



Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Friday, September 6, 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, Cindi Solomon, Tim Ahmuty, Dan Slotchiver, Council Member Pierce, Mayor Pounds, Director Kerr

Absent: Administrator Fragoso, Council Member Miars

1. **Call to order**
2. **Review of minimum healthy beach profile and proposed frequency of large-scale nourishment projects**

Director Kerr reviewed the Committee's Recommendation Considerations as discussed through several meetings. Discussion ensued as to the possibility of applying for permits that would give the City flexibility in response to beach conditions. Mayor Pounds said it is worth a conversation with Matt Slagel to see if OCRM would entertain a non-specific application.

Director Kerr said he would speak with Mr. Traynum about refining the minimum dune width that would trigger a consultation with City Council about a nourishment project.

The Committee also discussed adding a professionally prepared document to educate State legislators and the public on the need for a long-term plan to protect and preserve the beach.

Further discussion about funding options will wait until Administrator Fragoso is in attendance. Director Kerr shared that the special tax district option is not available in South Carolina. Mr. deSassure will provide a document to the Committee explaining the law and possible options, which include lobbying State legislators to allow for beach renourishment as an option within current State law.

The Committee agreed the City should amend the letter sent to USACE requesting an analysis of the beach for the Federal program to include both ends of the island. Mr. Slotchiver said it will be necessary to discuss the requirement for beachfront property owners to sign an easement if the island is to become a federally managed beach.

Committee members generally agreed on an 8-year cadence to nourishment projects but would like to see cost projections for a 6-year cadence. Ms. Solomon suggested speaking with Dare County officials about how they have managed the timing of nourishments and mobilizations. Mayor Pounds suggested speaking with the mayors or City/Town administrators of the locally federally managed beaches like Folly Beach and Edisto.

Council Member Pierce asked for updates to the list of funding assumptions including the ranges of funds that could be raised increasing certain City fees, the minimum level of funds that should be in the Beach Preservation Fund at all times, the level of ATAX contributions, and the percentage of contribution from Wild Dunes for nourishment projects. Mayor Pounds said all of these assumptions can be further developed in the capital planning model at the next meeting.

3. Review of draft timeline for the committee to finalize recommendations and future beach projects

The Committee reviewed a proposed timeline of activities and deadlines that will lead to generating a report for City Council review in January. Timing of when to share and how much information to share with City Council was discussed in light of several large documents coming up for City Council review. Committee members want to be sure this information is available to Council ahead of the FY26 budget conversations.

4. Next Steps

The Committee will work with the capital planning model at the next meeting, review the finalized document from Mr. deSassure about tax district funding, and discuss the range of funds that can be raised through City fees

5. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee will be Friday, September 13, 2024 at 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk