

Goal #4 - Protect environmental and natural assets of the beach

Objectives:

1. Assess vulnerability of costal systems and use in decision making

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. Pursue a vulnerability assessment for Amelia Island
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2. Execute a unified, long-term beach natural resources management plan

- a. Analyze beach usage from a comprehensive ecological viewpoint considering the interactions of the beach, dunes, sea life habitat, turtle nesting, and other beach dependent wildlife
- b. Create an objective index using quantifiable data to gauge the success of beach management programs
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3. Balance public access with protection of the beach ecosystems

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

4. Increase environmental education

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. Illustrate results of "bad behavior" and reinforce "good behavior"
- b. Education strategies
 - i. In school presentations
 - ii. Brochures at beach access points
 - iii. Update TDC distributed pamphlets
 - iv. County website
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

5. Reduce conflict with nesting sea turtles and shore birds

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. No night driving during turtle nesting season
- b. Stricter penalties for dog owners not following leash requirements
- c. _____
- d. _____

6. _____

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

7. _____

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

8. _____

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Goal #5 - Explore funding opportunities for beach management

Objectives:

1. Expand Enforcement/Regulatory Funding

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. Evaluate financial incentives to modify beach user behavior during peak season
- b. Fines and penalties
- c. Beach driving/parking fees
- d. Camping fees
- e. Expand use of Bed Tax monies
- f. Vendor licensing fees
- g. Millage allocation
- h. _____
- i. _____

2. Expand Environmental Resource Funding

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. Actively pursue grants
- b. Expand use of Bed Tax monies
- c. MSTU/MSBU
- d. Partnerships with non-profits
- e. _____
- f. _____
- g. _____

3. _____

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

4. _____

Notes for Strategy formation:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

**BEACH COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019, 5:30 P.M.
JAMES S. PAGE GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX
96135 NASSAU PLACE, YULEE, FL 32097**

**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL**

DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

Tab A Review results from the July 15, 2019 meeting.

Tab B Facilitate conversation amongst committee members relating to the remainder of the Committee's Goals, Objectives, and Strategies.

Tab C Discussion of next steps.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Limited to 3 Minutes Per Person

- Any member of the audience wishing to speak on any beach related concern

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEM(S) AND COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:

- Any other items to be brought before the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this program or activity should contact the Office of the County Manager at 904-530-6010 or Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (v) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodations.

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

BEACH COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2019 – 5:30 P.M.
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JAMES S. PAGE GOVERNMENTAL CENTER, 96135 NASSAU PLACE
YULEE, FLORIDA

A noticed meeting of the Beach Community Working Group was held on July 24, 2019 at the Commission Chambers, James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida.

Committee members present were Michael Mullin, County Manager/County Attorney; Taco Pope, Assistant County Manager; Butch Osborne, Sheriff's Office; Douglas Podiak, Facilities Maintenance; Gil Langley, Tourist Development Council; and Mac Morriss and Lowell Hall, Ex-Officio members. Also present was Brian Teeple, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Present was Melissa Lucey, recording secretary.

Chair Langley called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Mr. Mullin acknowledged Judge Adams in the audience.

Mr. Teeple explained that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the remainder of the committee's goals, objectives and strategies. He advised that the discussion tonight would be provided in a summary format in order to assist the group with creating an Ordinance including a series of short, mid and long term recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Morriss recommended placing the short, mid and long term recommendation into subsets by categories.

Next, Mr. Teeple reviewed *Goal 2, ensure public access to beaches, Objective 1: Analyze beach capacity proportionate to growth/tourism projections at a planning horizon of 2045*. He inquired if there were any additional recommendations or changes that need to be included. Mr. Morriss suggested reviewing the amount of space that would be required for beach parking per vehicle. Mr. Mullin referred to strategy c, "establish a free island wide trolley/tram system", noting that there is no such thing as free island wide trolley system due to the associated costs including the equipment and operators of the trolley. Mr. Pope responded that this was submitted based on a model from Anna Maria Island that is shared between the Manatee County and Sarasota County transportation organizations. The group addressed Senate Bill (SB) 1577, noting that it does not allow for "beach tram". It was the consensus of group to differentiate the term "beach tram" from SB1577 as it is listed. Mr. Mullin pointed out on strategy e, "seek to obtain via exactions or via purchase lands adjacent to the ocean to provide additional public beach access points", should use the term "acquire" instead of "exactions" to avoid from being misconstrued as acquisitions of additional lands. Next, the group addressed strategy g, "create specific horse trailer parking areas and prohibit the parking/loading/unloading of trailed vehicles in passenger vehicle parking areas". Mr. Podiak recommended building a vertical parking garage structure in order to expand the capacity from 250 to 1,000 parking spaces. The group also addressed creating vehicular and pedestrian traffic lanes for safety.

Mr. Teeple addressed *Objective 2: Develop systems which allow pedestrian access to the beach on a 24/7 basis*. He inquired if there were any additional recommendations or changes to be included. The group addressed vehicular beach access at night. Mr. Morriss recommended installing two (2) gates for beach access that would be locked during specified times including the sea turtle nesting season. Mr. Teeple referred to strategy a, "establish maximum capacity for vehicles at each beach front park and cap daily vehicles accessing the beach as necessary", and inquired if driving restrictions and parking on the beach are considered the same issue. Mr. Podiak advised that currently the beach parking lot is closed at 10:00 p.m. which makes access to the beach difficult for pedestrian. Mr. Mullin commented that the public should not be restricted from having beach access from the parking lot; however, he clarified that

recreational vehicles should be restricted based on the capacity of size. He responded to an inquiry that vehicular driving on the beach should be limited during the sea turtle nesting season due to the requirements that are listed in the Incidental Take Permit from the Federal Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Next, the group focused on noise complaints. Mr. Mullin advised that this could be addressed through an Ordinance and would be considered as an enforcement issue.

The group discussed *Objective 3: Prioritize County residents' access to the beach*. There were three (3) prior strategies that have been submitted. Mr. Osborne referred to strategy a, "if capacity limits dictate, restrict beach driving/parking to County residents". He noted that it would be logistically impossible to identify non-residents that are currently on the beach. Mr. Pope clarified that this would be a long term strategy for when the capacity dictates that Nassau County can no longer handle non-resident parking on the beach. The group addressed strategy b, "fee for non-county residents parking in beachfront parking lots." Mr. Mullin advised that he has concerns that the fee schedule would not cover the expenditures, noting that it could be distinguished that non-residents would pay a higher fee and suggested placing a kiosk system to collect these fees. Mr. Hall proposed using an Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) that would identify license plates. The group addressed strategy c, "lottery system for non-county residents for beach driving." Mr. Podiak advised that this would be difficult for non-residents who are visiting Nassau County. It was the consensus of the board to remove strategy c, "lottery system for non-county residents for beach driving."

Mr. Teeple addressed *strategy 4, maintain or improve Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility to public beaches*. Mr. Podiak advised that Nassau County is providing ADA accessibility at this time including ADA specifications walkovers.

Mr. Teeple reviewed *Objective 5: Improve restroom use/access*. Mr. Podiak addressed strategy a, "improve cleaning schedule and quality", noting that there are new cleaning contracts for these facilities to be cleaned during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The group addressed objective b, "provide restrooms at all beach from parks/access points". Mr. Pope advised that Scotts Road is the only significant county access that does not have a permanent restroom facility.

Next, the group discussed *Goal 3, preserve local heritage, culture and lifestyle. Objective 1: Maintain and defend the customary use doctrine and access to dry sand portions of the beach*. Mr. Morriss pointed out that the only issue would be the sand dunes being wiped out and moved westward by storms with the Erosion Control Line (ECL). Mr. Mullin cautioned that the language "maintain and defend the customary use doctrine" was a broad statement and that the group would need to understand what that statement means. Mr. Morriss suggested placing a reference to Nassau County's Customary Use Beach Ordinance. Mr. Mullin advised that he would bring back the Customary Use Ordinance to the August 1, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Teeple addressed *Objective 2: Maintain family friendly atmosphere at beaches/peaceful enjoyment of ocean front property*. Mr. Mullin advised that in order to maintain a family friendly atmosphere it would require increased law enforcement. He requested to digress and referred to *Objective 1, maintain and defend the customary use doctrine and access to dry sand portions of the beach*. He provided a brief overview of the language in the customary use doctrine included "customary use public uses including but not limited to recreational uses such as sun bathing, walking, jogging, bicycling, building sandcastles, and some areas driving, exercising, kiting, photographing, picnicking, utilizing umbrellas, walking dogs, horseback riding, fishing, family gatherings, camping, bon fires, use of tent structures, tourist related activities and other similar public beach recreational activities." He pointed out that the reason he is cautioning not to use this language is based on the possibility of camping restrictions. Mr. Teeple pointed out that Objective 2, strategy g, "improved regulations for dogs at the beach" was stricken at the previous meeting.

Mr. Teeple reviewed *Objective 3: Maintain safe and responsible vehicular access to the beach for County residents*. He advised that strategy a, "increased regulatory oversight/law enforcement" has already been addressed at the previous meeting. Mr. Mullin pointed out that Nassau County has a designated speed limit for driving on the beach. Mr. Podiak explained that the speed limit signs would be posted outside the beach access. Mr. Morriss recommended having the speed limit signs placed throughout the beach area and not just the entrance or exit.

The group discussed *Objective 4: Provide regulated and responsible beach camping for County residents*. Mr. Morriss provided the following suggestions: camping permits would be required; implementing a camping permit fee that would require valid photo identification; and limit on beach camping. He advised that he would email his suggestions to Mr. Teeple for further review. Mr. Podiak referred to strategy c, "limit camping reservation to County residents", requesting to strike that from the objective due to Nassau County welcoming non-residents and being an inclusive County. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the group to strike objective 3, maintain safe and responsible vehicular access to the beach for County residents. Mr. Pope inquired if the overall cost of implementing the camping program would change the group's view on maintaining camping on the beach. Mr. Mullin advised that there is a survey that indicates that most counties in Florida do not allow camping on the beach due to enforcement issues and budget constraints. Mr. Pope responded that even beyond the enforcement, there is the administrative component of maintaining the campgrounds on the beach.

Mr. Teeple reviewed *Objective 5: Maintain regulated and responsible horseback riding access to the beach for County residents*. Mr. Podiak advised that he was not aware that this was for county residents only. Mr. Mullin addressed enforcement issues with horseback riding on the beach. The group discussed designated spots for parking horse trailers and permitting. Mr. Pope suggested that commercial operators should be required to obtain a license to operate in a public park. Mr. Podiak recommended that the commercial operators have a franchise agreement with the County.

Mr. Teeple addressed *Objective 6: Maintain responsible access of dogs to the beach*. He advised that this was removed for discussion. Mr. Morriss clarified that it would be included in the existing Ordinance.

Next, Mr. Teeple reviewed *Objective 7: Maintain ability for responsible shore fishing including night fishing*. He read strategy a, "allow night access via driving or via parking in beach from parks 24/7". Mr. Osborne advised that it cannot be both ways. Mr. Morriss clarified that it would be seasonable based upon the sea turtle nesting season. Mr. Teeple advised that this would need further discussion.

The group discussed *Objective 8: Where feasible, develop regulations which consider local heritage while ensuring the public safety of all beach goers*. Mr. Morriss pointed out that there were people in the audience to speak on this matter and it would fall under the Customary Use Beach Ordinance.

Mr. Teeple reviewed *Goal 4, protect environmental and natural assets of the beach. Objective 1: Assess vulnerability of coastal systems and use in decision making*. Mr. Morriss advised that the U.S. Army Corp of the Engineers completed a report for Florida State that targeted the dune systems. Mr. Pope recalled that Nassau County was recently awarded a grant to fund a vulnerability assessment that would include Amelia Island.

Mr. Teeple addressed *Objective 2: Execute a unified, long-term beach natural resources management plan*. Mr. Podiak advised that staff has been working with the Extension Office regarding guidelines and projects; and Mr. Morriss requested that information be provided to the working group.

The group discussed *Objective 3: Balance public access with protection of the beach ecosystems*. Mr. Teeple pointed out that there were no strategies on this goal. Mr. Morriss commented that American Beach needs a better dunes system.

Mr. Teeple addressed *Objective 4: Increase environmental education*. Chair Langley advised that this is a part of an on-going mission with the Leave No Trace Ordinance, which the Tourist Development Council (TDC) is responsible for.

Mr. Teeple reviewed *Objective 5: Reduce conflict with nesting sea turtles and shore birds*. No additional strategies were added to this goal.

Mr. Mullin advised that Chair Langley has requested that *Goal 5, explore funding opportunities for beach management* be tabled to the next scheduled meeting on August 1, 2019. Mr. Teeple concurred, noting that he will summarize what was discussed tonight.

The following audience members came forward to express their concerns regarding beach issues:

- Tony Nelson requested clarification regarding whether the committee had already reached a consensus on beach driving. Mr. Mullin clarified that the committee has not reached a recommendation on beach driving at this current time. Mr. Nelson requested that the committee consider night driving on the beach year round instead of during the turtle nesting season. He pointed out that the majority of the committee's discussion has been focused around Peters Point. American Beach has the same issues that are equally important to the residents of Nassau County and should be considered during the committee's deliberations.
- LaShonda Holloway recommended that the Beach Community Working Group minutes be posted on the County's website. She commented that the committee did not address the health safety and general welfare of the taxpayers who reside on the historic American Beach. She stated that American Beach does not have the infrastructure to sustain additional parking, horse trailers, and commercial trailers on the beach. She expressed concerns for excessive speeding while driving on the beach; establishing capacity on the beach; and identifying a county resident compared to a property owner.
- Peri Frances commented that she organizes camp outs on American Beach and is a representative of the Sun Coast Regional Council of the Natural Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). She requested that when making a decision the committee should take into consideration preserving some of the unique features and local heritage that American Beach offers including gathering in large numbers. She pointed out that if the committee implements paid parking, the parking lot at Burney Park is adjacent to part of a national park system. The NaNa Dunes should be available for free to the public. She briefly addressed camping and parking overnight. In closing, she advised that she is not opposed to some of the changes that are being proposed; however, she would like to see more of a dialogue addressing the camping and parking.
- Ron Sterling stated that he started an organization 21 years ago called the Night Sanders Campers on American Beach. It is his opinion that he has seen many changes to slowly remove camping from the beach in the last 6 years. When his organization started, there were only 5 tents and has grown to over 60 tents over the years. He explained that camping on American Beach allows experiencing the cultural heritage.
- Kristina Morris requested direction on how a young family who has recently moved to Nassau County could be more involved in the public involvement process. Chair Langley commented that she can continue attending the meetings and providing feedback.
- Unidentified speaker inquired if permits could be issued for the overnight parking for campers. Mr. Mullin responded that the committee is still in the formulating process and that these discussions have been made.
- Erving Gilyard advised that despite any recommendations that are being considered for the Board of County Commissioners, it must start with law enforcement in order to maintain the beach.

- Tom Polito came forward to thank Nassau County Sheriff's Office for their increased presence on the beach and enforcing the existing Ordinances in a professional way. He advised that without that law enforcement, no Ordinance or recommendations will be successful.
- Quinton Cooper suggested allowing for large group of campers the ability to reserve overnight parking at the parking lot.
- Azi Ma'at Devine stated that the history of American Beach drew her to camp on the beach. She advised that overnight parking should be available for campers.
- Eunice Asabi, representing the American Beach Museum, commented that he has not seen any of the committee members at the museum. He invited the committee members to visit the museum before making any decisions about the beaches.
- Selah Asabi requested clarification regarding the Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU). Mr. Mullin responded that it is a unit created to fund beach restoration. Ms. Asabi requested additional clarification to *Goal 3, preserve local heritage, culture and lifestyle*. Mr. Mullin advised that this is a Customary Use Ordinance that was adopted two (2) years ago by the Board of County Commissioners relating to the customary use in the unincorporated sections of the beach in Nassau County. He explained that the reason he brought up the customary use is that camping is defined in this Ordinance, noting that there are significant number of residents who are opposed to camping on the beach. He advised that most counties in the State of Florida prohibit camping because it is an enforcement issue. Ms. Asabi commented the reason she wanted clarity for this goal was due to the key words "preserve local heritage." She also addressed parking overnight for campers.
- Sarah Penny advised that she has been camping for several years; however, during that time parking privileges were removed based upon illicit activity in the parking lot. She recommended putting cameras in the parking lot, noting that the campers are there to enjoy the beach.
- Ruth Mathews requested clarification regarding whether the committee was created to recommend an Ordinance. Mr. Mullin advised that the Board of County Commissioners constituted the committee based upon complaints from residents regarding beach activities in order to recommend one (1) cohesive Ordinance that deals with the uses on the beach. Ms. Mathews commented that Ordinances generally come with restrictions and permits, inquiring if any revenue that was generated would be earmarked. Mr. Mullin clarified that any generated revenue would be earmarked for the beach. He remarked that any generated revenue would not produce enough revenue to cover the financial and administrative cost.
- Rhonda Hastings commented that she visits American Beach twice a year and that there has been a prominent police presence. She clarified for the record that there has been no incidents during her camp visits.

Chair Langley adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

**BEACH COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 5:30 P.M.
JAMES S. PAGE GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX
96135 NASSAU PLACE, YULEE, FL 32097**

**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL**

CONSENT ITEM(S):

Tab A Approve minutes from the meeting held on July 15, 2019.

DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

Tab B Review of items on the agenda, led by County Manager, Mike Mullin.

Tab C Review results from the July 24, 2019 meeting.

Tab D Facilitate conversation amongst committee members relating to the remainder of the Committee's Goals, Objectives, and Strategies.

Tab E Discussion of next steps.

Tab F Set future meeting dates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Limited to 3 Minutes Per Person

- Any member of the audience wishing to speak on any beach related concern

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEM(S) AND COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:

- Any other items to be brought before the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this program or activity should contact the Office of the County Manager at 904-530-6010 or Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (v) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodations.

**BEACH COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
AUGUST 1, 2019 – 5:30 P.M.
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JAMES S. PAGE GOVERNMENTAL CENTER, 96135 NASSAU PLACE
YULEE, FLORIDA**

A noticed meeting of the Beach Community Working Group was held this 1st day of August, 2019 at the Commission Chambers, James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida.

Committee members present were Michael Mullin, County Manager/County Attorney; Taco Pope, Assistant County Manager; Butch Osborne, Sheriff's Office; Douglas Podiak, Facilities Maintenance; Gil Langley, Tourist Development Council; Mac Morriss and Lowell Hall, Ex-Officio members. Also present as facilitators were Brian Teeple and Blair Knighting, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Present was Peggy Snyder, recording secretary.

Chair Langley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Regarding Tab A, it was moved by Mr. Mullin, seconded by Mr. Morriss and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2019 committee meeting as presented. Mr. Hall referred to page two of these minutes, first bullet point, where Mary Duffy requested clarification regarding the Incidental Take Permit under the Endangered Species Act and where the county was in that process. Mr. Mullin advised that this item will go before the Board of County Commissioners on August 12, 2019 for their authorization to direct staff to begin the process of procuring a consultant to accomplish this Incidental Take Permit process. In checking with other counties, Mr. Mullin commented that it could take three to five months to receive the Incidental Take Permit from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Federal Department of Environmental Protection.

Addressing Tab B, Mr. Mullin reviewed the agenda items and explained that the purpose of this meeting was to review the discussion items in order to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. Public comment has been taken from approximately 1,400 citizens at least ten meetings and approximately 500 e-mails have been received and presented to each member of the committee and will remain a part of the record.

Referring to Tab C, Mr. Teeple reviewed the unedited workshop notes from the July 24, 2019 meeting for review by the committee containing subsets and categories of the main issues such as parking, camping, etc. There is one more goal to discuss, *Goal 5: Explore funding opportunities for beach management*. He referred to his draft handout for specific strategies for Short Term (12-18 months), Mid-Term (18 months to five years), and Long Term (Five Years +) based upon comments that the committee has heard.

The group discussed the potential strategies related to *Objective 1: Expand Enforcement/Regulatory Funding* such as financial incentives to modify beach user behavior during peak season, fines and penalties, beach driving/parking fees, camping fees, expanded use of bed tax monies, licensing fees and millage allocation. Deputy Osborne discussed the number of deputies that currently patrol Amelia Island and the beaches. Providing necessary resources to the Sheriff to ensure that one extra deputy is available to patrol the beach area was suggested. Mr. Hall recalled recreational funds that were given to Nassau County and City of Fernandina Beach at one time for recreational impacts associated with Kings Bay. Mr. Mullin advised that the last funds from Kings Bay were received in the 1980's; however, he will research this item.

For short term goals, Mr. Teeple suggested adding the following: (1) adding beach cameras, (2) combining and updating existing beach ordinances; (3) increase the number of officers; (4) obtain the

required "Incidental Take Permit"; (5) design traffic control measures until the mid and long-term goals can be accomplished; (6) determine higher civil penalties; (7) create brochures/pamphlets for beach education; (8) work on ways to utilize the bed tax for educational purposes; (9) identify and prioritize funding sources; (10) install signage for speed limits and horse trailers; and, (11) limit the camping to certain areas [in front of parking, 15-feet away from the dunes; and limit the numbers of permits]. Chair Langley advised that (7) creating brochures for beach education and (9) identify and prioritize funding sources for education is already covered by the Tourist Development Council under the Leave No Trace ordinance. Regarding beach cameras, Deputy Osborn explained that the Sheriff's Office has a partnership with Genetec Community Connect whereby Genetec installs a camera; the County purchases the software and ties into the camera to monitor a live feed of the beach. Chair Langley advised that the camera could serve a dual purpose; security and marketing. The group discussed the signage for speed limits and horse trailers. Chair Langley stated that there is a comprehensive beach signing program that has been approved and there is budget set aside for it. Mr. Hall suggested having a fee envelope system similar to the State park. Mr. Pope addressed (5), design traffic control measures until the mid and long term goals can be accomplished and suggested gates by the entrance and posts by the dunes to deter night driving.

Mr. Morriss expressed his concern whether they should contact Florida Department Environment Protection (FDEP) to request a redesign of the park entrances for improved pedestrian safety. This redesign should be moved to the short or mid-term. Mr. Podiak felt that delaying this request would allow him time to review all the park-access points and layouts. Mr. Morriss pointed out that this request affects public safety for pedestrian crossings and he was concerned with the length of time to process this request.

Mr. Teeple addressed *Objective 2: Expand Environment Resource Funding* strategies including pursuing grants, expanded use of bed tax monies, MSTU/MSBU, and partnership with non-profits. Under Cohesive Signage Plan, Chair Langley explained that the TDC will fund uniform signage that will engage the beachgoer.

Ms. Knighting distributed to the committee statements of proposed recommendations broken down by categories such as enforcement, beach environment, beach driving, beach camping, beach parking, horseback riding, and education. Regarding enforcement, the recommendation was made that the County provide the necessary resources to the Sheriff to ensure that there is one extra deputy available to patrol the beach area. Regarding this enforcement, the startup and the annual ongoing costs were determined. Mr. Hall suggested other sources of beach management such as beach ambassadors or rangers. Deputy Osbourne explained that rangers or ambassadors cannot take enforcement actions; they would need to contact a deputy. It was also suggested to eliminate the term "rigid" from "the fee schedule shall be increased for more rigid civil penalties" and use the second degree standard penalties and differentiate that from the permit fee.

Addressing *Beach Environment*, Mr. Mullin described which vehicles would be permitted on the beach for maintenance. Mr. Teeple advised that a management plan must accompany the Incidental Take Permit. Construction of additional restrooms was discussed.

Beach Driving was the next discussion item. Night time driving on the beach should be prohibited for the period beginning May 1 and ending on October 31. A lengthy discussion followed related to the times to prohibit beach driving. It was agreed to have a set time. Mr. Pope asked if someone could research sunrise times. Mr. Morriss stated that the City of Fernandina Beach has different times for sea turtle nesting season and off season. Mr. Teeple inquired whether Nassau County wished to eliminate night driving on non-nesting season. Mr. Hall requested clarification whether the night driving prohibition was required by the State or Federal governments. Mr. Mullin explained the Incidental Take Permit is required if the beach is home to endangered species. Once the County obtains the Incidental Take Permit, they must specify in their management plan the prohibition of night driving during certain hours during the sea

turtle nesting season from May 1st through October 31st. If the County did not apply for this permit, the beaches would have to be shut down to all driving. Chair Langley explained that the beach driving issue was more complex and would require additional dialogue at the next meeting. He also suggested adding to the next agenda all the different beach ordinances that specify different hours of driving times or parking.

The following citizens came forward to speak regarding the beach issues:

- Joyce Jefferson – Advised that the issues that have been mentioned regarding driving and camping on Peters Point also affect American Beach; however, there is no reference to American Beach. Deputy Osbourne explained that Peters Point is referenced due to the number of complaints however; the enforcement would affect beaches countywide. Ms. Jefferson also pointed out the spelling error for Burney, not Bernie, Park.
- Eve Jones - She questioned where the parking would be if the entrance is moved to the north side of the parking lot. She inquired what part of the beach is wide enough to handle signage, parking lanes, fishing, and the beachgoers. She has been on the beach when the water met the dunes and vehicles were floating in the ocean.
- Lisa Kapral – Explained that her Sandpiper community has been requesting help for ten years from the County. She expressed concerns with the proposed move of the access entrance to the north end of Peters Point. Mr. Mullin explained that this proposed move is merely a discussion point; not a recommendation. She pointed out the night partying on the beach and the trash left behind. She has been chased by a dog off its leash.
- Ed Kapral – He suggested having beach rangers with walkie-talkies patrol the beach and if they see something wrong, they could contact the police. The leash law is a joke.
- Diane Illi – She addressed dogs on the beach and suggested the animals and their humans attend obedience classes and obtain a license. In addition, an invisible fence could be provided on the beach and each dog would be issued a special collar for use. She also mentioned the many successful dog beaches throughout the country.
- Brenna Durden – Attorney with Lewis, Longman, and Walker, came forward on behalf of the Sandpiper Homeowners Association. -She questioned the timeframe for this committee to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners as well as the intentions and failure of the County to address these beach issues. In her opinion, the County Manager has the authority to correct camping and driving hours and to undertake the changes that need to occur today without this committee or Board of County Commissioners' approval. She referenced the Endangered Species Act and Florida Statutes customary use. The HOA is opposed to moving the entrance and the 24 hour parking. Mr. Mullin responded to Ms. Durden's comments. He explained that the committee took time to hear from concerned citizens both for and against beach driving. Mr. Mullin stated that she was wrong on the authority granted to the County Manager and advised that this committee is concerned with the health, safety and welfare of the beachgoers and residents.
- Marianne Phillips - Lauded the committee for a phenomenal job listening to all the statements and comments from citizens adding that the beach belongs to everybody. House Bill 631 dealing with customary use should never have been passed. She pointed out that the beach can be accessed beyond the cars and she requested that the beach be left alone with no paid parking.
- Chris Venable - Stated that he is a new resident of Sandpiper Loop from South Carolina. After what he saw during Memorial Day weekend on the beach, he wished he had not moved here. He explained that recently while walking his dog, the dog found hypodermic needles on the beach. Today, there was a man standing on top of the sand dune urinating. What happens at night is unbelievable with the drinking and drug use.
- John Plowden - He requested clarification of the deputy situation at night between sundown and sunrise. Deputy Osbourne explained that there are two deputies covering Amelia Island. One covers the east side of First Coast Highway and one covers the west side. When school goes back in session, there will one deputy covering Amelia Island as the Resource Officers will be back at

the schools. Mr. Plowden also addressed the noise on the beach at night. Mr. Mullin advised that currently there is no noise ordinance in the County; however, staff can determine the volume of noise on decibel meters and County staff can review the findings.

- Rick Howe – On behalf of Carlton Dunes, he advocated for some control on the camping. Currently, as the ordinance is written, it does not give the Sheriff's deputies many tools to work with when things go wrong on the beach. Living right by Peters Point on the beach, he sees the problems on the weekends in the summer but not the rest of the year. In another month or so, everyone goes away. He would prefer to have the additional officers at the schools, not the beach.
- Ronald Storley – His groups camps at Burney Park three nights twice a year. He wanted to ensure that whatever takes place at Peters Point will not affect the American Beach campers. The setbacks from the dunes will put their campsites at low tide. He expressed concern with not being able to park at night.

Chair Langley stated that every member of the committee has been actively involved in addressing these issues. To date, there are no recommendations to present to the Board of County Commissioners and no decisions have been made.

Following discussion, the following meetings were scheduled: August 14, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; August 15, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with additional time if required; and, August 22, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the Beach Committee Working Group meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

**BEACH COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019, 9:00 A.M.
JAMES S. PAGE GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX
96135 NASSAU PLACE, YULEE, FL 32097**

**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL**

CONSENT ITEM(S):

Tab A Approve minutes from the July 24 and August 1, 2019 meetings.

DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

Tab B Review of items on the agenda, led by County Manager, Mike Mullin.

Tab C Review results from the August 1, 2019 meeting.

Tab D Discussion of draft Beach Ordinance prepared by Facilitator, Brian Teeple.

Tab E Discussion of sunrise/sunset times from May 1 through October 30.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S):

Tab F Citizen emails received between July 23 and August 7, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Limited to 3 Minutes Per Person

- Any member of the audience wishing to speak on any beach related concern

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEM(S) AND COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:

- Any other items to be brought before the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this program or activity should contact the Office of the County Manager at 904-530-6010 or Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (v) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) at least seventy-two hours in advance to request such accommodations.

BEACH COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
AUGUST 14, 2019 – 9:00 A.M.
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JAMES S. PAGE GOVERNMENTAL CENTER, 96135 NASSAU PLACE
YULEE, FLORIDA

A noticed meeting of the Beach Community Working Group was held this 14th day of August, 2019 at the Commission Chambers, James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida.

Committee members present were Michael Mullin, County Manager/County Attorney; Taco Pope, Assistant County Manager; Butch Osbourne, Sheriff's Office; Douglas Podiak, Facilities Maintenance; Gil Langley, Tourist Development Council; and Mac Morriss and Lowell Hall, Ex-Officio members. Also present as facilitators were Brian Teeple and Blair Knighting, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Present was Peggy Snyder, recording secretary.

Chair Langley called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Mr. Mullin explained the purpose of the meeting was to review the materials prepared by Kimley Horn, the County's outside consultants, and, to continue the discussion regarding beach issues. Mr. Teeple addressed the items in the agenda packet which include the draft Omnibus Beach Ordinance compiled from five current ordinances. He requested that the group advise him if there are any other ordinances related to the beach that should be included. Mr. Morriss referenced a City of Fernandina Beach ordinance relating to nudity on the beach. Mr. Teeple reviewed the draft ordinance noting that definitions will need to be cleaned up; and he addressed the language in Section 2: Driving and parking ordinances; Section 3: Camping and campfires; Section 4: Concessions and rentals; Section 5, Animals; Section 6: Littering and Unattended Personal Property; and, Section 7: Alcohol. The group agreed with the structure of the draft ordinance. Discussion followed regarding having language pertaining to indecent exposure being applied to the ordinance. Mr. Mullin advised that Florida Statutes address nudity and other behavioral issues. Mr. Pope mentioned Section 4-26 in the Nassau County Code of Laws and Ordinances which references nudity in public places including the beach. Mr. Teeple recommended that this ordinance should provide clarity of beach issues in one place. Discussion followed.

Mr. Teeple reminded the group that at the July 24, 2019 meeting, they had been discussing beach driving; in the agenda packet is a memorandum showing the sunrise/sunset times in Fernandina Beach for the period of May 1st through October 31st. Mr. Teeple summarized that the average sunrise was 6:41 a.m. and average sunset was 7:35 p.m. Discussion followed regarding whether the Incidental Take Permit (ITP), being sought by the County, specified times. Mr. Mullin explained that Volusia and St. Johns County's ITP has specific times for beach driving. It was suggested that the County mirror the hours that the City of Fernandina Beach has permitting beach driving between the hours of 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Mr. Teeple reminded the group that when the County writes their ITP and accompanying Beach Management Plan, these times may change and there may be further restrictions for nighttime driving. Based upon the ITP, the County must adhere to what the federal law states.

The topic of beach driving being restricted to vehicles equipped with four-wheel/all-wheel drive was discussed. Mr. Mullin understood from adjacent counties that there is a reference in the ITP that the vehicle ruts are less of a problem with four-wheel drive vehicles. The ruts have been known to be a safety issue for turtles as well as beachgoers. The recommendation will be beach driving limited to four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles.

Mr. Teeple addressed beach driving only occurring in designated travel lanes. He advised that designated travel lanes seem to work well where there is sufficient sand and law enforcement. Mr. Pope explained

that the County needs an organized structure such as defined parking spaces to decrease user conflicts and provide public safety. Mr. Hall suggested that there be no driving on the wet sand side of the beach. Mr. Mullin felt wet sand/dry sand could be problematic with the tides; however, driving lanes would require manpower. Without funding, this would be an exercise in futility. Mr. Mullin advised that any recommendation must be mindful of budget constraints. There was consensus to have this recommendation be considered as a longer term goal.

Mr. Teeple addressed beach camping and discussed the previous recommendation that beach camping be by permit only and should occur only in front of the hardscape at Peters Point Park. Mr. Pope advised that whatever is recommended for Peters Point Park must be applied beach wide. There must also be a regulatory statement that temporary outhouses will not be permitted. Mr. Hall suggested limiting the camping to Nassau County residents with special permitting for others. Mr. Mullin reminded the group that with the ITP, no camping or other activities are allowed during turtle nesting season from May 1st through October 31st. Mr. Mullin advised that the Beach Management Plan must contain defined regulatory actions that the County will utilize to ensure that the ITP is adhered to. Discussion ensued regarding camping being available only during beach driving hours. Mr. Teeple suggested the recommendation that the "no beach camping" hours parallel the "no beach driving" times. He also pointed out that there is no way to write a permit detailed enough to cover beach camping. Mr. Mullin had checked with other counties that tried the beach camping permit and found that it was a constant issue of challenges in courts and for law enforcement. State Parks are equipped with designated parking spaces, restrictions, and sanitary facilities. Mr. Hall felt that any regulations should be enacted gradually. Discussion followed regarding enforcement, funding, and other behavioral issues resulting from beach camping. Mr. Teeple summarized the recommendation as follows, "Beach camping should only occur in front of the hardscape at Peters Point and Burney Parks" "removal of the permit system", "no 'pit' outhouses", and "no camping during turtle nesting season." Chair Langley mentioned that there was no time limit on the beach camping which could encourage "squatters." Mr. Mullin commented that he did not believe that the ITP would allow vehicles on the beach at night.

Regarding beach camping, Mr. Teeple suggested the following recommendations, "No camping during turtle nesting season", and "Beach camping shall be limited to only primitive camping". His goal is to bring back final recommendations tomorrow for the committee's approval in order for him to draft a final report to present to the Board of County Commissioners. He advised that this committee has to do something. Mr. Mullin explained that a few weeks ago, the City of Fernandina Beach reached out to see if the County had interest in procuring a joint Incidental Take Permit application with the City. The Board of County Commissioners had approved this joint application; however, it may not be feasible with the different approaches and conflicts such as camping. He and Mr. Pope will be meeting with the City Manager and City Attorney sometime next week. Mr. Mullin stated that with the ITP, the Board of County Commissioners may take action sooner on night driving.

There was a pause in the proceedings at 10:22 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

Chair Langley inquired whether recreational vehicles and overnight trailers would be prohibited from parking in the parking lots. Mr. Teeple clarified that parking lots will be eliminated from any camping at all beach lots. Defined boundary limits for camping will be determined. Chair Langley pointed out that Section G on page 3 of the draft Omnibus ordinance addresses "boundaries as set by the County Manager."

Mr. Teeple addressed beach parking. His recommendation would be that "parking in the lots at Peters Point, Scott Road and Burney Park will be open 24/7 year round" and "Parking on the beach will be restricted to designated areas only". He added that "No recreational vehicles or campers will be permitted to camp in the parking lots." Mr. Pope commented that the committee should not get hung up on what the current rules say as much as making sure Mr. Teeple knows what the committee wants in order for

him to draft the recommendations. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding constitutional rights making some of the suggested recommendation difficult to enforce.

Mr. Teeple continued the recommendations with parking on the beach on the sand "should only occur on dry sand in designated places only." Mr. Mullin advised that designated areas would require signage which would require manpower to change the signs and funding to pay for the manpower. The committee may want to consider driving lanes when the population would warrant it. Chair Langley explained that at peak season, parking is at a premium. Mr. Morriss explained that his reasoning for adding "dry sand only" was to avoid public safety issues of people driving on the wet sand where sunbathers and swimmers are located. Mr. Hall mentioned the fishermen who back their pickup trucks into the water's edge.

Continuing to page two of the August 14, 2019 draft recommendations, Mr. Teeple addressed the recommendation to "redesign the park entrances to allow for more efficient parking areas". This topic was suggested for future consideration. "Establish off-side parking options such as trolley or shuttle options" was discussed for a long-term planning consideration.. The next suggested recommendation was "Nassau County shall consider ways to procure real estate surrounding the existing parking areas to allow for more parking." Mr. Teeple noted that this was outside the draft ordinance. Mr. Morriss inquired if the County had a "conservation land fund" as he had someone who may be interested in donating. Mr. Mullin explained that the County is working with the Trust for Public Land to create a fund. Chair Langley pointed out that the last four proposed recommendations were not issues that needed to be addressed by an ordinance; they were more long-term planning. Discussion ensued regarding whether some of these recommendations were code-worthy. Mr. Teeple suggested that any public policy issues or aspirational goals could be translated into other documents such as the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Pope explained that this ordinance is language for the Board of County Commissioners to consider and any recommendation must include any associated costs. An ordinance addressing the immediate needs is within this committee's decision. Mr. Morriss stated that the long-term planning should be addressed in immediate discussions. Deputy Osbourne stated that the immediate issues are what brought this committee about. This committee was formed to address specific issues from a law enforcement standpoint that the County was dealing with. He referenced the number of complaints flooding into the County on a regular basis via photographs, videos, e-mails, and phone calls about specific problems currently happening on the County beaches. This committee was not formed to deal with trolleys ten years from now but the issues with driving on the beach and whether to continue to allow camping on the beach. Mr. Hall explained how he requested Commissioner Aaron Bell to put this committee together because of these issues. Deputy Osbourne explained that the summer season is almost over and no decisions have been made for the concerned citizens dealing with these problems. Mr. Mullin agreed with Deputy Osbourne that the Board of County Commissioners established this committee due to the amount of complaints received about activities on the beach. He never envisioned that this committee would be engaged in long-term beach planning; that would be accomplished by the Board constituting a new committee in the next few years to address the planning. The immediate need is to address the constant complaints received regarding driving, camping and unsafe and illegal activities happening on the beach and bring something back to the Board. Mr. Mullin agreed that planning must be done for the future of the beach due to the growth. Mr. Morriss suggested an addendum for long term planning be added to the ordinance. Guidance for the future must be included. Mr. Teeple advised that he will frame a recommendation to deal with future planning which will be broad and encompassing. Chair Langley pointed out that these are public parks which will be addressed in the park and recreation plan.

Next, Mr. Teeple addressed horseback riding and the resulting problems. He suggested one exclusive franchisee selected by the County with specific guidelines. He advised that there is a problem with where the horse trailers are parking at Peters Point Park. Deputy Osbourne suggested having a designated area where the trailers park. Mr. Mullin suggested franchising the horseback riding; if the horse manure is left on the beach, the vendor could lose their franchise. Mr. Teeple recommended that horseback riding on

the beach shall be limited to exclusive franchisee(s) selected by the County to provide horseback riding services to the public. There would be designated parking for the horse trailers.

Regarding Education, Mr. Teeple felt that there was almost sign pollution at the parks; too many signs for a person to read while driving into the park. He suggested posting driving speeds closer to the beach entrance. Chair Langley pointed out that the Amelia Island Tourist Development Council is responsible for communicating the Leave No Trace regulations and providing beach rules to the general public. Regarding dog feces on the beach, Mr. Morriss advised that the City of Fernandina Beach has a regulation regarding cleaning up after your dog. Mr. Teeple commented that this is something that could be added to the ordinance. Chair Langley felt that the language in the Leave No Trace ordinance is comprehensive. Discussion followed.

Mr. Teeple explained that as he was consolidating the Omnibus Beach Ordinance, he noticed that parking fees of \$5.00 per day or \$25.00 per year were charged for out of county residents. Discussion followed regarding instituting an in-County fee and raising the fee for out-of-county residents. Mr. Hall requested the number of Beach Permits the County sold. Mr. Hall recommended the County initiate a \$75.00 per year annual permit for every person going to the beach except the handicapped. Mr. Mullin advised that the courts have ruled that any permit fee charged must be justified. Before a fee can be determined, the County must consider the costs for deputies and manpower in order to determine the reasonable fee. Further discussion followed.

Ron Starling, Nightsanders Campers on American Beach, came forward to discuss camping during the off season for turtle nesting season stating that November through April is too cold to camp. He explained that his campers cannot be in thin tents in 32 degree weather. He has learned how to recognize turtle nests and if any turtles came up during the nighttime when his campers are there, he has created a strict path to the water. He said that the turtles cannot see the color red; therefore, he uses only red lighting. His group wants to be good stewards of the beach.

There being no further business, the Beach Committee Working Group meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

**BEACH COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019, 9:00 A.M.
JAMES S. PAGE GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX
96135 NASSAU PLACE, YULEE, FL 32097**

**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL**

DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

- Tab A** Review of items on the agenda, led by County Manager, Mike Mullin.
- Tab B** Continue discussion of draft Beach Ordinance prepared by Facilitator, Brian Teeple.
- Tab C** Continue discussion of sunrise/sunset times from May 1 through October 30.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S):

- Tab D** Citizen emails received between August 6 and August 13, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Limited to 3 Minutes Per Person

- Any member of the audience wishing to speak on any beach related concern

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEM(S) AND COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:

- Any other items to be brought before the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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BEACH COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
AUGUST 15, 2019 – 9:00 A.M.
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JAMES S. PAGE GOVERNMENTAL CENTER, 96135 NASSAU PLACE
YULEE, FLORIDA

A noticed meeting of the Beach Community Working Group was held this 15th day of August, 2019 at the Commission Chambers, James S. Page Governmental Complex, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida.

Committee members present were Michael Mullin, County Manager/County Attorney; Taco Pope, Assistant County Manager (arrived at 9:01 a.m.); Butch Osborne, Sheriff's Office; Douglas Podiak, Facilities Maintenance; Gil Langley, Tourist Development Council; Mac Morriss and Lowell Hall, Ex-Officio members. Also present as facilitators were Brian Teeple and Blair Knighting, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Present was Melissa Lucey, recording secretary.

Chair Langley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Regarding Tab A, Mr. Mullin reviewed the agenda items and explained that the purpose of this meeting was to review the discussion items in order to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. He advised that if additional meetings are required to be set up that it could be addressed at the end of the meeting.

Addressing Tab B, Mr. Teeple provided a draft handout dated August 15, 2019 regarding recommendations to the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners. He explained that the draft has been classified into three categories because some of the things are code worthy and some require action. The action portion was classified into categories: near or future terms Mr. Teeple provided a report on the City of Fernandina Beach Ordinance regarding driving on the beach during sea turtle nesting season. He noticed that the language indicated "no beach parking as authorized above shall be permitted from sunset until 9:00 a.m." Mr. Morriss commented that this language has been changed recently to include a hard set time and would further research to provide the updated language. Mr. Teeple pointed out that the City of Fernandina Beach posted speed limit for driving on the beach is 5 miles per hour (mph) compared to Nassau County of 10 mph. Chair Langley clarified that the previous recommendation for driving on the beach during sea turtle nesting season was from 9:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.

Mr. Teeple addressed beach parking, inquiring if the recommendation of placing a key card system in the parking areas would be considered a near or longer term goal. Mr. Hall clarified that the purpose of the key card system or tag identification systems was to identify the vehicles that are accessing the parking lot or the beach. Mr. Teeple pointed out that one of the draft recommendations under Beach Enforcement included "Nassau County shall install beach cameras (or Automated License Plate Readers [ALPR]) in parking lots and camping areas." Chair Langley advised that the Tourist Development Council (TDC) received proposals to install cameras for the primary use to do beach scenes on the internet but it could provide a secondary benefit for the security use. Mr. Mullin commented that the County is 38 days away from adopting the budget with a set mileage rate and raised his concerns that near term goals with a financial impact could be problematic for this fiscal year. He recommended that the language include "funding availability". He advised that during his review of St. John's County Incidental Take Permit (ITP) that there is a requirement for Beach Rangers and two (2) Sheriff's Deputies that will require additional budgetary funding. Chair Langley stated that the ITP application will also require a Beach Management Plan. Mr. Mullin advised that the Board of County Commissioners approved for staff to meet with the City of Fernandina Beach's Attorney and City Manager to discuss the approach to acquire the ITP.

Regarding beach driving, Mr. Morriss suggested that the Beach Management Plan should include no driving on the wet sand as it poses a public safety risk. Chair Langley commented that the primary goal is to focus on creating an Omnibus Beach Ordinance, he noted that a lot of the near term goals are actionized and would be covered under the ordinance.

Next, Mr. Teeple referred to fees, noting that he provided the following draft language to capture the discussion from the August 14, 2019 meeting: "the County shall conduct a cost study to determine the cost of beach driving, permits, which shall be used to determine the cost levied as a permit fee on all beach drivers." Chair Langley advised that he believes that would be consider part of the Ordinance.

Regarding nudity, Mr. Teeple provided the language: "nudity on Nassau's Beaches is prohibited pursuant to Nassau County Code, Section 4-25." It was the consensus of the working group to use this language.

Referencing back to fees, Chair Langley recommended that the cost of beach operations be included in the permits. Mr. Teeple mentioned that he would cross reference that in his notes. He questioned if the working group would support the recommendations of the draft Omnibus Beach Ordinance and Beach Management Report, noting that it has not been provided to them at this time. In addition, he recommended repealing the prior Beach Ordinances for the County. Mr. Morriss requested clarification if the report would include some of the longer term goals. Mr. Teeple advised that it is his intent to include the recommendations with the appropriate timeframes subject to availability of funding. Mr. Pope requested that the draft Omnibus Beach Ordinance and Beach Management Report be provided to the working group in a timely matter to allow the opportunity to review. He stated that it is his anticipation that once the draft Omnibus Beach Ordinance and Beach Management Report is circulated through the public that the working group would be holding additional meetings to receive public feedback and further discussions.

Next, Chair Langley addressed public safety. He advised that any public safety programs implemented would be under the direction of the Sheriff's Office and that the County will not be seeking any other alternatives to implement public safety. Mr. Pope concurred that it was his understanding as well.

Referencing back to beach parking, Mr. Teeple provided additional proposed language: "campers including travel trailers, camping trailers, truck campers, motor homes, private motor coaches, van conversions, fifth wheel trailers, or park trailers, and as all are further defined in *Florida Statutes* 320.01 are prohibited on the beach and on the beach front park parking areas." He advised that this definition was provided directly from Ordinance 2018-22. Mr. Mullin recommended setting different set of hours for recreational vehicle parking in order to prevent overnight parking. Mr. Osborne recommended banning the use of running generators if on beach parking is allowed for recreational vehicle. Mr. Teeple inquired if it was possible to designate one (1) parking area for the recreational vehicles. Mr. Morriss stated that it would lead to the unattended consequence of increase people congregating and noise level in one localized area. Mr. Osborne recommended keeping beach parking uniformed for all of the beach access points, noting that another concern would be the amount of space required for recreational vehicle parking. Mr. Pope stated that it is his opinion that this is more of a future term goal to include redesigning the park and identifying a single vendor or multi-vendors to handle private citizens with parking recreational vehicles and trailers. Mr. Teeple requested for clarification that the recreational vehicles shall be prohibited in beach front parking areas between hours of 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. with the County Manager's discretion. Mr. Osborne clarified that it would not be the County Manager's discretion between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.; however the County Manager's discretion would apply during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. while the parking lots are open to allow for recreational vehicle parking. Mr. Mullin further clarified that it would be subject to the County Manager's decision for the availability for utilization of the space. In addition, the Sheriff's Office would hold the same authority.

Regarding beach camping, Mr. Teeple provided the definition that primitive camping shall mean the construction or erection of a shelter for the purpose of sleeping; or lying upon a bedroll, blanket, or other protective garb for the purpose of sleeping. He pointed out that the definition was provided in Ordinance 2018-22, which also included the language that "improvised pit latrines and the use of portable electric generators shall be prohibited." Mr. Mullin recommended providing additional definitions in addition to pit latrines, noting that the purpose of designating camping in front of the park was to provide the use of the bathroom facilities. Mr. Teeple pointed out that there is another recommendation that parking on the beach should be restricted to designated places and limiting the boundaries of the park. Chair Langley inquired if primitive camping would still require a camping permit. Mr. Morriss confirmed that it was removed but suggested that it should be part of the mid-range term goals. He recommended that the Beach Management Plan should identify the boundaries of the location for camping and attaching a cleaning deposit to cover the County's cost for cleaning these facilities. Mr. Mullin raised the concern that the ITP may not allow primitive camping during the turtle nesting season due to the flashlights and other devices that may interfere with the turtles. Mr. Hall recommended that the proposed language should include that the County allows for primitive camping during the turtle nesting season unless restricted by the ITP. Mr. Mullin pointed out that there could be an enforcement issue that would require further discussion, and would need to be addressed in the Beach Management Plan if primitive camping was allowed.

Next, Mr. Morriss recommended littering to be addressed in beach camping. Mr. Teeple advised that littering is referenced in the draft Omnibus Beach Ordinance, Section 6, Littering/Unattended Personal Property "Littering; it shall be unlawful, and is hereby prohibited for any person or persons to litter any of the Atlantic Ocean beaches of Nassau County or in any County owned or controlled oceanfront park. All Litter shall be placed in the receptacles provided or carried away by the visitor from these parks." Mr. Osborne requested clarification on the enforcement for littering. Mr. Teeple advised that he is still researching the existing five (5) Ordinances to ensure the appropriate penalties would be applied.

Referencing back to beach camping, Mr. Podiak recommended addressing restricting vehicles from setting up camps along the designated primitive camping area. Mr. Morriss advised that there was a prior consensus of the working group that included primitive camping between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. with no vehicles within the designated camping site. Chair Langley commented that the intent of primitive camping is for the ability to pack in and pack out with no interaction between the campers and vehicles. He pointed out that during the day time hours there are no regulations on vehicle parking and inquired about oversized vehicles on the beach. Mr. Mullin advised that this could be hard to enforce and that there is no designated areas to park for oversize vehicles that require a significant amount of space. Chair Langley mentioned that at one of the previous meeting there was a discussion regarding the number of parking spaces that are available and it was the consensus to maximum the amount of availability of parking on the beach. Mr. Morriss stated that this would create a funding issue to implement a Beach Management on site.

There was a pause in the proceedings at 10:18 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Teeple requested the working group to research additional beach related Ordinances that could be accurately incorporated into the draft omnibus beach ordinance.

Regarding beach environment, Mr. Teeple addressed the proposed language "apply for and receive an ITP under the Endangered Species Act from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for nesting Sea Turtles"; and "construct additional public restrooms at Scott Road Park". Chair Langley advised that the construction of a restroom would not be considered an ordinance issue but would be resolved through the Board of County Commissioners.

Referencing back to beach camping, Mr. Podiak inquired whether there should be a time to breakdown camping gear during overnight camping. Mr. Osborne concurred, noting that one of his concerns was camping gear left on the beach with vehicular traffic during the day. Chair Langley recommended placing a limit for the number of days allowed to camp. After a brief discussion regarding the number of days, Chair Langley inquired how the number of days would be monitored unless the campers applied for a permit. He commented that without placing a time limit for camping it could lead to campers staying for an extended period of time that would not be considered recreational camping. Mr. Osborne agreed, noting that without a permit it would make enforcement difficult. Mr. Morriss suggested that beach camping should require a permit that is obtain in advanced. Mr. Podiak explained that Nassau County does not run a campground and it would involve different policies and procedures. Mr. Pope clarified that it would require a Park Ranger. Chair Langley recommended that the length of stay for recreational camping should be the maximum of three (3) days.

Next the working group addressed limiting the number of campers; Mr. Osborne suggested providing a special permit for larger groups. Mr. Podiak advised that in order to offer camping to the public, staff would need to research whether the County is meeting the requirements for the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and if there would be any financial impacts. Mr. Osborne commented that the ADA requirements may limit the locations of where camping would be accessible. Mr. Mullin recommended creating a subcommittee that consists of Mr. Podiak, Mr. Pope and himself to review the ADA requirements and to report back to the working group. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the working group that the subcommittee to be formed.

Regarding fees, Chair Langley requested clarification whether the fee structure would be based upon the reevaluation of the amounts due to the cost of maintaining the beach. He inquired if these fees would be charged to non-residents. Mr. Mullin recommend that the working group reviewed both residents and non-residents. Mr. Teeple advised that his recommendation is for the County to conduct a cost study to determine the cost of beach driving permits, which shall be used to determine the cost levied as a permit fee on all beach drivers.

Referencing horseback riding, Mr. Teeple reviewed the proposed language "horseback riding on the beach shall be limited to exclusive franchisee(s) selected by the County to provide horseback riding services to the public"; and to "ensure the horse trailer parking areas are clearly marked and are utilized." Mr. Pope commented that there should be a consideration of mandatory manure catching bags on the horses when riding. He advised that the proposed language should be clear that it is required and enforceable. Chair Langley recommended that any consideration for the exclusive franchisee(s) would be selected at the County Manager's discretion. The group addressed whether individual horse owners would still have access to riding on the beach.

Next, Mr. Teeple inquired if there was any other matters that were not addressed or outside of the proposed draft omnibus beach ordinance. Mr. Mullin advised that it would be easier to review when the proposed draft omnibus beach ordinance is provided. Mr. Morriss commented that the other topic that needed to be addressed was providing safe access to the beach for the residents that live north of Peters Point parking area. Mr. Teeple pointed out that the speed limit is 10 mph and that Public Works will be placing speed limit signs as a near term goal and recommended placing additional speed limit signs at the entrance of beach. Mr. Morriss inquired if the speed limit should be lowered. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the working group to lower the speed limit down to 5 mph.

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Mullin, seconded by Mr. Pope and unanimously carried to schedule the following meetings: September 16, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; and September 19, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; and to cancel the noticed meeting being held on August 22, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The following citizens came forward to speak regarding the beach issues:

- Barbara Culley came forward to discuss the Nightsanders Campers, Organization that has been established for 20 years with the history of camping on American Beach. She advised that she agrees that permits are necessary and should include specific dates that the permits are valid. In addition, she is in agreeance that all permits should be applied for in advanced.
- Brenna Durden, Attorney with Lewis, Longman, and Walker, came forward on behalf of the Sandpiper Homeowners Association. She advised that she is encouraged to see the August 15, 2019 draft recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners but found it a little discouraging for Nassau County's citizens to witness in her opinion that some of the members of the working group back tracked in tonight's discussion. She commented that the working group must establish these perimeters for Nassau County's citizens to include requiring permits or special permits for large groups.

There being no further business, the Beach Committee Working Group meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.