



Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Friday, April 19, 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, Dan Slotchiver, Tim Ahmuty, Cindy Solomon, Council members Pierce (via Zoom), Campsen, and Miars, Mayor Pounds, Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Discussion of developing recommendations for beach preservation goals and strategies**

Mayor Pounds reviewed the main objectives of the Committee and the information that has been presented to the committee to date for consideration. He presented strategic areas of discussion for the meeting: define ideal beach profile; evaluate beach preservation strategies; evaluate benefits/challenges of locally managed/funded or federally managed/funded projects; establish emergency protection policy; identify funding needs to support ongoing beach maintenance program; and review/recommend building, zoning policy changes.

Ms. Solomon would like to have someone speak to the Committee about the development of a formal plan document that could be used as a tool in requesting funding. Mr. Ahmuty shared several articles and documents he had read that could help with the formation of such a plan as well as provide answers to some questions needed to complete a plan. Mr. Slotchiver suggested that the Committee needs to figure out how much renourishment will cost, how much money the City can raise each year towards a large project, then look at the shortfall and determine how to make up the difference.

The Committee agreed that having the ideal beach profile suggested by Mr. Traynum will help in driving the timing of nourishment projects and their funding.

The Committee briefly discussed how nourishment projects in Wild Dunes are handled. Administrator Fragoso explained that because there have been several projects already completed in Wild Dunes, they have a good nourishment model to mimic. The City drives the timeline for the projects in that area and Wild Dunes raises the money.

Committee members agreed it is a good idea to send the letter of intent to the USACE prior to the November deadline to possibly be included in the FY27 budget for a feasibility study.

Council Member Miars said that her version of success includes the City having a policy in place that prevents a crisis situation on the beach and if a crisis does occur, the City has a plan that remedies the crisis in a short period of time.

Administrator Fragoso pointed to some pieces of a plan that are not tied to funding. “I would like to encourage the group to think about the building, zoning policy changes. Are there things we need to be thinking about from a building perspective and resiliency perspective that could supplement this plan for beach preservation and beach renourishment? And identify who we want to hear from. What are some of the questions that we want to answer? Because that will be part of the plan and part of the policy recommendations that this group could take back to Council. Some of the things that we have talked about internally is this policy that allows pools being built past the maximum building line. Does that make sense? Is that something that should be reviewed? What should be the City’s policy generally on the hard erosion control structures? We’ve talked about that at the Council level, but that is another topic that I think is worthy of discussion. And the establishment of an emergency protection policy. Obviously, our goal would be to have a proactive maintenance, consistent maintenance plan that we avoid getting into an emergency situation because as you said, we can’t anticipate it all. So what is going to be the City’s policy, the City’s position on it that we can communicate with the community and everybody understands what is going to happen? We don’t have that, and I think that has been part of the challenge of our response during this particular emergency situation down at Breach Inlet.”

Council Member Campsen pointed out that Dare County has plans in place to nourish the beach, but they look to their citizens to “hold the line” during critical times between nourishments.

Director Kerr said he believed Mr. Traynum said the ideal beach profile is 450 cubic yards of sand per linear foot of beach front. While the cost to maintain that profile would be exorbitant, the Committee could use that number and scale back to something more realistic.

Ms. Solomon would like to have someone working on a plan while the Committee works on the zoning concerns stated by Administrator Fragoso.

Administrator Fragoso pointed out that Dare County is managing 5-7 beach projects simultaneously and they are working at a county level, not on just one municipality. She explained that the tourism monies the City receives from Charleston County are already allocated to supporting the beach in the public restrooms, parking, Public Safety services, etc.

3. Next Steps

The Committee would like to hear from Mr. Traynum regarding the ideal beach profile. They would also like to discuss with him who at CS&E could help in the development of a plan. Council Member Pierce would like a list of the possible funding sources to discuss at a later meeting. Council Member Miars suggested having someone from the County and someone from the local beach advocacy groups attend a future meeting. Council Member Campsen indicated having a Wild Dunes representative attend a future meeting would be helpful.

4. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk