



CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

September 28, 2009, 2 pm

Attendance.

Commission Chair Buck Fugate, Commission Members Pete Allen, Jack Goldstein, Tom Hoover, Ted Lindblad, Dr. Antonio Rodriguez, Art Schools, and Jim Willis, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members A.B. "Trace" Cooper, William Donnelly, and Joan Lamson were absent.

- (1) Call to Order. – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) Approval of Minutes - Regular Beach Commission Meeting (August 24, 2009). – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the August 24th regular session minutes presented in the agenda packet. Member Lindblad subsequently motioned the minutes be approved with one grammatical correction. The motion was seconded by member Schools and unanimously approved.
- (3) Occupancy Tax and "Beach Fund" Update. – Secretary Rudolph mentioned the July 2009 occupancy tax report was included in the Commission's agenda packet, constituting the first collection report for the 2009-10 fiscal year. The July 2009 collection was practically the same as the preceding July 2008 total (-0.21%), which considering the economy, can be construed as positive news. Upon closer inspection, one can see that the hotel/motel sector was the source of the very slight slippage – the condo/cottage sector was up for the month of July, but not enough to offset the negative values from the hotel/motel sector. The secretary continued that to gain a sense of the revenue changes that occur in July (the highest revenue producing month), a chart including the past 17 years of July proceeds was also attached to the Commission's packet. The worse decline was reported in 1996 when hurricane *Bertha* impacted Bogue Banks (-17.2% compared to July 1995), but overall our recent decline in occupancy tax revenue over the past few years is within the order of magnitude of positive or negative changes seen in any given year. Secretary Rudolph concluded by mentioning that the estimated Beach Nourishment Reserve balance was ~\$8.2 million.
- (4) Public Comment. – None.
- (5) Other Business. – The secretary provided updates on three items for the Commission's consideration. (1) Interim Operation Plan (IOP) – The first year of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps') IOP is scheduled to begin in November or December of this year and includes maintenance dredging of the outer harbor with concurrent beach disposal along Ft. Macon and Atlantic Beach. This will be the first time ever outer harbor material has been placed along these shorelines and the sediment quality should be excellent. The bids are scheduled to be opened on

October 19th and we have been working with the Corps to ensure the dredged material is placed far west as possible (i.e., into Atlantic Beach). Most of the sand placed along Ft. Macon migrates towards Beaufort Inlet and it is imperative that a good portion of the sand dredged this year is placed west of the nodal point to benefit Atlantic Beach and communities west. To this effect, the Corps has 4 alternatives in the bid – the first alternative ends west of the old Triple S Pier with the 4th alternative ending west of the Circle. This is a positive development and hopefully the bids will be received within the government estimate. (2) The interlocal agreement associated with the Master Beach Nourishment Plan is moving forward after a productive meeting with the N.C Division of Coastal Management, the Bogue Banks municipal attorneys, and Town Managers. The Master Beach Nourishment Plan is new concept for everyone involved, including the State, and preparing a document to encompass all the variables that may need to be addressed for the next 30-years is challenging. We're trying to strike the right balance between the extremes of including too much detail or not enough, and again are making good progress. (3) The engineering/environmental services contract associated with the Master Nourishment Plan is also in the formulative stages, and we just received the first cost proposal from Moffatt & Nichol/Dial Cordy. The proposal was very detailed and Moffatt & Nichol/Dial Cordy have been instructed to review their billable rates and travel expenses, and prepare a 2nd proposal before it is submitted to the Beach Commission subcommittee for their review.

Member Willis subsequently wished to comment on a couple of items. He politely cautioned that because there is no vegetation or sand fences at the Circle area; any sand placed in that vicinity will simply blow north and into the adjacent streets and parking lots. The Town of Atlantic Beach has placed sand fences along this stretch of the beach in the past but they were exposed and the metal holding the slats together rusted – effectively disintegrating the fence. Member Willis also challenged the thought that sand is migrating east towards Beaufort Inlet along the Ft. Macon shoreline, especially at the bathhouse, and would like to present some information to the Commission at the next meeting. Chairman Fugate tentatively agreed depending upon the breadth of content for next month's agenda.

- (6) **October 2009 Meeting Date (October 26, 2009 – proposed)**. – It was agreed upon that the next Beach Commission meeting would be held on October 26, 2009 at 2:00 pm, Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall.
- (7) **Adjourn**. – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.