

St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach District

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

The Regular Meeting of the Port, Waterway & Beach District was held in the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 AlA South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida on Tuesday, June 20, 2006.

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack McGuinness.

Vice Chairman Rick Gleeson and Commissioners Jerry Dixon and Tom Rivers were in attendance. Commissioner Barry Benjamin was absent. Also in attendance were the District's Attorney, Geoff Dobson, Engineering Consultant, Dr. Steve Schropp and Dr. Alexandra Carvalho from Taylor Engineering, Shorty Robbins of St. Johns County Recreation Department, City Commissioner Joe Boles, Renee Perez from the Corps of Engineers and citizens Phillip Davis, Chris Benjamin and Carl Blow.

MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2006

There were no changes made and were approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Presented by Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Bell with handouts, summarizing Net Funds Available, amounts spent on Budgeted projects, (City Police Law Enforcement overtime and Trash Buster Abatement Program) and taxes received.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Dr. Steve Schropp had miscommunicated with Chairman McGuinness that Taylor Engineering was in the process of working on a field permit with the State for the Sea Oats Project and he will get with Chairman McGuinness about that.

Chairman Jack McGuinness said he understood that Bobbie Nelson with the DEP is leaving by the end of the month and she wanted to get that out of the way before she departed.

The other item was the Salt Run Markers. Taylor Engineering confirmed that markers 1 and 2 are missing. Taylor Engineering was instructed to proceed with replacement according to the Port procedures already in place.

OLD BUSINESS

FT. MOSE LAUNCH PROPOSAL

Shorty Robbins of the St. Johns County Recreation Department met with Taylor Engineering on a proposal for this project. Bid was \$49,100.00 less \$3,380.00 for in-house bid administration. Jones Edmunds are tweaking their original bid.

MOTION

Commissioner Dixon moved and Commissioner Gleeson seconded to approve funding for the lower of the two bids. Motion passed unanimously.

VILANO LANDSCAPING

Ms. Robbins found that Vilano is within the City of St. Augustine's limits, therefore, it does not go through the County's design review process and the City apparently doesn't require to have landscaping minimums so the current design that is under construction does not include any landscaping. Chuck Moore, an in-house nursery and landscaping person, used to work with the City. He is working on a design for the site. His design includes surrounding the new land which is to the west of the existing parking with palm trees and then doing some palm tree landscaping up front for it to be attractive and also as a deterrent to people parking up on A1A.

Chairman Jack McGuinness pointed out that when this project was brought to the Board by the County two to three years ago, one of the provisos was "let's dress this thing up - it is just ugly". One of the things was the possible removal of the big spoil area. He emphasized that is one of the things that was an important issue and the Port Board was willing to fund this type of beautification.

Ms. Robbins indicated she would pass that along to Dan Weimer and Chuck Moore. When asked by Vice Chairman Rick Gleeson how many spaces would be lost at the Vilano Ramp by doing landscaping by the A1A Committee, she indicated that they had lost between 10 or 15 parking spaces.

Chairman Jack McGuinness asked when the County and the Port Board could get together to go forward with the landscaping, and what could be done to ensure this.

Ms. Robbins will go back to Chuck Moore and see how soon she could obtain some finalized designs as she has only seen sketches thus far. Discussion followed.

MATANZAS INLET SIGNS

All permit applications have been submitted to Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and Florida Department of Transportation. Are waiting for approvals before proceeding to bid requests for erection of the signs. To be considered at next meeting.

NORTH BEACH RECONNAISSANCE STUDY

Renee Perez, Corps of Engineers, the Project Manager for the reconnaissance study, took the podium. The reconnaissance study report was completed in December, 2003 which is the Corps' fiscal year of 2004 and it was authorized for a feasibility phase shortly after the primary report was put together. The report shows two badly eroded areas of high erosion - one north of the Inlet, approximately 1.5 miles of that beach and also the beaches around the Matanzas Inlet. The report also shows the Summer Haven area (about 2.5 miles) and would look into if it was feasible for the Federal government to get involved in it. It was found to be feasible. Congress did the first phase in 2005, but only \$25,000.00 was allocated, not much to begin a study. There are matching funds with the County so they were able to do initial engineering data recovery. They initiated the State Historic Preservation Officer coordination. In 2006, \$100,000.00 was appropriated by Congress and they have not received any matching funds at this point from the County. With the Federal funding received so far, \$75,000.00 has been received which enabled him to obtain surveys of the areas affected and also this past weekend, they had a barge taking core borings offshore seeking areas for the sand. As soon as he obtains County funding, he will be able to do more core borings. To complete the report will depend on Congressional appropriation. So far they have received \$125,000.00 - the President's budget request for fiscal year 2007 was \$200,000.00 - he knows that the House matched the President's request so,

hopefully, they will get the same amount or more in the Senate and the Congress can give that amount. They plan to complete the feasibility by 2008 and at the point, the report will be completed and sent to the higher authorities in Washington, D.C. for approval. Once that is approved, it goes to Congress and then it goes into Congressional appropriation. When asked by Chairman Jack McGuinness if funding for the project of moving any sand is probably five to seven years away, assuming they get all the funding, he answered "yes sir". Discussion ensued.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

Work order to proceed was signed by Vice Chairman Rick Gleeson. Legal review with Sea Grant has been started. A preliminary mooring field layout has been done and initial discussions are being held with the subcontractor for survey and bathymetric and side scan sonar requirements.

LIGHTHOUSE RAMP DOCK EXTENSION

Dr. Steve Schropp recently heard from DEP that they would consider this a new permit rather than a permit modification because of the length of the extension of the dock. In two weeks, they should have a response from DEP. There is a submerged obstacle near the ramp which has to be taken into consideration.

DOCK LIGHT ORDINANCE

Since Commissioner Barry Benjamin was not in attendance, this item will have to be taken up at another meeting.

HARBOR PATROL

Since Commander Steve Fricke was not in attendance, this item could not be discussed, however, Chairman Jack McGuinness observed that the No Wake buoy south of the Bridge of Lions has been removed.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Rick Gleeson stated although he didn't have all of the details, he did want to broach the subject that he had received a request from Jim Netherton to get some gas money for reconnaissance work for artificial reef support.

Mr. Dobson indicated that they probably needed to obtain a "not to exceed figure for the Interlocal Agreement".

MOTION

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Rick Gleeson and seconded by Commissioner Tom Rivers that they approve \$1,500.00 for use in gas money for artificial reef reconnaissance work and that this be made with an Interlocal Agreement with Flagler County. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC INPUT

Carl Blow, 100 Santa Monica Avenue, took the podium. He asked about the proposal about the Lighthouse Boat Ramp - "does that include dredging of the ramp itself, or is it just replacement of the concrete"?

Dr. Schropp indicated that there was no dredging involved.

Chairman Jack McGuinness indicated he thought it was a different project that they have discussed with John Regan - he believes it is proceeding on a separate basis.

Mr. Blow indicated that the idea of beach renourishment is "going to be a harder and harder sell nationally but the idea of navigation maintenance is something that's always going to be with us so the idea of being able to dredge an area inside the Inlet...the flood shoal, not only did it put sand on the beach but it opened up that area for navigation..." He distributed copies of an article from the June issue of Florida Sportsman. He stated that the issue reported on the status on artificial reefs in the State of Florida. He urged the Board to continue its relationship with Flagler County and also work with Ms. Robbins with her program (approaching DOT, with the idea of when they complete the renovation of the Bridge of Lions and when it comes time to remove the temporary bridge that the material be used for artificial reefs).

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chairman Rick Gleeson announced he is planning on retiring from the Board after his term is over - he's been on the Board for 12 years.

Chairman Jack McGuinness reminded the Board that the three seats available are Commissioners Rick Gleeson, Jack McGuinness and Jerry Dixon.

NEXT MEETING

There will not be a meeting during the month of July. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 15th. Chairman Jack McGuinness urged the Board members to be prepared to discuss budgets since in September they will have to come up with a final budget for consideration along with millage rates.

ADJOURN

Chairman Jack McGuinness adjourned the meeting.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN

1. Approved Minutes of May 23, 2006.
2. Ft. Mose Launch Proposal - take lesser of two bids.
3. Vilano Landscaping - Ms. Robbins to obtain finalized design.
4. Matanzas Inlet Signs - erection of signs to be discussed at next meeting.
5. Approved \$1,500.00 for use in gas money for Artificial Reef program and this be made with an Interlocal Agreement with Flagler County.
6. Commissioners are to be prepared to discuss the Budget at next Meeting.