



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

155 Corey Avenue  
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
9:00 AM

Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

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**REGULAR MEETING**

1. **Presentations - Welcome new Beach Stewardship Committee member, Natalie Looney, appointed by Commissioner Rzewnicki.**
2. **Approval of the Agenda -  
Action Request: Motion to approve the November 13, 2024 agenda.**
3. **Audience Comments -**  
*Comments shall be limited to 3 minutes for general and agenda items. Public comment on agenda items will be allowed when that item is called. Please complete and submit a comment card to the Clerk. Please state your name and address at the podium.*
4. **Action Items -**
  - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - August 21, 2024**  
Action Request: Motion to approve the August 21, 2024 minutes.
  - b. Review and Approval 2025 Meeting Dates**  
Action Request: Motion to approve the 2025 meeting dates.
5. **Items for Discussion -**
  - a. Discussion focuses on seasonal outcomes, post-dual hurricanes and their lasting effects on the beach.**
    1. Damage to St. Pete Beach from Helene and Milton
    2. Recommendations for short & long term recovery and rebuilding and maintaining sand dunes
    3. Other cities' storm damage response and best practices
    4. Status of the renourishment project on PAG
    5. Availability of any local, state and or federal funding or beach restoration
    6. Concerns on water pollution / debris and swimming
    7. Beach cleanup activities and official recognition of individuals/groups/organizations

8. Status of public beach access points
9. Status public beach parking
10. Any public safety issues remaining for the beach / beach access

**b. Input from John Bishop, Coastal Management Coordinator, Pinellas County Government**

**c. Review from Sea Turtle Trackers and nesting season data.**

**d. Review from Audubon Society and wildlife report**

**e. Beach Quarterly Report for period Jul 1-Sep 30, 2024**

6. Adjournment – Next meeting February 19, 2025

**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](http://www.stpetebeach.org).**

# **DRAFT BEACH STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**August 21, 2024 - 9:00 A.M.**

**PRESENT:** Dan Rothenberger, Chair  
John Kurzman, Vice Chair  
Brad Panek, Member  
Jon Stevens, Member  
Michael Welch, Member

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer  
Andrew Dickman, City Attorney  
Ginny Keeter-Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk

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

## 1. Presentations

### a. Dune Savers at DCPOC – Nancy Stevens

Chair Rothenberger introduced Nancy Stevens of Dune Savers of St. Pete Beach and other ecological organizations. Dune Savers' volunteers work at the removal of invasive and non-invasive plants so that native plants can survive and thrive. She spoke about the locations they have worked, hours spent, and the amount of debris that has been removed. Her presentation included the identification of invasive and non-invasive species and the value that the native plants provide to the ecosystem. Her presentation is part of the meeting record. She mentioned Sea Oat Planting on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. and invited all to attend and participate.

## 2. Approval of the Agenda –

Vice Chair Kurzman asked to add discussion items on the process of adding agenda items, communications to beach stewards, the recent Redington Beach decision on Customary Use, and Business Tax Receipts (BTRs). Chief Operating Officer Jennifer McMahon explained that BTRs are governed by State Statute, so that did not warrant discussion.

**Member Stevens moved, and Member Welch seconded the approval of the August 21, 2024 agenda with the three added discussion items; the motion passed unanimously.**

## 3. Audience Comments –

Joe Widlanski of Sea Turtle Trackers spoke about the beach renourishment project and the resulting changes to the dunes, as well as dune, nest, and turtle habitat losses from Tropical Storm Debby.

## 4. Action Items

### a. Approval of Meeting Minutes May 15, 2024 Regular and June 18, 2024 Special

Newly elected City Commissioner Joe Moholland was recognized as well as City Attorney Andrew Dickman's 10 years of service.

**Vice Chair Kurzman moved, and Member Stevens seconded the approval of the May 15 and June 18, 2024 minutes as presented; the motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Election of Committee Officers 2024-25**

Chair Rothenberger expressed his willingness to serve again, and Member Stevens would accept the office of Vice Chair if so moved.

**Member Stevens moved and Vice Chair Kurzman seconded the appointment of Dan Rothenberger to continue as Board Chair for 2024-25; the motion carried 5-0.**

**Member Welch moved and Chair Rothenberger seconded the appointment of Jon Stevens as Board Vice Chair for 2024-25; the motion carried 5-0.**

**5. Items for Discussion**

**a. Beach Lighting Ordinance**

Ms. McMahon and Attorney Dickman reported that this is still being worked on; they will report back at the next meeting.

**b. Beach Ordinance Update**

Ms. McMahon reported that the GIS Contractor has begun the process of developing a map to begin the process of creating the required Business Impact Statements for each involved party. That will then be reviewed with the City Manager and then move on to the City Commission with a target date sometime in late October. There were brief discussions on businesses that border the beach and Business Impact Statements.

**c. PAG Renourishment**

Ms. McMahon reported that the TS Debby did destroy some of the renourishment, which is being replaced. The County reports an estimated completion time by late October or November, as this is their project.

**d. Beach Rights, Incidents, or Reports**

Member Kurzman spoke about incidents wherein a hotel removed individuals from the beach for trespassing and also where chairs placed farther out from private property than they should be. Attorney Dickman summarized what he knew of the incidents, which had already been resolved, Mr. Dickman went on to summarize the Redington Beach Customary Use decision (Item 5.i.). Vice Chair Stevens requested that staff include beach trespass incidents in the quarterly report to determine how widespread that issue may or may not be and whether there is an actual problem to solve. Attorney Dickman suggested that the members each reach out to their appointing Commissioner to discuss Conditional Use prior to public discussion.

**e. Beach Quarterly Report**

Ms. McMahon reviewed the report that had been included in the meeting packet including warnings and citations (181 warnings and 4 citations) and the beach ambassador training that took place in June.

**f. Annual Sea Oat Planting Day**

This item was discussed during the presentation at the beginning of the meeting. Vice Chair Stevens added details on where the focus will be; the plant material comes from the County.

**g. (Added) Process of Adding Agenda Items**

Ms. McMahon and Attorney Dickman reviewed the process of staff agenda creation and member submission of items. Items for the following agenda can be requested at the end of each meeting. Mr. Dickman remarked on the need for staff preparation and legal review time required for items, plus proper noticing. Items may be added at the beginning of a meeting if agreed upon by the Committee as a whole. The Committee discussed and concurred to limit the number of requests for each member.

**h. (Added) Communications to Beach Stewards**

Member Kurzman inquired about having incidents of illegal activity on the beach reported to the Committee; the practicality of that was discussed. A quarterly summary of incidents is already included, as it was for this meeting.

**i. (Added) Redington Decision on Customary Use**

Attorney Dickman spoke about the Customary Use Doctrine and summarized the recent decision in a US District Court Case in Redington Beach, in which the town prevailed after several years of litigation to allow the public to use the sandy beach leeward of the highwater line for recreational purposes, as it has been customarily. He will send a copy of the decision to the members.

Ms. McMahon reviewed the items which she had noted for the next agenda: lighting audit report, beach lighting model ordinance review, Sea Turtle Trackers activity report, Public Works/Mike Clarke report on the County's beach renourishment project, beach ordinance update (Vice Chair Stevens suggested this be a standing item until completed).

6. Adjournment – Next meeting will be November 13, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

*These minutes will be considered for approval at the November 13, 2024, Beach Stewardship Committee meeting.*

Notice of Meetings  
Beach Stewardship Committee  
2025

The Beach Stewardship Committee meets on a quarterly basis on the third Wednesday of the month in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 155 Corey Avenue, St. Pete Beach, Florida.

| <u>Meeting Date</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|
| February 19, 2025   | 9:00 am     |
| May 21, 2025        | 9:00 am     |
| August 20, 2025     | 9:00 am     |
| November 19, 2025   | 9:00 am     |

Meeting to elect the Chair and Vice Chair will be on May 21, 2025, or the soonest meeting thereafter.

The Code of Ordinances pertaining to this board can be found at:  
[https://www.municode.com/library/fl/st.\\_pete\\_beach/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR\\_CH22BOCOCO\\_ARTXIBESTCO](https://www.municode.com/library/fl/st._pete_beach/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH22BOCOCO_ARTXIBESTCO)

# OUR BEACH IS OPEN BUT PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE SAFETY GUIDELINES:

- Protect your feet against hidden debris in the sand or water, wear close toe shoes
- Do not enter sand dunes as they are protected land
- Do not approach or pick up any live or dead wildlife
- Use gloves to pick up any broken glass or other hazardous materials for disposal in our trash cans





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# BEACH REPORT

1 Jul – 31 Sep, 2024

## Activity

- Hotelier meeting (8 Jul)
- Sea Oats planning meeting (26 Jul)
- PADL move meeting (31 Jul)
- Beach cleanups (5-6-27-28 Jul)
- Dune Savers meeting (2 Aug)
- Hurricane Debby (5 Aug)
- Tampa Bay Club Sport move meeting (14 Aug)
- Management meeting (19 Aug)
- Permit fee meeting (20 Aug)
- Beach stewardship meeting (21 Aug)
- Beach cleanups (3-23-28 Aug)
- Code Enforcement training (9-13 Sep)
- Management meeting (16 Sep)
- All Hands meeting (19 Aug)
- Hurricane Helene (26 Sep)
- All Teams meeting (30 Sep)
- Beach cleanups (7-14-28-29 Sep)

## Weddings & Special Events

- July 2024 weddings 18
- Surfers for Autism (13 Jul)
- SSOVA tournament (27-28 Jul)
- Mastry's Night Market (27 Jul)
- August 2024 weddings 12
- SSOVA tournament (17-18 Aug)
- Mind Travel Silent concert (20 Aug)
- Sea Oat Planting at Upham (24 Aug)
- September 2024 weddings 14
- Mastry's Vegan Street Party (7 Sep)
- Mind Travel Silent Concert (20 Sep)
- SSOVA tournament (21-22 Sep)

## PCSO Violations

July 2024

Citations:

0

Warnings: 84

- Alcohol on Beach - 50
- Dog Off Leash – 1
- Dog on Beach – 9
- Feeding Birds – 1
- Glass on Beach – 13
- Grill on Beach – 1
- Sleeping on Beach – 9

August 2024

Citations: 1

- Alcohol on Beach – 1

Warnings: 134

- Alcohol on Beach – 49
- Dog Off Leash – 31
- Dog on Beach – 24
- E-Bike on Beach – 5
- Feeding Birds – 1
- Glass on Beach – 16
- Grill on Beach – 1
- Sleeping on Beach – 7

September 2024

Citations: 5

- Alcohol on Beach – 3
- Dog Off Leash – 1
- Dog on Beach – 1

Warnings: 185

- Glass on Beach – 8
- Alcohol on Beach – 96
- Discharge Spear Gun – 1
- Dog Off Leash – 24
- Dog on Beach – 33
- Electric Bike on Beach – 3
- Fire on Beach – 1
- Grill on Beach – 3
- Sleeping on Beach – 16