

Shore Protection Manager

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## CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

February 26, 2007, 2 pm

### **Acronyms:**

EI – Emerald Isle

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

IB – Indian Beach

PKS – Pine Knoll Shores

USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### **Attendance.**

Commission Chair Buck Fugate, Vice-Chair William Donnelly, Commission Members Pete Allen, Eddie Dawkins, Jack Goldstein, Tom Hoover, Joan Lamson, Stewart Pickett, Jim Stephenson, Jim Willis, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Member Ted Lindblad was absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (Regular Beach Commission Meeting – January 22, 2007).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the minutes presented in the agenda packet. Member Willis mentioned a typographical error and with no other comments forthcoming from the Commission, Member Pickett motioned the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by member Goldstein and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Occupancy Tax and “Beach Fund” Update.** – Secretary Rudolph mentioned that the December 2006 and January 2007 occupancy tax reports were attached to the Commission’s agenda packet and these totals were up compared to the respective months in the previous year. However, the December/January/February quarter has historically constituted a mere 4% of the annual occupancy tax total. The year-to-date figure is close to +2.25% mark compared to the same point in time a year ago – the Commission’s target is +3%. In terms of the sector analysis for the occupancy tax, the hotel/motel input continues to drop compared to last year, while the condo/cottage sector continues to climb at a rate that offsets the downturn in hotels/motels and then some. The secretary concluded the topic by disclosing that the “Beach Fund” reserve is currently estimated to be at \$3.3 million, and the reserve should continue to hover around this number until the more high tourism months of May and June are upon us, when accordingly the occupancy tax collections and reserve should increase substantially.
- (4) **Public Comment.** – None.

- (5) **Other Business.** – Chairman Fugate mentioned a final copy of the Shore Protection Office budget was included in the agenda packet and incorporates the changes the Beach Commission recommended last month. The chairman added that the legal firm of Kilpatrick Stockton has been moving negotiations forward concerning sand management issues at the Morehead City Harbor and the next meeting with legal counsel is with the N.C. Port Authority on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Member Lamson asked if there were any major beach nourishment projects on the horizon. Secretary Rudolph replied none and the chairman added that resolving sand management issues at Morehead City and the 50-year Shore Protection Project, and or a perpetual Section 933-type project will keep the Commission occupied for a long time.

Member Hoover asked what the status was for the remaining Bogue Banks communities besides EI relative to FEMA, i.e., do the Towns qualify for FEMA reimbursement. Secretary Rudolph replied FEMA has a policy of reimbursement and if local communities have a locally-funded beach nourishment project and the community develops and adheres to a beach monitoring and maintenance plan, then that community can apply to reimburse the cost of sand lost only during a Federally-declared disaster event. The program is “on-going” as long as the maintenance and monitoring plan is adhered to. For Bogue Banks the beach maintenance threshold is; when 50% of the beach fill has eroded - then new sand should be added to keep the beaches “maintained” in order to keep qualifying for FEMA reimbursement. When this template was applied to *Ophelia*, PKS, IB, and EI all qualified for the cumulative replacement of 1.1 million cubic yards of sand.

Member Stephenson asked for a status concerning the proposed beach access & parking pamphlet. The secretary responded that the USACE has parking and access requirements for all Federal projects including the Section 933 effort including an access every 0.5 mile with associated parking located within 0.25 miles of each access. PKS has requested a variance to place two regional accesses at the sites of the former Royal Pavillion property and the east end of the Trinity Center that would hold 30-40 automobiles each, include lavatory facilities, etc. This request, if granted would be *in lieu* of the five accesses with minimal parking that the USACE and PKS agreed to in the past. Last week, the USACE informed PKS that five accesses are needed - unconditionally. In response to this, PKS will now propose two regional accesses in addition to the five accesses required for the Section 933 Project. The parking at the 5 accesses will be proposed as a best fit solution for each access rather than a blanket 10 parking spaces per access requirement, i.e., maybe three parking places at one access site, five at another, etc. This final plan will need to be approved by the USACE, and once an agreement is struck, we should be in position to move forward with the access/parking brochures. Member Lamson added that despite the finite funding that is available; PKS will complete the bare minimum of accesses required by the USACE and concurrently try their best to exceed this with regional accesses. The PKS board will need to approve this final plan as well.

- (6) **March 2007 Meeting Date (March 26, 2007 – proposed).** – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting scheduled for March 2007 would be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month at 2:00 pm, PKS Town Hall.
- (7) **Adjourn.** – Secretary Rudolph thanked the Commission for attending today's meeting considering the light agenda and with no other topics of discussion, chairman Fugate adjourned the meeting.