



AGENDA
BEACH TASK FORCE
September 17, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

- 1 Minutes: January 16 and February 20, 2020

Old Business

New Business

- 2 Kate Burns: Coastal GA is Not an Ashtray
- 3 Cathy Sakas: Blueclimate Initiative
- 4 Cathy Lewis: Alan Robertson's Beach Update
- 5 Cathy Lewis: Postponement of BTF Meetings: January 2021

City Manager Comments

Adjournment

File Attachments for Item:

Minutes: January 16 and February 20, 2020

Members Present: Sam Adams, Cathy Sakas, Joe Richardson, Jimmy Burke, Cathy Lewis, Frank Wooldridge, Harvey Ferrelle, Kate Barns, Mark Padgett and Helen Downing

Visitors/Ex-Officios Present: Shawn Gillen, Nancy DeVetter, and Monty Parks. Also attending were Josh Nickel, Alan Robertson, Tim Arnold and Wister Lewis

CALL TO ORDER: Sam Adams called the meeting to order at 12:10PM.

Josh Nickel, USACOE, approached the Task Force. Mr. Nickel stated there is a great deal happening on the beach with the Supplemental Contract and with Tybee Island contributing additional funding for that, the USACOE is putting down 1.3M cubic yards of material from the north groin around to the south tip. Of that, approximately 48,000 cubic yards of that material in key and strategic locations around Solomon to Center; around Gullick; and around 19th to the south-tip will be utilized by the City of Tybee to strengthen those dune fields in the area. The contractor is ahead of schedule and will complete by Friday, January 24, 2020. Once they have finished they will be breaking down equipment and moving off the Island. The other Study, the 1037, is the 15 year federal participation study. Federal participation for the City of Tybee ends in 2024 and the Study evaluates renewing that and extending the participation for an additional 15 years through 2039. He suggested representatives from the City reach out to our local dignitaries and State representatives letting them know what the beach might look like without federal participation. The Planning Assistance to State (PAS) is also in the forefront. This is the evaluation of the area on the north beach where there are ship wake issues. Tybee has submitted their approval and now awaiting finalizing the budget before the onset of the Study. With this Study, the Federal Project is defined is from the north groin all the way to Horsepen Creek, this could help to redefine the Federal Project. Whether to add section or take away sections to overcome the economic challenges that are within the 1037 Project. There was a brief discussion regarding the north jetty falling within the Harbor Maintenance Funding. Mr. Nickel will find out. Ms. Lewis recommended the Beach Task Force send a letter to Mayor and Council asking them to begin to think about the 1037 and possible funding. This would include Mayor and Council reaching out to State and Federal dignitaries. Cathy Lewis made a motion for the Beach Task Force to send a letter to Mayor and Council requesting they reach out to our local, state and federal representatives in support of 1037. Jimmy Burke seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Burke asked Dr. Gillen, City Manager, when work was going to begin for the crossovers. Dr. Gillen replied as soon as the re-nourishment is complete. The dune contractor will begin work as soon as the USACOE is off the beach. They will start at the south-end with Tybrisa, 17th and 18th and then move to 3rd for a new crossover, 2nd. Center and at the anchor is. These should be done prior to turtle season.

Mr. Adams made reference to the Litter Report presented to the Beach Task Force to be forwarded to Mayor and Council. **Jimmy Burke** made a motion to send the following motion to Mayor and Council:

The Beach Task Force continues its work to prevent and mitigate ever increasing litter on our beaches. In this light, Tim Arnold from the Tybee Clean Beach Volunteers presented to the BTF an in depth report on the state of litter collected and recommends ways to mitigate it, in particular implementing a smoke-free beach. The BTF formally submits this report to the Council for their review and action in order to further protect the safety and health of our beach and marsh. The BTF stands ready to assist in implementing these anti-litter proposals as directed by the Council.

Cathy Lewis seconded. **Discussion:** **Mr. Padgett** shared his concerns with the language of the motion. It is his understanding the Beach Task Force should not “assist” in the implementation but serve as a “consultant”. Nancy DeVetter approached. Ms. DeVetter stated she is in favor of a smoke free beach and she does not feel it is necessary for the Beach Task Force to be involved with implementation. This would be the responsibility of the City Manager. She recommended to change the language “ready to assist in this proposal” and remove the implementation language. Mr. Adams suggested: “*The Beach Task Force stands ready to assist as a consultative body in implementing these anti-litter proposals as directed by Council*”. Jimmy Burke accepted the language as outlined by Mr. Adams. Ms. Lewis seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Alan Robertson approached the Task Force. Mr. Robertson gave a brief update on the dune restoration project. He stated Gullick will be stabilized as is 19th Street; 3rd Street will look like 19th Street; and the center dune will be a sand dune just south of Center Street to East Gate; and 3rd Street will be stabilized. Earth Balance is the landscape contractor for the Phase I and from the pier to 19th Street will start Monday. Mr. Robertson discussed those crossovers that need to be extended. He will be asking the DCA for an extension of the funds due to turtle season where work cannot be done on the beach during that time. To date, \$3M of the \$5M DCA money has been spent and have committed another \$1.7M. Mr. Robertson stated the City is applying for a FEMA Grant to develop a comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan which could be up to \$200,000 and is a 75/25 split.

Mark Padgett approach the Task Force to give an update on the sand fencing and plantings. Mr. Padgett stated the City is coming up on the second year of monitoring. The year-end report is forthcoming. He doesn't feel the City needs to engage in a third year of monitoring as the sand fencing and plantings are working to stabilize the dunes. He will have a formal presentation at the February 2020 meeting.

Harvey Ferrell gave a brief update on Cockspur Lighthouse. He encouraged everyone to support the lighthouse as well as “like” the Facebook page.

Sam Adams reported on the Nominating Committee:

Cathy Lewis, Chair
Mark Padgett, Vice Chair

Cathy Sakas made a motion to accept the nominees. **Frank Wooldridge** seconded.
Vote was unanimous.

Janet LeViner, CMC
City Clerk

Beach Task Force Minutes, February 20, 2020

Cathy Lewis called the Beach Task Force meeting to order at 12:00PM on Thursday, February 20, 2020.

Those in attendance were Cathy Lewis, Cathy Sakas, Harvey Ferrell, Frank Wooldridge, Joe Richardson, Kate Burns, and Mark Padgett. Also attending were Nancy DeVetter, Monty Parks, Josh Nickel, Alan Robertson and April Patterson.

Ms. Lewis introduced herself as she is sitting in for Sam Adams, Chair of the Beach Task Force. She welcomed the guests and introduced April Patterson, Sr. Project Manager, USACE.

Dr. Gillen gave a brief update on the crossovers which include Tybrisa, 17th and 18th which are now complete and 18th Street crossover has a mobi-mat on the landward side. Dr. Gillen stated Mayor Sessions and himself have been working diligently with our lobbyists on the Phase II Channel Impact Study as this was not included in the USACE budget at the Headquarters level. This Study is a \$3.M and has a 50/50 split with the City. Dr. Gillen made reference to the 1037 Study which is the Study to determine continuation of the Federal Project which expires in 2024. To get an extension on the Study they need to do a cost benefit analysis which has not been completed. Currently, focus is on the 1037 Study. Ms. Lewis asked if there is anything the Beach Task Force can do. Dr. Gillen responded not only to give their support but letters can be sent to the USACE as well as our local delegation.

Josh Nickel, USACE, approached the Task Force. Mr. Nickel stated on February 7, 2020 the USACE reviewed the supplemental re-nourishment and have officially accepted the project and is now complete. There will be a new Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual that will be turned over to the City of Tybee. He continued, it is important for the Beach Task Force and the City to know the O&M Manual will assist the City of Tybee in moving forward with the end of federal participation on 2024. The City could be eligible for PL8499 Funds which simply is a means if there is an authorization for an appropriation for a storm event and Tybee Island has done their due diligence to follow the O&M Manual, this will gain traction for another supplemental re-nourishment. Mr. Nickel strongly urged the City to implement and following the O&M Manual. He stated the USACE is extremely happy with the re-nourishment as 1.3M cu yds of sand was placed on the beach. Mr. Nickel outlined the Planning Assistance to State (PAS) that is a cost share as well, 50/50, with the City of Tybee and is moving forward. Mr. Nickel stated he has accepted a position within the South-Atlantic Division in Atlanta and with that transition, April Patterson will be the interim Tybee Island Project Manager. Ms. Patterson approached the Task Force. She thank everyone and is looking forward to working with not only the Beach Task Force but with the City of Tybee. Ms. Patterson stated for the last two years she has been working on Tybee projects and currently working on the South-Atlantic Coastal Study which is 100% federally funded. This project is geared toward building resiliency and understanding risk.

Mark Padgett gave an update on the **Sand Fencing Experiment**. Mr. Padgett explained this involved three experimental stations that were started prior to the dune project and beach re-nourishment. He stated all the expectations were met or exceeded with this project. Three rows of fencing was placed to include beach wrack as this allowed additional vegetation. All quarterly reports were received to include the final report, December 2019. In these reports it was determined sand accumulation was highest when utilizing northeast and southwest orientation. It is also his recommendation that no further monitoring of the sand fencing be done as it continues to be successful. Mr. Parks asked the report be sent to Mayor and Council for their review. Mr. Padgett responded he will be happy to forward the final copy when it is received as

all he has is a draft copy. Mr. Parks thanked Mr. Padgett. **Mark Padgett** made a motion that the Beach Task Force support Mayor and Council with placing additional sand fencing on the beach. **Cathy Sakas** seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to approve. Dr. Richardson asked Mr. Padgett if the GaDNR requested a copy of the final report. Mr. Padgett stated this is not a requirement but will forward once received and ask for their guidance as well as with the USACE and surrounding coastal communities. Ms. Lewis congratulated Mr. Padgett and his sub-committee for all his hard work.

Alan Robertson approached the Beach Task Force to give an update on the recent **beach re-nourishment** and **dune restoration**. Mr. Robertson confirmed the re-nourishment is complete. He stated the 19th Street cross-over has been stabilized in April 2018 and two other cross-overs have been stabilized as well. The State gave the City \$5M to both restore the beach and the dunes. The USACE restored the beach and the City did the dunes. The cross-overs are opening and Center, Anchor and 2nd Streets are being built as new cross-overs. He continued, there is an RFP out for vegetating the dunes and should be awarded soon. Mr. Robertson stated focus is now on the Back River. The City was just awarded a new grant, Fish and Wildlife Grant, which is a study for approximately one year to analyze options for mitigating flooding on the Back River. With this study, there is a great deal of schools at UGA that will be involved. He is asking the Beach Task Force to lead as volunteers with the study. Mr. Robinson outlined the grants the City has applied for and what each grant would entail. He will know soon as to whether we are awarded the grants and how to move forward. Ms. Lewis thanked Mr. Robinson for all his work.

Nancy DeVetter approached the Beach Task Force. Ms. DeVetter stated the Mayor and Council will hear a proposal for a Non-smoking Ordinance on February 27, 2020 and the proposed ordinance is a limited one-year ban for the area of 16th Street to the Pier. She continued, Mayor and Council will also vote on the proposed Administrative Fines Ordinance which will allow mid-level enforcement, not through police powers but through other staff who will have been cross-trained. The offenses would include glass on the beach, dogs on the beach, and walking in the dunes. Ms. DeVetter stated Mayor and Council are working on strategic planning and identifying tasks and activities they want to accomplish. She believes that some of the tasks and activities might fall under, what she would like to see, some sort of environmental or sustainability committee. Items such as beach litter would fall under this committee. Ms. Sakas expressed her concerns with butts on the beach and how they are harmful to the environment. Ms. DeVetter confirmed.

Ms. Lewis made reference to the Bylaws and asked if everyone had read them and if there are comments please let her know. **Cathy Sakas** made a motion to accept the Beach Task Bylaws with changes. **Harvey Ferrell** seconded. **Discussion: Dr. Richardson** made reference to the term of tenure as the bylaws make reference to both one year and two year terms. Ms. Sakas recommended the language be changed to “beginning in February during the annual meeting, the Chair will be elected for a two-year term”. Mr. Ferrell accepted the amended motion. Vote was unanimous to approve. There was a brief discussion regarding the reference to the Vice-Chair heading the Funding Committee. It was agreed this would remain as the duty and include the verbiage “when necessary, as needed” to the duties of the Vice-Chair. **Cathy Sakas** made a motion to reflect the changes that were just discussed. **Harvey Ferrell** seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Ms. Lewis asked everyone to complete the Letter of Intent to Serve and return to the Clerk, Jan LeViner. Ms. LeViner will in turn update the current roster and distribute to everyone. Mimi Pender announced her retirement from the Beach Task Force as they are moving out of State. Mr. Ferrell recommended the term of each member be renewed on a yearly basis. **Cathy Sakas** made

a motion amend the bylaws to change the three year term to a one year annual renewal term for membership. **Harvey Ferrell** seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Harvey Ferrell discussed the possibility of changing the time of the meeting as it is during lunch. Ms. Sakas recommended changing the time to before or after lunch as it is difficult to meet at noon. It was the consensus of the group to bring this back to the next meeting for further discussions.

Being there no further discussion, meeting was adjourned a 1:30PM.

Jan LeViner, CMC
Clerk