



Sand, Beach, and Dune Management Advisory Committee MINUTES

Thursday, April 30, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

The following people were present:

Thelma Drake	Tom McNeilan	Don Musacchio
Vic Yurkovic	Michelle Hamor	Larry Atkinson
Scott Hardaway	Brian Joyner	John Greene
Chuck Joyner	Lee Perkins	Robert Tajan
Jim Herbst		

Mr. McNeilan opened the meeting and proceeded in a round table format giving participants opportunity to share research, ideas, and concerns. Comments are grouped by topic below.

Sand Accretion. Mr. Musacchio reported that sand has accumulated rapidly in the last three months in the 800 block of East Ocean View Avenue. Mr. Perkins indicated this was a hot spot for beach erosion in the past and the site of significant effort over time to restore the beach and dunes. Mrs. Drake reiterated the difficulty growing dunes cause for property owners and the need for some type of intervention with the dunes. Finally, the dunes are becoming steeper in some areas and may require stairs for future access. Moffatt and Nichol are continuing their sand volume movement study.

New Jersey Court Case. Ms. Hamor shared information on a relevant court case in New Jersey involving beach replenishment by local authorities and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The New Jersey Supreme Court held that a lower court did not consider the value of storm protection in determining just compensation for an easement. The lower court had only allowed the loss of water view to be calculated in their determination.

Florida Best Practices. Florida has invested significant funds in beach restoration and storm protection. Mr. Musacchio cited a report from Florida highlighting what worked and what didn't work in their efforts. Mr. Perkins suggested that best practices from other locations need carefully vetted for their suitability locally.

Coastal Character District Proposal and Building Codes. A proposal that has been made in the citywide zoning evaluation currently being conducted is to add a coastal character district to PlaNorfolk 2030 and new zoning regulations. This would recognize the need for distinct vision and regulations along the seven miles of coastline. It would require a comprehensive approach because it is widely recognized that what one property owner does can adversely affect other properties. Currently regulations are less stringent for infill

replacement than for multi-parcel development which can also adversely affect neighbors. For instance, elevating one property over another cause runoff on the lower property.

An additional suggestion is to provide guidance on roof-top decks or additions that would help mitigate the loss of water view caused by higher dunes.

Sand Reservoirs. Another suggestion is to create sand reservoir or silo like structures to store excess sand from one area for use in another area. Mr. Perkins reported that the City does have a designated sand recycle area at 15th View Street. Trucking sand from reservoirs has not proved cost effective in the past, particularly with the wear and tear on City streets. Offshore hydraulic pumping is more effective.

Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Budget and Future Financing. Chuck Joyner reported that funding support in the proposed FY16 budget would maintain the current level of funding at \$500,000. The only exception is an additional \$290,000 budgeted as the required match to the federal beach re-nourishment project. Committee members were agreed that funding will need increased in the future. The budget process for major projects in FY17 begins this fall.

Another highlight is the implementation of an indefinite quantities contract which is a standing contract that can be used as needed without the bidding process. This will provide a much faster response.

Another suggestion for the committee's work is to probe the tolerance among the owners of the 1200 properties along the beach front for a special tax district. The benefits of the proposal would have to be clearly communicated.

Vacant Properties. Questions were raised about a vacant property at 2040 E. Ocean View Avenue where development will be occurring. The crest of dune has moved inland significantly on this property. Mr. Perkins reported that this is an anomaly that they have investigated. Vacant lots frequently become beach access points. Heavy use creates breaches in the dune that are not repaired because the lots are vacant. Dune law allows modifications to the dune in instances of such anomalies.

Pilot Project Area. A pilot project area was proposed between Grove Avenue and Inlet Road. An alternative suggestion was to first decide what should be done and then pick a location. Mr. Perkins suggestion is to pick a pilot area and plant very densely next season in that area.

New Walkways. Lidar imagery showed less vegetation at walkways. Committee members discussed the need for new, adjustable, sustainable walkways that could be placed at grade without sides. They could be movable and cheaper.

Action Item	Owner	Due
1. Mr. McNeilan and Mr. Perkins will meet separately and possibly visit sites.	Lee Perkins/Tom McNeilan	By next meeting

The next formal meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 in the 10th Floor Conference Room of City Hall