



CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

June 23, 2008, 2 pm

Attendance.

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

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order, and had the secretary introduce John Bacon, a senior at Appalachian State University who is working as a summer intern for the County and, Dr. Antonio Rodriguez from the University of North Carolina's Institute of Marine Sciences who will be providing a presentation to the Commission later in the meeting agenda, and his Ph.D. candidate, Emily Timmons. Following these introductions, the chairman subsequently requested to amend the agenda to hold a closed session after agenda item number 7 to discuss the status of the County's legal action against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the permitted purpose of preventing the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential. The agenda was amended to hold a closed session by a unanimous vote with the motion made by member Willis and seconded by member Lamson.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (June 23, 2008).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the June 23rd regular session minutes presented in the agenda packet. With no comments forthcoming from the Commission, member Goldstein motioned the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by member Hoover and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Occupancy Tax and "Beach Fund" Update.** – Secretary Rudolph quickly re-iterated that the May occupancy tax figures presented in the agenda packet were incomplete and represents approximately half of the occupancy tax collections for the month. The April collections however exhibited a sharp decline (more than 30%) compared to the April 2007 figure, and after discussions with others who monitor the tax collections, there is no real justification that has emerged to why the April collection was significantly less than the 2007 collection, except for more macroscopic factors such as "the weather" or "the economy". Although Easter did occur in March this year; if one looks at the cumulative collection total from both March and April in 2008, the overall figure is still significantly lower than the March/April total from 2007. So again, the reason to why April 2008 was significantly lower remains an unresolved matter. The secretary concluded the briefing by mentioning the "Beach Fund" reserve estimate is currently at ~\$5.2 million.
- (4) **Presentation - "Why is the Beach Eroding More Rapidly Where Bogue Banks is Wide Rather than Where it is Narrow?"** – Secretary Rudolph introduced Dr. Antonio Rodriguez before his

presentation to the Beach Commission by mentioning that Dr. Rodriguez joined the Institute of Marine Sciences three years ago, and has a very impressive pedigree pertaining to coastal geology. Dr. Rodriguez has also taken a keen interest in studying the Carteret County area and recently received a \$100,000 grant from NC Seagrant to identify erosion trends along Bogue Banks and investigate the reasoning why the erosion rates change from one adjacent area of the beach to the next. The surface erosion expression could be related to differences in underlying geology, and Dr. Rodriguez's study will also examine various hypotheses concerning this relationship as well. Dr. Rodriguez's presentation is available at http://www.protectthebeach.com/minutes/2008/unc_ims%20june%20pres.pdf.

- (5) **Public Comment.** – None.
- (6) **Other Business.** – None.
- (7) **July 2008 Meeting Date (July 28, 2008 – proposed).** – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting scheduled for July 2008 would be held on the 28th of the month at 2:00 pm.
- (8) **Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the Permitted Purpose of Preventing the Disclosure of Information that is Privileged or Confidential.**
- (9) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.