

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

HARRISON COUNTY 2030

Sand Beach Stakeholders Meeting

March 18, 2008

Gulfport County Courthouse

Attendees:

Liz Tiblier (alternate for Connie Rockco):

Supervisor District 5

Tim Caldwell: US Army Corps of Engineers

Pam Ulrich: County Administrator

Eric Nolan: City of Biloxi

Nathan Sullivan: City of Biloxi

David Seyfarth: MDOT Gulfport, MS

Jan Dubuisson: MS Coast Audubon Society

Least Tern Project

William A. Kimble: Pass Christian Resident

James M. Parks: Pass Christian Resident

Robert Weaver: Sand Beach Commission

Jennifer Cowley: The Ohio State University

Deborah Georg: The Ohio State University

Vince Bednar: The Ohio State University

Manny Citron: The Ohio State University

Singleton Hicks: The Ohio State University

Rebecca McCarthy: The Ohio State University

Susan Noblet: The Ohio State University

DISCUSSION OUTLINE:

INTRO (BY BOBBY WEAVER)

OVERARCHING GOALS (BY JENNIFER COWLEY)

BEACH SURVEY AND OBSERVATIONS OVERVIEW (BY MANNY CITRON)

HEALTH AND SAFETY WELFARE (QUESTIONS POSED BY SINGLETON HICKS)

1. BEACH SAFETY

a. SUBMERGED DEBRIS

i. COAST GUARD AND DMR EFFORT HAS ALREADY ADDRESSED

b. WATER SAFETY

i. THE WATER DEPTH IS SHALLOW (ABOUT 5') FROM THE BEACH OUT TO THE 1500' (TO THE PYLONS)

c. REPORTING ISSUES /CONCERNS

i. CALLS COME IN, THE AREA IS INVESTIGATED (FEW REPORTS COME IN)

2. CURRENT ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

- a. NO ISSUES (MARITIME REPRESENTATIVE)
- 3. TRANSPORTATION/PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
 - a. PLANS FOR MORE BUS STOPS EXIST – TALK TO KEVIN CAUGIN AT CTA
 - b. CURRENT PLANS INVOLVE : (DAVID SEYFARTH)
 - i. COMPLYING WITH ENHANCED ADA STANDARDS
 - ii. I.T.S. IS IMPLEMENTING A SIGNAL SYSTEM
 - iii. NO CURRENT PEDESTRIAN CROSSING PLANS (HAS BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT NO CURRENT PLANS)
 - iv. MULTIMILLION DOLLAR DEVELOPMENT PLANNED NORTH OF HIGHWAY 90

VISION AND GOALS (QUESTIONS POSED BY SUSAN NOBLET)

- 4. SIGNIFICANT PLACES/ISSUES TO RECOGNIZE
 - a. CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN BILOXI- WADE IN (AT BEAUVOIR)
 - b. 20TH AVE. BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS
 - c. 4TH OF JULY AND NEW YEARS- DRAW BIG BEACH CROWDS
 - d. PASS CHRISTIAN- YOUNG LOCAL RESIDENTS HAVE LARGE BONFIRES ON BEACH FRIDAY NIGHTS
 - e. BIG BOXING MATCH IN 1800'S BETWEEN SULLIVAN & -? (THERE USED TO BE SIGNAGE)
- 5. PERMITS
 - a. ALLOWED FOR DESIGNATED AREAS (IF NOT IN A DESIGNATED AREA, THE UPLAND OWNER MUST OFFER PERMISSION)
 - b. FIRE PERMITS- \$5 FEE, \$25 CLEAN-UP DEPOSIT (RETURNED IF BEACH IS LEFT CLEAN)
 - c. BEACH VENDING
 - i. EFFORT TO CLEAN-UP VENDORS IS UNDERWAY
 - ii. REQUEST FOR DESIGN CONTROLS TO MAINTAIN VISUAL QUALITY
 - iii. 8-10 VENDER CART DESIGN STANDARDS- TO CONTROL VISUAL BLIGHT
 - iv. VEHICLE DELIVERING CART IS SUPPOSED TO LEAVE AFTER DEPOSITING VENDER CART ON BEACH
 - d. EVENTS (GO THROUGH THE TOURISM OFFICE)
 - i. FISHING RODEO
 - ii. EAST SUNRISE CHURCH SERVICE ON BEACH
 - iii. 4TH OF JULY- BEACH BECOMES NON OFFICIAL PLACE TO SHOOT OFF FIREWORKS
 - iv. COMMUNITY EVENTS (SOME BEFORE KATRINA)
 - 1. CONCERTS AT 20TH (PARKING BECOMES A BIG ISSUE)
 - 2. LONG BEACH PAVILION
 - a. USED TO BRING TOGETHER COMMUNITY
 - b. PARKING ACROSS 90 BECOMES A SAFETY ISSUE
 - c. LOCATION- SOUTHEAST OF THE PARKING LOT AT LONG BEACH, JUST SOUTH OF CLEVELAND AVE.
 - 3. GULFPORT –CURRENT DISCUSSION OF A WAVE POOL AT 20TH
 - 4. COURTHOUSE RD. PIER

v. MARKETING FOR NEW EVENTS

1. PROMOTERS (BACKERS) FOR EVENTS- NOT A COUNTY FUNCTION, TOURISM/BUSINESS SHOULD LEAD

6. OBSTACLES TO REBUILDING

- a. MANY ISSUES HAVE BEEN WORKED THROUGH ALREADY
- b. INSURANCE NORTH OF 90- TOO EXPENSIVE FOR MANY RESIDENTS TO RETURN
- c. WATER AND SEWAGE –REPAIRS AND OPERATION STILL UNDERWAY
- d. CONSTRUCTION OF 90 –WILL BECOME BIGGER ISSUE THIS TOURIST SEASON

7. HIGHWAY 90- CURRENT & ALTERNATIVE PLANS

- a. SCENIC BYWAY WOULD BE GREAT BUT... BOTTOM LINE IS US 90 IS A MAJOR COMMUTER HIGHWAY AND THIS ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE
- b. EXTENSION OF RAILROAD RD. ACROSS ENTIRE COUNTY HAS BEEN DISCUSSED (BUT RIGHT OF WAY IS AN ISSUE)
 - i. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOPIC CONTACT KEN HOLLEN AT GRPC PH. # 864-1167
- c. SCENIC DRIVE
 - i. 90 USED TO BE A SCENIC DRIVE (SCENIC HIGHWAY SIGNAGE EXISTED PRE-KATRINA)
 - ii. STATE LAW CALLS 90 "A PARKWAY" AND IT IS ALSO DESIGNATED AS US 90 (HIGHWAY)
 - iii. CHALLENGE- MAINTENANCE IS EXPENSIVE
 - iv. RESIDENTS DRIVE UP AND DOWN 90 FOR LEISURE –VISUAL QUALITY IS IMPORTANT
- d. CURRENT MEDIAN PLANTINGS
 - i. COUNTY DOES THE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE (+ GULFPORT AND BILOXI DO SOME MAINTENANCE) COST OF MAINTENANCE IS AN ISSUE
 - ii. MDOT HAS ALMOST COMPLETED INSTALLATION
- e. PARKWAY ISSUE
 - i. COMMUNITY COULD PROPOSE MEDIAN LANDSCAPING, PROPOSAL GOES THROUGH PARKWAY COMMISSION + MDOT (FOR SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE)

8. VISUAL QUALITY

- a. SAND EROSION
 - i. BOARDWALK AND DUNE VEGETATION HELPED MINIMIZE AMOUNT OF WINDBLOWN SAND REACHING HIGHWAY 90
 - ii. IN BILOXI- BLOWING SAND ON HIGHWAY CRATES A BIG MAINTENANCE ISSUE (UP TO 3" ACCUMULATION IN A DAY)
 - iii. HIGHWAY 90 MEDIAN –CLEANUP REQUIRED 2 TIMES A YEAR OR MORE
 - iv. DUNES WOULDN'T BE FEASIBLE IN HIGH USE AREAS (LIKE HARBOR AREAS) BECAUSE DUNES WOULD BE DESTROYED BY PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC
- b. BEACH IS BETTER THAN IT WAS IN THE 1980'S WHEN THERE WAS NO LANDSCAPING

- c. SEE OLD SAND BEACH MASTER PLAN (GRPC) FOR PAST DUNE AND VEGETATION PROPOSALS
- d. BOARDWALK
 - i. IS REALLY POPULAR
 - ii. CURRENTLY BEING REMOVED
 - iii. DURING THE STORM, FLOATING WOOD DEBRIS DID A LOT OF DAMAGE
 - iv. NEW WALK WILL NOT BE CEMENT, WITH WOOD USED ONLY AT ACCESS POINTS (PROPOSED, BIDS FOR THE NEW DESIGN GO OUT APRIL 15TH)
 - v. SIDEWALK WIDTH VARIES ALONG BEACH
- e. BIKE PATH
 - i. OPPORTUNITY FOR BIKE PATH AND/OR PEDESTRIAN PATH ALONG SCENIC DR. (A LOT OF PEOPLE WALK ALONG)
 - ii. RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY MIGHT BE USED AS BIKE TRAIL
 - iii. COUNTY (NORTH) BIKEWAYS ARE DIFFICULT TO TIE INTO THE BEACH DUE TO TRAFFIC ON 90

BEACH PATROL

- 9. HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE HANDLES
 - a. IN AFFECT APRIL-SEPTEMBER (TOURIST SEASON)
 - b. 4 WHEELER PATROL SENT OUT EAST AND WEST FROM HEWES AVE. STATION, THESE POLICE WORK WELL FOR BEACH PATROL AND OFFICERS ARE VERY ACCESSIBLE
- 10. NO LIFEGUARDS (EXTREMELY RARE NEED)
 - a. VENDORS COULD BE REQUIRED TO KNOW/PROVIDE FIRST AID?
 - b. MORE IN-WATER ACTIVITY OCCURS AT NIGHT THAN DURING DAY (FLOUNDERING)
- 11. LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF BEACH AREA DESIGNATED FOR THE ALLOWANCE OF VEHICLES
- 12. LAW ENFORCEMENT
 - a. COORDINATION WITH EACH CITY COUNCIL WOULD BE NICE
 - b. 4'-8' WATER DEPTH OUT TO POSTS OFFSHORE
 - c. TURN BAYS ARE SOMETIMES PROBLEM AREAS FOR DRINKING
 - d. DEPUTIES SPEND A LOT OF TIME WORKING TO MONITOR STREET VENDERS
 - i. PENALTY FOR MISCONDUCT –LOSS OF PERMIT LICENSE

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS TO BE AWARE OF:

- 13. WHY NOT EXTEND WIDTH OF BEACH? 230' SHORELINE MAX
- 14. PARKING OUT OVER BEACH, SOUTH OF FLOODWALL (LIKE SCHOONER PIER) IS ALLOWED AND MIGHT WORK WELL (WITH THE ADDITION OF PICNIC AREAS AND VEGETATION)
 - a. PARKING- NEEDS TO BE CONSOLIDATED
 - b. IMPROVING BEACH ACCESS/PARKING COULD HELP CLEAN UP US 90 AND MAKE BEACH PEDESTRIAN ACCESS SAFER
- 15. PIERS- FEMA WILL REPAIR TO PRE-KATRINA CONDITION
- 16. DRAINAGE INTO THE WATER- WISH FOR BETTER SAFETY AND AESTHETIC QUALITY (MAYBE LANDSCAPING AROUND?) –CAUSES MOST OF THE REPORTED BEACH INJURIES

- a. WATER QUALITY HAS CAUSED SOME HEALTH CONCERNS - SIGNS AT DESIGNATED TEST SITES SHOW READING OF CURRENT WATER QUALITY, SOME BEACH CLOSURES HAVE OCCURRED
17. COMMERCIAL INTEREST AND GAMING INDUSTRY- BIG STAKEHOLDER & POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FUNDING