



Meeting Minutes - Final

Watershore and Beach Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 2, 2023

5:30 PM

Staff Conference Room 1st Floor, City Hall.

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A. Call To Order

B. Roll Call

Present: 8 - Chair Meredith Darden, Philippe Tissot, Harrison A. McNeil, Philip Blackmar, Armon D. Alex, David Zill, Larisa A. Ford, and Scott Lawson

Absent: 1 - Ruben Macias

C. Public Comment

There was no one from the public that wanted to speak.

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

The minutes from the December 1, 2022 (WBAC didn't meet in January) were distributed for review. Scott asked that the item in number 10 be changed to "Harrison to be the vice chair". With that correction made Scott made a motion to approve the minutes, Philip seconded, unanimously approved.

E. Committee Reports

1. 23-0006 PRAC Report - Howard Schauer

Howard reported that there were complaints about the new storage facilities. PRAC passed the Erosion Responses Plan, they also passed PRAC strategic action plan for 2023. They passed the annual report. They are working on a park adoption plan with a campaign meeting being held on 2/27/23.

2. **23-0007** ISAC Report

Meredith attended the January meeting and there was lots of conversations about pickle ball. There was also conversation about the second causeway to Padre Island. Kevin Johnson reported on the Commodores master plan.

3. **23-0008** BMAC Report - Cliff Schlabach

Cliff reported that they did not meet last month, they didn't have quorum. Their next meeting is schedule for 2/15/23.

F. **Staff Reports**

Darren reported that Beach Operations is moving into the new building today. Next Tuesday at 11 am is the ribbon cutting for the new building. Darren reported that the beach is getting ready for summer. He also added the need for lifeguards for the summer. Philippe asked how the erosion at beaches was and Darren explained that it was a rough winter for the beaches, a lot of beach was lost. A survey is planned to see just how much was lost. He is still waiting on the permit to move the sand laterally and transport it to needed areas. Regarding the barge, Councilman Dan Suckley provided that the City drafted a letter of non-performance to the contractor, Callan Marine, today. There are trigger dates that they will have to be met in order to still in compliance.

G. **Unfinished Business**

4. **22-1576** Gulf Beach & Packery Channel Monitoring Sub-Committee Report

There is a sub committee (Meredith, Harrison and Philippe) that has a draft that is still being worked on. The subcommittee was waiting for the new City Council to get settled. There should be a recommendation for this committee to vote on next month.

5. [22-1769](#) Establishing limits when lifeguards should no longer be required to rescue

Darren has been doing some research on this and there is lots of information and opinions. He would like to take this off the agenda until he has more information and/or is ready to present to upper management. There was much discussion regarding this issue. Meredith made a motion to remove this agenda item from unfinished business and placed under future agenda item, Armon agreed, Scott seconded. Motion passed.

6. [22-1575](#) WBAC By-laws

Meredith reported that this request has been submitted to the City Secretary's office.

7. [22-1774](#) Replacing the word "Watershore" with "Water Shore" in Watershore and Beach Advisory Committee

Meredith reported that this was a recommendation that was made and it is still with the City Secretary's office. This will be discuss further in New Business.

H. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action

8. [22-2014](#) Annual Report

This was completed last month in time. The report was emailed to all members for comments and changes before it was submitted. Martha will email them to all the members.

9. [23-0067](#) Annual Goals

These were reported on the annual report. There was a discussion about listing increasing community engagement as an annual goal. After much discussion, the committee agreed that increasing community engagement is outside of the scope of the role of this committee. Armon made a motion to accept the annual goals, Harrison seconded. Motion passed.

10. [23-0240](#) Chapter 2 Amendments Sub-Committee Report

Meredith provided a recap of the January 24, City Council discussion regarding appointments of new committee members to the Watershore and Beach Advisory Committee. Council members expressed concern about vetting qualifications for applicants applying for the seats preferred to be filled by scientists. After the Council meeting, Meredith spoke with City Secretary Rebecca Huerta regarding what an appropriate solution would be, and the recommendation was to review the verbiage in Chapter 2 and submit an amendment if appropriate. Committee discussion centered around the type of experience that should be required to hold the seat and it was determined that a subcommittee would be formed to further investigate and make a recommendation to the committee in March. The subcommittee members include Armon, Philippe & Larisa.

I. Future Agenda Items

Review the Park Master Plan where it pertain to our committee, if available. If not review Capital Improvements budget.

The recent oil spill.

Presentation on Beach Operations and Rescue.

J. Adjournment

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

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