



## CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

### Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

July 27, 2009, 2 pm

#### Attendance.

Commission Chair Buck Fugate, Vice-Chair William Donnelly, Commission Members Pete Allen, Jack Goldstein, Tom Hoover, Ted Lindblad, Art Schools, Jim Willis, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members A.B. "Trace" Cooper and Joan Lamson were absent and there is currently one vacancy on the Commission.

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order and welcomed member Lindblad back to the Commission after a couple month-absence. Member Lindblad subsequently thanked the chairman and expressed his eagerness to continue with his service.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (June 22, 2009).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the June 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 Schools and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Occupancy Tax and "Beach Fund" Update.** – Secretary Rudolph summarized the take home message contained in the agenda packet is that the May collection included significant late collections, and when these are factored into the yearly total, the Easter holiday season for 2009 was actually very similar to the year prior. Accordingly, the year-to-date total for the occupancy tax has stabilized near the minus 4.5% level, and the final collection report for the fiscal year (June 2009) will weigh heavily into the yearend total. As mentioned in the past, our budget forecast included a 6% decrease in occupancy tax revenue for FY 2008-09. The Commission subsequently discussed some of the other visitation proxies (grocery store receipts, public access vacancies, traffic, etc.) and there are no clear trends but rather mixed messages. However, most agree the summer tourism season for Bogue Banks is better than most expected considering the impacts of the global economic recession. The secretary concluded that the estimated beach nourishment reserve was \$7.1 million.
- (4) **Selection Committee Discussion & Recommended Contractor for the Bogue Banks Master Beach Nourishment Plan.** – Chairman Fugate reported that as summarized in the agenda packet, the selection committee is recommending the Beach Commission/Shore Protection Office begin to negotiate a contract for services document with Moffatt & Nichol for the proposed Bogue Banks Master Beach Nourishment Plan. It was a very close decision and all the firms that were interviewed were very, very competent. Moffatt & Nichol had the most coherent vision for the nourishment program and the team they assembled was impressive. Member Schools

subsequently made a motion to authorize the Shore Protection Office to begin negotiating a scope of services agreement with the engineering firm of Moffat & Nichol for the proposed Bogue Banks Master Beach Nourishment Plan. The motion was seconded by member Donnelly. Member Schools also requested a quick clarification that the negotiation process does not entail any cost. Chairman Fugate confirmed that no costs will be incurred for developing the contract agreement, and the selection committee will work closely with the Shore Protection Office regarding the contract. Ultimately, the contract will be returned to the full Beach Commission for their review and approval before it is submitted to the County Board of Commissioners for their consideration. Without any further discussion the chairman requested a vote for the motion on the floor, which was unanimously approved. The secretary concluded that as mentioned in the agenda, the selection committee deserved a lot of credit for taking the time and effort to make a very informed decision/selection.

- (5) **Public Comment.** – None.
- (6) **Other Business.** – Chairman Fugate mentioned the Beach Commission provided a nomination to the County Board of Commissioners to fill the seat vacated by the late Jim Stephenson. Since that request, other individuals have expressed an interest in the appointment, which again would fill the County At-Large vacancy. Accordingly, the nominations committee met and is recommending that Dr. Antonio Rodriguez also be nominated for the subject vacancy, thereby providing the County Board of Commissioners different names to choose from. Dr. Rodriguez is a geologist at the Institute of Marine Sciences here in Carteret County and has worked with the Shore Protection Office in the past in addition to current endeavors. Thus on behalf of the nomination committee, the chairman recommended that the Beach Commission should nominate Dr. Rodriguez as well for an appointment to the Commission to fill the vacant County At-large position. This request was made into a motion by member Schools, seconded by member Hoover, and unanimously approved.
- (7) **August 2009 Meeting Date (August 24, 2009 – proposed).** – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on August 24, 2009 at 2:00 pm, Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall.
- (8) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.