

BEACH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 16, 2022 - 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Dan Rothenberger, Chair
Lenny Stamos, Vice Chair
Linda Borgia, Member
Michael Welch, Member

EXCUSED: Janet Harris, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Mandy Edmunds, Parks Supervisor
Ginny Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk
Ariana Wilson, Admin. Assistant – Clerk’s Office
Kate Hubbard, Director at FWC Center for Red Tide Research

Chair Rothenberger called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

1. Changes to the Agenda - Item 3a was moved to the end of the meeting due to the presenter being late.
2. Audience Comments - There were no audience comments.
3. Presentations
Moved after item 5c.
 - a. FWC Center for Red Tide Research

Dr. Kate Hubbard Research Scientist, Director at Fish and Wildlife Conservation (FWC) Center for Red Tide Research gave an informative presentation regarding the red tide research. This presentation has been made part of the record. Dr. Hubbard provided additional resources to help research and track red tide. A short Q&A took place.

4. Action Items
 - a. Approval of Minutes 11/17/21

Member Borgia moved and Vice Chair Stamos seconded the approval of the November 17, 2021 minutes; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Items for Discussion

a. Status Florida SB 224 – Regulation Smoking in Public Places – Ms. Edmunds reported that the status of the bill is it is now in rules in Senate. Neighboring municipalities were contacted to see how they will proceed if this bill does pass.

b. Fireworks on the Beach – Ms. Edmunds stated that the City is still planning on bringing a barge, and it should be here before the fourth of July. This will move the City’s firework display off of the beach and onto the water. Resident, John Kurzman was present and voiced his concerns with the firework display.

c. Bicycles on the Beach – Ms. Edmunds informed the members that the City Commission passed an Ordinance on December 14, 2021, that has banned E-Bikes on the beach. Public comment was made at length by Stephen Carroll and John

Kurzman. They each voiced their concerns and brought some ideas along with some photos, which have been made part of the record.

Member Stamos exited the room at 10:24 AM.

d. Presentation Suggestions for Website – Ms. Edmunds informed the members that going forward any presentations made to the Beach Stewardship Committee will be placed on the City's Parks and Rec website to make available to the public to view.

e. Consolidation of Beach Ordinances – Ms. Edmunds reported that the City is working with Mr. Dickman, City Attorney, on consolidating beach ordinances by eliminating redundancy. Once an Ordinance is ready it will be brought to this board for review and then taken to the City Commission for further review and approval.

f. Upcoming Beach Cleanup – The City is working with Keep Pinellas Beautiful to facilitate multiple beach cleanups in St. Pete Beach. The next St. Pete Beach turtle tracker collaboration will take place on Saturday, March 19, from 9-11 AM at Upham Beach. Interested volunteers can register through Keep Pinellas Beautiful website at www.kpbcares.org.

6. Adjournment Next meeting is May 18, 2022

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM.

These were approved at the May 18, 2022 Beach Stewardship Committee meeting.