



Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Friday, April 12, 2024, 9:00am
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

Present: Andrew Vega, Tim Ahmuty, Cindy Solomon, Council members Pierce (via Zoom), Campsen, and Miars, Mayor Pounds, Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr

Absent: Dan Slotchiver

Also present: Nancy Parrish and team from the USACE Steven Traynum (via Zoom)

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Discussion of steps and requirements for federally funded and managed beach nourishment projects - USACE Planning Chief, Nancy Parrish**

Ms. Parrish reviewed the requirements to qualify as a federally funded project. The two main criteria are public access every ½ mile and adequate free or reasonably priced parking easily available to all people. She then reviewed the phases of the process including a feasibility study that could take 3-4 years to complete, a construction phase, and then the operations and management phase. The City would be responsible for 50% of the cost of the feasibility study.

Ms. Parrish said that should the City be accepted as a federally funded project they would be expected to participate in a 65/35 cost share for construction and regular nourishment projects. She said the pre-construction design process could take 2-3 years. It could be 5-7 years before they could begin a nourishment assuming they receive the needed appropriations from Congress. The City can place sand in between projects at their expense, but USACE has the right to review any nourishment in their “area” to “ensure they don’t alter the purpose and function of the Federal project.” If there is a storm that causes a certain amount of damage, the USACE will restore the beach at the expense of the Federal government.

Ms. Parrish said that the City will also need to acquire perpetual easements from all the parts of the island that will be part of the federally funded beach. As Wild Dunes is private, they are not qualified to be part of the beach managed by the Federal government. She said the acquisition of these easements is done during the construction phase and is done at the City’s expense. Beach walkovers can be included as a permissible part of the project, but they will be the City’s responsibility.

Ms. Parrish said the next step for the City would be to submit a formal letter of intent to the USACE Charleston District to be included a feasibility study. They are currently working on the

FY27 budget. If the City's request is approved, they will enter into a 50-year agreement with the Federal government. She said the letter of intent is not binding and the City can change its mind between submission and approval. Ms. Parrish suggested speaking with Folly Beach and or Myrtle Beach about their work with the USACE.

3. Next Steps

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee will be Friday, April 19, 2024 at 9:00am. The Committee will discuss their thoughts on which ideas they would like to move forward with. The Committee can also discuss if they would like to make a recommendation to City Council about sending a letter of intent to the USACE.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk