

VOLUSIA COUNTY BEACH POLICY ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting minutes for March 10, 2009
VCBP HQ

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of March 10, 2009 was called to order by Chairman Lamotte at 5:39 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman David Lamotte
Vice-Chairman Glenn Storch
Mr. Worley Pruett
Dr. P.T. Bud Fleuchaus
Mr. Nick Conte
Ms. Judith Craig
Mr. Jason McGuirk

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Steven Strawn
Mr. David Rigsby

STAFF PRESENT

Tony Sopotnick, Staff Liaison
Judith Hallock, Administrative Support

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dr. Fleuchaus moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2009. Mr. Storch seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF VINCENT COPP:

Tony Sopotnick gave a brief overview of Mr. Copp's 18 year career as a toll taker welcoming visitors to Volusia County beaches. Mr. Copp is retiring at the age of 92 years young.

Republic Parking Representative Don Augers, presented Mr. Copp with an award thanking him for his years of dedicated service.

Volusia County Beach Patrol Captain Tamra Marris further recognized Mr. Copp by presenting him with a plaque of appreciation on behalf of the Beach Safety Division.

Chairman Lamotte made a motion to move Public Participation following the presentation by John Hearin, ASR of American Engineering. Mr. Conte seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Storch congratulated all board members on being reappointed by Council.

Chairman Lamotte recognized Volusia County Councilman Josh Wagner who was in attendance in the audience.

PRESENTATION BY JOHN HEARIN, President of ASR AMERICAN

ENGINEERING: ASR America is a Marine Consulting and Research firm based in Cocoa Beach, FL. ASR America specializes in innovative technologies.

Mr. Hearin is a graduate of Spruce Creek High School. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Aerodynamic Engineering from the University of Florida and obtained his Master's Degree in Coastal Engineering from the Florida Institute of Technology. Mr. Hearin is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Ocean Engineering from the Florida Institute of Technology.

Mr. Hearin gave a presentation on multi purpose artificial reef construction. These geosynthetic sand filled containers are typically constructed 200 to 300 yards offshore. In addition to reducing localized beach erosion, the reefs also act as a marine ecosystem attracting a wide variety of plants, fish and other marine organisms. This increased biodiversity around the reefs make them potential popular destinations for fishing, snorkeling and diving. An additional benefit would include enhanced surfing conditions thereby further increasing eco-recreational opportunities. Discussion ensued with board members regarding this artificial reef construction.

Mr. Hearin stated the estimated cost of beach renourishment is \$23 million for approximately 3 miles of beach and is generally repeated every six years.

Dr. Fleuchaus indicated it would not be economically possible to construct 47 miles of artificial reef. Mr. Hearin stated only "erosional hot spots" of the beach would have reefs constructed.

Brevard County recently completed a feasibility study resulting in an estimated cost of \$5 million dollars to protect one mile of beach with an artificial reef.

Dr. Fleuchaus asked the cost of a feasibility study. Mr. Hearin indicated the cost to be approximately \$300,000 completed up to the permit phase. This process normally takes approximately one year to complete.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER):

Regarding the multi purpose artificial reef, Gary Libby stated potential funding sources could include trust fund money from the Main St. Redevelopment board and ECHO funds if the project were to be located in the core tourist area. He also stated there are possibly other federal dollars available.

Karen Lamotte asked how much the recent New Smyrna Beach renourishment project cost and Board Chair Dave Lamotte responded the cost was in the millions.

Coraggio Maglio stated the New Smyrna Beach project was a navigational project.

Josh Wagner, Volusia County Councilman, District 2, asked the Beach Advisory Board to attempt to identify innovative alternatives to beach restoration. He included that if this type of project was used, the Artificial reefs would have the potential to enhance the area's tourism industry from a recreational standpoint with regard to surfing and diving.

Mr. Storch makes a motion for staff to compile a report to submit to Council explaining the need for a feasibility study, seconded by Mr. McGuirk. Motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Gary Libby added that if ECHO funds were to be sought, the outdoor / recreation component must be emphasized.

Ms. Craig stressed the importance of using the phrase "progressive project" in the report.

Warren Trager stated the beach was renourished in 1967. He questions whether accessibility on the beach will become an issue for cars. He contends that if the waves cannot come up, the sand will remain soft.

Chris Muenzer, resident, spoke in support of the project.

Jose Arbucci, local event promoter, spoke in support of the project.

Paul Zimmerman, resident, spoke in support of the project. He hopes the board recommends going forward with the project to council.

Greg Gimbert, resident, states we cannot wait for the beach to come back on its own.

Mr. Lamotte restated the motion on the floor to support consideration of the project. Mr. McGuirk seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER):

ONGOING BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION:

Mr. Lamotte advised that the Board was directed by Council to address several beach issues: alcohol, dogs and beach tolls. Due to time constraints they will be discussed separately at future meetings. Mr. Fleuchaus motions to move items to future meetings.

Mr. McGuirk seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously. In preparation of these upcoming issues, Mr. Sopotnick will provide a copy of the Unified Beach Code Ordinances and highlight applicable areas of the Beach Management Plan for members to review.

Mr. Storch suggested the issue of alcohol on the beach be addressed at the next meeting. Mr. McGuirk requests information on any alcohol related permits issued. Mr. Sopotnick will compile data prior to discussion.

Greg Gimbert requests the toll issue be addressed at the next meeting.

Mr. Lamotte agrees that tolls should be next as citizens have been waiting for this issue to be resolved. Mr. Conte requests a County legal representative such as Jamie Seaman be in attendance for the toll discussion. Mr. Sopotnick will forward the request for staff availability and notify Chairman Lamotte.

Steve Rumnock, resident, asks if Board can meet in April to start the discussion process earlier. Mr. Storch believes the meeting dates are dictated by Council, however Mr. Storch has no objection to an April meeting and is supported by the Board. Mr. Sopotnick will confer with Volusia County legal staff regarding special meeting requirements and advise Board members accordingly. Any special meeting of the Advisory Board will be advertised in advance.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lamotte, seconded by Mr. Fleuchaus. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

Judith Hallock, Beach Safety

MINUTES EDITED BY:

Nanci Nolin, Beach Safety