



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

155 Corey Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Wednesday, August 17, 2022
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 - 5/18/22
4. Items for Discussion
 - a. Beach Ordinance
5. 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

May 18, 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
Alex Rey, City Manager
Ginny Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk

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

1. Changes to the Agenda - There were none.
2. Audience Comments –

Lisa Reich of Sea Turtle Trackers spoke about concerns with lighting on the beach; about 90% of the properties are not compliant. Education regarding compliance with the City regulations is needed. She also commented about ‘stuff on the beach’ (i.e. 35 buoys at one property) which entangles wildlife, and beach loss. Vice Chair Stamos suggested the use of a drone to prevent further traffic on the beach, however drones disturb birds according to the Florida Wildlife Commission. Audience comments were paused when the speaker arrived.

3. Presentations

a. Keep Pinellas Beautiful

Pat Deplasco, Executive Director of Keep Pinellas Beautiful (KPB), reviewed a presentation about her organization and what they do - transforming public spaces to beautiful places and raising environmental awareness. She shared information about the impact that KPB had during 2021 and 2022, as well as the Bebot, a robot which gathers beach trash. Committee members raised concerns about disturbing the beach ecosystem; she explained that the Bebot collects the trash for educational purposes to show the effects of leaving litter on the beach. KPB will be at Archibald Park in Madeira Beach on June 24th doing a learning presentation on the Bebot. Her presentation is part of the meeting record.

Public Comment continued after the presentation.

Amy Loughery of Pass-a-Grille spoke with regard to vending on the beach and its negative impacts, and also catering to tourists vs. residents and those impacts. She mentioned tents and grills on the beach.

Joe Widlansky of Sea Turtle Trackers commented on a zip line on the beach at Tradewinds; he would like the City to inform or ask for input from their organization before issuing permits on the beach during turtle season. Vice Chair Stamos suggested bringing that matter to the City Commission. Turtle friendly lighting and windows were also mentioned.

A brief recess was called from 9:52 to 9:56 AM.

4. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes 2/28/2022

Member Borgia moved and Member Welch seconded the approval of the February 28, 2022 minutes as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

b. Election of Officers 2022-23

Member Welch moved and Member Stamos seconded the re-appointment of current Committee Officers Dan Rothenberger as Chair and Lenny Stamos Vice Chair for 2022-23; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Items for Discussion

a. Revised Beach Ordinance – Ms. Edmunds explained that this is still a working document, and it has been brought here for feedback and will go to a workshop from here and other steps before adoption by the City Commission. Previously, elements of beach regulations had been spread throughout the Code of Ordinances; the goal is to bring them into a dedicated section. Most of the outlined ordinances are already included in the Code. She highlighted some of the proposed modifications and asked for input. Her presentation is part of the meeting record.

- Prohibit fishing near swimming and on sand; City Manager Alex Rey spoke about the potential risks when mixing swimming and fishing; there could be a designated fishing area or times
- No smoking/vaping on public beaches has been added.
- A recent Micromobility Ordinance prohibits e-bikes on the beach; the Committee discussed regular bicycles on the beach and consensus opinion was to prohibit them
- Single use plastic straws are already prohibited; Mr. Rey explained that Styrofoam is the greatest concern.
- Regulation of commercial rental operations – discussion consensus was to regulate the number of cabana and other rentals; the potential for requiring permits for photographers (as a business) was discussed
- Equipment/chairs on the beach – discussion of keeping it behind a certain line after hours or a corralled area
- Vehicles on beach – discussed limiting vehicle weight, creating a designated travel area for permitted vehicles, adding a mention of wheelchairs, moving to electric vehicles only as soon as possible
- Regulation of special events/alcohol for beachfront residents
- Seabird protection added
- Dune protection clarified by the City and DEP; sea oat and plant protection
- Commercial property cabanas – the Committee suggested at least 50 feet from wet sand

Discussion followed on adding parameters for service dogs on the beach to the ordinance and enforcing fireworks on the beach.

b. Vehicles on the Sand – Ms. Edmunds explained that the new proposed speed limit would be 15 mph - Committee consensus was to keep that at 10 mph.

6. Updates

a. Florida Legislature's Action on Smoking Restrictions – This was discussed during the Ordinance item.

b. Swim Buoys – Ms. Edmunds reported that our City is working with Treasure Island as we use their barge and some staff; current estimated timeline for the replacement of the buoys is sometime in June.

Final Public Comments –

Lisa Reich of Sea Turtle Trackers commented on storm runoff onto the beach at some properties; Ms. Edmunds will look into that.

Betty Rzewnicki of DonCesar Place Property Owners commented on the consideration of adding verbiage regarding restriction of private properties' weddings, sprinkler systems, dunes, and enforcement of same, and driving on the beach. She would like to see more workshops on this ordinance.

a. Adjournment Next meeting is August 17, 2022

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

These minutes will be considered for approval at the August 17, 2022, Beach Stewardship Committee meeting.

City of St. Pete Beach
Ordinance 2022-XX
**Beach Restrictions and
Regulations**



Background

- St. Pete Beach's greatest natural resource was regulated in several different sections of the code. Removing the language from the existing sections and condensing it into one will help both City Staff and Beach Goers better understand, follow, and enforce the Code.
- Most of the restrictions and regulations you will see outlined in the ordinance are already included in the Code today.
- There are some changes to what can or cannot be done on St. Pete Beach Beaches.



Ordinance Highlights

Prohibited on Beaches

Existing Regulations/Prohibitions

- **Dogs:** Prohibited on sand beaches except for on designated dog beaches. [From Sec 14-35](#)
- **Alcohol:** Commercial cabana services must have permit through the city to service alcohol. No other alcohol allowed on sand beaches. [From Sec. 6-5](#)
- **Solicitation:** Except for permitted event or market [From Sec. 62-92](#)
- **Feeding Wild Birds:** NO feeding of wild birds [From Sec. 14-2](#)
- **Sleeping:** From sunset to sunrise on sand beaches [From Sec. 94-70](#)
- **Tiki Huts:** Unless built with an approved building permit [From Sec. 94-71 & Sec 25.6 of LDC](#)

[Beach Concession standards are outlined in the Land Development Code under Sec. 6.12\(h\)](#)

- **Fireworks:** Except by fireworks permit [From Sec 98-160](#)

Prohibited on Beaches

NEW Regulations/Prohibitions

- **Fishing:** NO fishing allowed within any marked swim zone (except between the hours of 6:00am-9:00 daily?)
- **Smoking:** NO smoking or (vaping?) allowed on public beaches (Once Governor signs Bill, then this will be adopted)
- **Micromobility:** NO micromobility (e-bikes) allowed on sand beaches
- **Bicycles:** NO bicycles allowed on sand beaches

Food Consumption and Picnics

Existing Regulations/Prohibitions

- Persons having a picnic or consuming food shall be responsible for cleaning up all food or debris [From Sec. 94-69](#)
- No fires will be permitted for the purposes of cooking food on sand beaches [From Sec. 58-27](#)
- No grills, stoves, fireplaces, or other containers will be allowed on sand beaches [From Sec. 58-27](#)
- Glass of any kind is prohibited [From Sec 6-5 and Sec. 94-69](#)
- Single use plastic straws are prohibited [From Sec. 6-5](#)
- Serving trays, coolers, boxes, or other devices or objects remain stacked or stored outside of a storage facility and visible from any vantage point on the beach beyond sunset. [Sec. 6.12 LDC](#)

NEW Regulations

- **Styrofoam:** NO Styrofoam allowed on sand beaches

Beach Chairs, Tables, Umbrellas, and Cabanas

Existing Regulations/Prohibitions

- **Nesting:** Beach chairs, umbrellas and cabanas which have the potential for entrapment of marine turtles, and which may interfere with the use of the natural beach environment for nesting habitat. [From Sec. 44.3 LDC](#)
- **Interference:** It shall be unlawful for any person to place upon the public beach any chair, bench, table or umbrella which is in a location or is of a size which would interfere with the use of the public beach by the general public. [From Sec. 44.3 LDC](#)
- **Sunset to sunrise:** Unlawful to remain upon such public beach between sunset and sunrise. [From Sec. 44.3 LDC](#)

NEW Regulations:

- **Commercial Cabanas and Rentals: ONLY** commercial operation from St. Pete Beach businesses to sell/rents chairs, tables, umbrellas or cabanas will be allowed. A permit from the City with proof of insurance will be required.
 - **Discussion Point:** Regulate the number of rental operations? Number of cabanas to be used at one time for commercial use? Setback from wet sand? Distance placed west of dunes?

Vehicles on the Beach

- Vehicles will only be allowed on City beaches with an approved VOB permit by the city (Sec. 94-73)
- Who can get a permit? Public Works or Public Safety, Permitted Commercial Services, Special Events, Mechanical Beach Cleaning
- Driving on the Beach related to concessions is already outlined in LDC Sec. 6.12(3):
 - Includes 10 mph speed limit
 - Prohibited during marine turtle nesting season until after daily marine turtle nest survey/monitoring is conducted.

New Regulations:

- No fueling any watercrafts or equipment on the sand beach and no storage of fueling containers on sand beach

Discussion Points:

- **Electric** only by 2027?
- **Public Safety** designated drive area? In high density areas (Upham, PCI, County Park)?
- Regulate **vehicle size**?

Special Events

- Special events on City beaches or in City parks will be by permit only. May allow for alcohol and food service.
- Individuals wishing to have a beach wedding on a Public Beach must get an approved Beach Wedding permit.
- Discussion
- Rental fees on the Beach (example to do a class or volleyball tournament)
- Businesses on the beach – treat like beach weddings? Fees?



Environmental Protections

Sea Turtle Protection

Existing Regulations

Turtle Nesting Season ([Division 44 LDC](#))

- Remove all beach equipment and return sand to normal level
- Close blinds on beach facing windows (Lightning regulations in land development code)
- No bonfires or lights that could interfere with turtle hatchlings
- Do not disturb sea turtle nests and report unmarked nests to Turtle Trackers
- Follow all guidance outlined in the Florida Marine Turtle Protection Act

Sea Bird Protection

NEW Regulations

- No person shall take, harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, kill, trap, capture, collect, possess, or sell any of the endangered or threatened shorebird and/or seabird species
- Protected Birds: American Oystercatcher, Snowy Plover, Black Skimmer, Least Tern or any other protected or endangered species

Dune Protection

Existing Regulations/Prohibitions

- Crossing Dunes is only allowed at designated crossing points (walkovers and drive-overs) [Sec. 25.5 LDC](#)
- Blocking or causing to be blocked by any means whatsoever any pathway leading to or from a public beach [Sec. 25.5 LDC](#)
- The removal or disturbance of vegetation of a dune; [Sec. 25.5 LDC](#)
- Planting of vegetation except for native, salt-resistant species suitable for beach and dune stabilization [Sec. 25.5 LDC](#)
- **You cannot alter or enter any dune or naturally occurring accrued sand without a permit from the City AND the Department of Environmental Protection.** [Sec 25.9 LDC](#)



Requirements for Transient Lodging

Commercial Property Cabana Service Areas

Existing Regulations

- Cabana areas with alcohol service must complete city permitting process and have an active BRT– must have clearly set up boundaries and go through a site plan review process and alcohol must remain in cabana service area at all times [From Sec. 6-5](#)
- Must be at least 75 ft from an abutting residential property line [From Sec. 6-5](#)
- Guests must wear a unique and easily identifiable wrist band [From Sec. 6-5](#)
- Cabana areas can only operate 10am – 10pm [From Sec. 6-5](#)
- Employees or servers must be easily identified as associated with the Transient Lodging facility. [From Sec. 6-5](#)
- Cabana service area must be no closer than 50 feet to the wet sand [From Sec. 6-5](#)

Public and Commercial Property Cabana Service

Areas

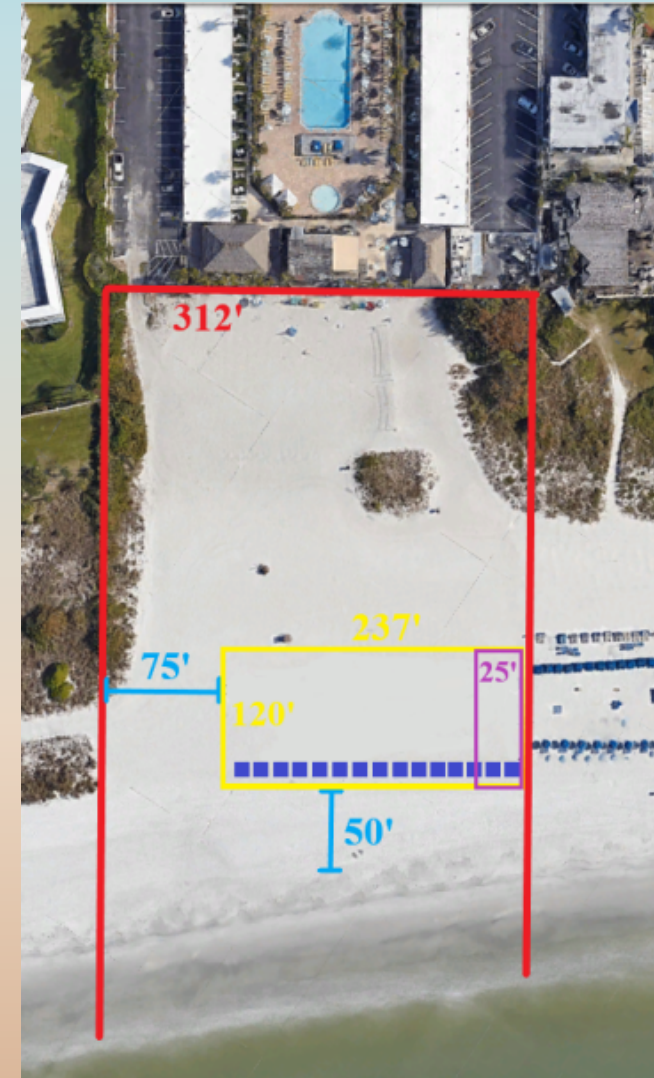
Density of Cabana:

- Follow same formula for density of cabanas based on survey of property lines
- Limit number of rows each property can have?

Discussion:

- Make all cabanas uniform in color, size, shape?
- Cabanas can only be placed out in designated area when actually in-use, removed from beach in evening.
- Add 25' buffer to all property lines
- Put away each night (all year, turtle season)

Postcard Inn Example:





Beach Maintenance

Beach Maintenance Regulations

Existing Regulations

- Mechanical beach cleaning will be by permit only – only between sunset and sunrise [From Sec. 94-101](#)
- Equipment shall meet state and local requirements [From Sec. 94-101](#)
- Seaweed and other vegetation can be placed at the base of the dunes [From Sec. 94-101](#)
- Beach cleaning equipment can penetrate the sand no more than 2 inches [From Sec. 94-102](#)
- Mechanical beach cleaning is prohibited during turtle nesting season anywhere above the previous days hightide line. [From Sec. 94-102](#)
- Shall not disturb any natural beach vegetation [From Sec. 94-102](#)
- Prohibited within five feet of the toe of the dune. [From Sec. 94-102](#)

Beaches Ordinance

Direction/Recap

New Proposed Ordinances:

- **Cabanas** can only be placed out in designated area when in-use or reserved
- Cabanas – must be brought in each night (seasonally? All year?)
- **Cabana** density limitations
- **No** person shall take, harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, kill, trap, capture, collect, possess, or sell any of the endangered or threatened shorebird and/or seabird species
- **Protected Birds:** American Oystercatcher, Snowy Plover, Black Skimmer, Least Tern or any other protected or endangered species
- **No fueling** watercrafts or equipment on sand beaches. No storage of fuel containers on sand beach
- **Styrofoam:** NO Styrofoam allowed on sand beaches
- **Fishing:** NO fishing allowed within any marked swim zone (except between the hours of 6:00am-9:00 daily?)
- **Smoking:** NO smoking or (vaping?) allowed on public beaches (Once Governor signs Bill, then this will be adopted)
- **Micromobility:** NO micromobility (e-bikes) allowed on sand beaches
- **Bicycles:** NO bicycles allowed on sand beaches
- **Vehicles on the beach:** Designated lane? Electric only and if yes by when? Limit the size of vehicles?
- **Business regulation and not allow?**

Beaches Ordinance

City staff responsibilities

- Beach Manager position being created

Code Enforcement

- Cabanas
- Sea Turtle and Sea Bird Regulations
- Fueling
- Vehicles on the Beach
- Businesses on the beach/Special Event

PCSO responsibilities

- **Styrofoam**
- **Fishing**
- **Biking**
- **Smoking**
- **Businesses on the beach/Special Event**

An aerial photograph of a beach with turquoise waves and white foam washing onto golden sand. A large, white, irregularly shaped circle is superimposed on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Questions/Suggestions'.

Questions/Suggestions