Dunedin Causeway and Coastal Waterway Committee

May 14th, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:02.

Members present: John Hoopes, Jeffric Gazlay, Frank Vanore, Glen Steinke, Anita Apley, Jim Runyon, Dennis Alspaugh, Kathleen Sands Martin.

City Staff: Lanie Sheets and Vince Gizzi.

Guests: Jon Harmony, Ann Paul (Audubon Florida), Kelly Hammer Levy from Pinellas County Environmental Management Division, Kim Begay, and Dixie Sparks.

Minutes from April meeting approved.

Guest Presentation: Kelli Hammer Levy-Pinellas County Environmental Management Division

-See attached copy of PPT presentation. Presentation from Pinellas County about Causeway maintenance and responsibilities. New inter-local agreement is being drafted between County and City to cover all joint use/management areas. Goals and action plan were outlined form the comprehensive conservation plan. Sea level rise projection for 2025-2075 was presented and will impact future causeway use under current conditions. County owns and maintains over 1200 marine markers with exceptions being Clearwater, St. Pete, and Tarpon. Prop scarring data was presented showing marked improvements over the years after signs were placed in the water ways. 40 percent decline in scaring at Fort Desoto since 2008. Counties position on dredging and adding sand is part of the discussion and presents challenges due to the aquatic preserve status, further complications arise when considering the new bridge project. Hurricane pass should and will be dredged and maintained by the State, not the county or city.

Discussion—Glenn had concerns that pot holes being filled only lasts a few days until it rains and then holes are back. Glenn inquired as to a more permanent solution. Concerns remain that dogs are in protected areas that already have NO Trespassing signs. Ann Paul recommends a police sting operation to help control the dogs on the causeway issue. Vince indicated that a new position is being proposed in the new budget for an attendant to watch the causeway and hammock park to help enforce the rules in the above-mentioned areas. Dixie Sparks brought up litter issues on the Causeway. John Hoopes encouraged more volunteer cleanup efforts and outreach to these organizations.

DCCWC annual report was approved by unanimous committee vote.

Clearwater Ferry ridership report was submitted for a 10-month trial program term. Average 95 guests per day. Projections were exceeded. Committee voted 100 percent to support the extension of the Clearwater Ferry contract by the Commission.

Causeway Maintenance Report – No new activities

Concessionaire Report – Season going well with weather getting better

Storm Water Report – No meeting
Boating report – Trawler anchored near downtown is within legal rights, although not the prettiest boat.

CEQ Report – Jeffric submitted information on plastics, single use conversation and challenges ahead. Topic will be revisited at future meetings

Ad Hoc Bridge Report – No action since last meeting

OPEN FLOOR: As of this June the DCCWC Committee will have been active for 30 years!

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 am