



Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Friday, March 1, 2024, 9:00am
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

Present: Dan Slotchiver, Andrew Vega, Tim Ahmuty, Council Member Pierce (via Zoom), Council Member Campsen, Mayor Pounds, Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr

Absent: Council Member Miars

Also present: Robert Outten (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order

2. Discussion with Robert Outten, Dare County Manager/Attorney, regarding Outer Banks beach nourishment funding model

Mr. Outten shared the history of the special municipal service tax district created in Dare County, North Carolina to fund beach renourishment and how the county created a formula for fairly taxing citizens to contribute to beach renourishment funds. The State of North Carolina does not contribute to beach nourishment, so it was important to create a way that each town's tax base shared the same burden. He said it was beneficial for their tourist-based economy to have all the beaches in good condition. They leverage their tax funds by borrowing money for renourishment and bid multiple projects at one to save on mobilization costs. Dare County does not provide any financial help to mitigate property damage in between projects but citizens are allowed to use sandbags on their property. Mr. Outten said they do not have many emergencies between projects at this point as the nourishments are lasting longer than expected.

Mr. Outten said they use a beach management plan to illustrate to the state the need for beach nourishment funding.

3. Next Steps

Committee members would like to speak with someone from Explore Charleston, the City's lobbyist, and Chair of Charleston County Council as well as a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Administrator Fragoso shared that she and the Mayor attended a meeting with the City's lobbyist, and the biggest takeaway was that State and Federal funds are not reliable sources of funding and the City needs to figure out how to leverage the funds and resources it does have to make sure they have a sustainable plan moving forward. Mr. Vega added that it is important to set the expectations of the public of what the beach nourishment projects can and cannot do.

Ms. Solomon encouraged conversation between islands to determine where ideas and resources could be shared. Administrator Fragoso added that the City needs to clarify what it wants the beaches to look like and then determine the cost. She said that Dewees Island is having some erosion issues and Sullivan's Island has a few spots where they also have concerns.

Administrator Fragoso will share links the North Carolina's equivalent to the Beachfront Management Act and the North Carolina Beach Management Inlet Plan to review and discuss at the next meeting.

Mr. Vega would like to see if ATAX money spent on advertising could be allocated to beach nourishment. Council Member Campsen would like to see what City monies can be directly funneled into beach nourishment during the upcoming budget discussions.

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee will be Friday, March 8, 2024 at 9:00am.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk