



CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

November 26, 2007, 2 pm

Attendance.

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

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order and offered to re-organize the agenda to have the guest speakers (Dr. Tim Kana and Doug Dusini) moved first in the agenda, once the minutes were approved. The Commission agreed by consensus.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (Regular Beach Commission Meeting – September 24, 2007).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the minutes presented in the agenda packet. With no comments forthcoming from the Commission, Member Lamson motioned the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by member Stewart and unanimously approved.
- (3) **2006-2007 Annual Report – Bogue Banks Beach and Nearshore Mapping Program.** – Chairman Fugate introduced Coastal Science & Engineering's (CSE's) Dr. Timothy Kana, who along with Doug Dusini, subsequently provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Beach Commission and audience summarizing the key aspects of the 2007 Bogue Banks Beach & Nearshore Mapping Program that includes periodic surveying of Bogue Banks, Shackleford Banks, and Bear Island. CSE also reviewed some of the shoreline changes near the oceanfront shoreline at Bogue Inlet.

After CSE's presentation, it was noted that the draft report will be reviewed and returned to CSE and subsequently printed in its final form. Copies will be furnished to all the Bogue Banks municipalities, stakeholders, and a few extra copies for Commission members wishing to retain a hard copy. The report will also be made available on-line (see <http://www.protectthebeach.com/Monitoring/2007%20Monitoring%20Report.pdf>).

- (4) **Occupancy Tax and "Beach Fund" Update.** – Secretary Rudolph mentioned that the September and October 2007 occupancy tax collection reports were included in the agenda packets. As mentioned in the agenda memorandum, the October tax report includes significant collections from previous months and therefore the 25% increase reported for the October 2007 report when compared to the October 2006 report is actually closer to 3%. Regardless, the year-to-date figure is at a +6% mark at this time of the fiscal year compared to the year prior. Interestingly, the hotel/motel sector is also up for the year. Last year, the hotel/motel sector was down with the prevailing theory predicated by a decrease in hotel rooms due to re-development, thereby resulting

in a lower occupancy tax input from this sector, especially compared to the condo/cottage sector. However, this year a different trend appears to be unfolding. The reasons for why the occupancy may be up this year across all sectors may simply be a factor of favorable weather and no hurricanes. The secretary continued that the "Beach Fund" reserve is at approximately \$5.4 million. The agenda memorandum also includes a note concerning the fact that once the reserve eclipses the \$15 million threshold, the excess monies are provided to the County's Tourism Development Authority (i.e., the reserve fund cannot exceed a balance of \$15 million). While the reserve is far away from reaching the \$15 million ceiling, this may be something to consider in the next few years.

- (5) **Nomination Committee Appointments and Upcoming Beach Commission Vacancies.** – Chairman Fugate asked if it suits the pleasure of the Beach Commission, he would like to appoint the entire Commission as a Nomination Committee. This motion was seconded by member Hoover and unanimously approved. The chairman continued that the terms for three members currently sitting on the Beach Commission will expire and that his recommendation is for the three members to be re-appointed (Fugate, Lamson and Stephenson), pending County Board of Commissioner approval. This recommendation was made into a motion by member Pickett, seconded by member Donnelly, and unanimously approved. Chairman Fugate also noted that member Goldstein's term on the Tourism Development Authority expires soon and this will create a vacancy on the Beach Commission in accordance with the membership formula mandated by State law. The secretary was instructed to coordinate the aforementioned nominations and appointments with the local municipalities and Tourism Development Authority to these effects.
- (6) **Public Comment.** – Member Willis noted that the secretary did a good job with his presentation at a recent beach nourishment symposium. The chairman had a similar assessment for a separate presentation concerning global warming/rising seas made by the secretary at the N.C. Beach Inlet, & Waterway conference a couple of weeks ago.
- (7) **Other Business.** – None
- (8) **January 2008 Meeting Date (January 28, 2008 – proposed).** – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting scheduled for January 2008 would be held on the 28th of the month at 2:00 pm. The December 2007 scheduled date is the 24th (Christmas Eve), and was cancelled for the holidays.
- (9) **Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the permitted Purpose of Discussing Confidential Information.**
- (10) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.