded out in two areas; grout injection will hold the integrity of the wall until the project is completed. The height of the seawall will match the new, standardized specifications (recommended by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – NOAA) that the City Commission will be finalizing by ordinance at their next meeting; this is due to sea level rise and storm activity. A large study/analysis that was approved by the City Commission will bring together five engineering/architectural firms to present a comprehensive sea rise vulnerability report to the Commission for five areas of the City. The task orders for the funding for five firms will be coming back to the Commission for approval.

k. Research FDEP Permits on Gulf Sand - The Kimley-Horn firm will take on this task in their scope of work. Some properties have smoothed the sand and removed dunes for a better view, which creates vulnerabilities to the flooding of Gulf Blvd. They will determine who has rights to manipulate sand dunes and why, and where the vulnerabilities are. Discussion of sand dunes followed, including the upcoming Miramar project, where the sand dunes were previously flattened. The bottom level of the project is for parking only, so a view should not be a consideration.

Member Borgia moved and Vice Chair Stamos seconded that the Beach Stewardship Committee recommends to the City Commission that as part of their project, the Miramar reinstall the sand dunes along the beach side of the property. The motion carried 4-0.

l. Upham Beach Parking Lot, Extension, Lighting – The current parking lot has been repaved and restriped. The approximately seven tall streetlights near the intersections are going to be replaced with amber, turtle friendly lights in partnership with Duke Energy. The design for a parking lot extension on the south side of approximately 67 parking spaces is nearing completion. The surface will be interlocking permeable pavers to allow water to flow through down to ground water. There will be an addition of two new water retention basins, which are undergoing Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) review at this time. If approved, the bid process and construction may be completed this fiscal year. The seven lights in concession deck area will be replaced to turtle friendly.

m. Update Restroom Improvements Upham, Pass-a-Grill, Hurley Parks – The upgrades are complete; surfaces and fixtures have been upgraded and no negative feedback has been received. The project is closed out.

n. Update USACE Beach Nourishment/Resiliency Plan – USACE's (Army Corps of Engineers) recommendations are being finalized and a report should be available for public comment in approximately June or July. Preliminary communications indicate that incorporating resiliency into sand dune structure will be combined with beach nourishment as originally recommended. This would increase dune size but allow easy pedestrian and turtle passage. After review of final recommendations, the USACE General will sign off and proceed to the construction program in perhaps fiscal year 2023.

5. Other Business – Member Borgia inquired about additional 'beach rules' signs near the Upham Beach Concession stand entrances; Mr. Clarke will put in a work order.

Mr. Clarke also confirmed that the Fishing Pier design will be monolithic under the existing deck, which was replaced a few years ago.

Mr. Clarke reported that a grant is being pursued that would reimburse hotels/condos for the replacement of their lights to amber/turtle-friendly fixtures, but the status of the grant is unknown at this time. As some properties may not even be aware of the lighting issues, he encouraged Committee members to work with their condo contacts to offer time to speak with their boards/residents to educate them. Mr. Clarke will work with the Deputy Clerk to create an information packet; he would be amenable to accompanying a Committee member to such meetings if he is available.

6. Adjournment - There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 AM.

These minutes were approved at the May 19, 2021 Beach Stewardship Committee meeting.