

Dunedin Causeway and Coastal Waterway Committee
February 11, 2020
Dunedin Community Center

Meeting called to order at 8:05AM

Members Present: John Hoopes, Anita Apley, Kathleen Sands Martin, Jim Runyun, Glenn Steinke, Frank Vanore and Jill Gunn

Members Absent: Dennis Alspaugh (excused)

City Staff: Lanie Sheets

Guests: Ron Matuska, Sandie Selvaggio, Kim Begay, Peter Krulder (Honeymoon Island Park Manager)

Minutes from January meeting approved.

Guest Speaker: Peter Krulder, Honeymoon Island Park Manager

Pete reported that Honeymoon Island State Park had 1,630,847 visitors (count taken as of June 2019) and 291,000 visitors to Caladesi Island.

- **Beach Nourishment Project** (Dredging) Plans have been approved, just waiting on funding to replace sand that was lost due to Hurricanes Hermine, Irene and Michael
- **Bike path** (Pinellas Trail extension into Park) was completed 1/19. Prior to the new path the record was 400 pedestrian/bike visitors per month. Now, on average, there are 2000 pedestrian/bike visitors per month.
- **Traffic Flow** into the Park has been improved. Reduced tollbooth transactions have saved almost 20 seconds/car. They are designing changes into the park entrance to also reduce entry times and backup.
- **Caladesi Island Discovery Station** project is kicking off. The 25ft tower is being built and will have an elevator. Will be able to see into Dunedin over the mangroves. 1st phase will include the Center and a 25ft Tower(w/elevator) will cost \$1.6M. Friends of the Islands raised \$900,000 with the State funding the remainder. This phase will be completed within 2020 (roughly 6 months). 2nd phase of Educational Displays is still being developed and funding acquired.
- **Birding** fans have enjoyed watching 2 baby owls hatch and will get to see eagle chicks soon. Parts of Three Rooker Island were closed for hatching season and an estimated 10,000 hatchings took place during this time.
- **Controlled Burnings** are continuing and hopefully will be completed by June. Managers try and take wind direction into consideration to minimize the effect on those living on the causeway and Dunedin proper.
- **Upcoming Park Events**
 - Earth Day, April 18/19 - Education days that will be hosted by Friends of the Island. Live birds will be on display including a Bald Eagle that was born on Honeymoon Island
 - Rotary Triathlon, May 17th
- **Caladesi Ferry** contract renewed for 5 years. Park receives % of fares which usually amounts to \$400,000 to \$500,000 per year from Ferry ticket sales and other concessions agreements.
- **Oyster Bed Project** with Tampa Bay Watch (from 5 years ago) has been extremely successful
- **Hurricane Pass** – need to keep open as it is part of the intra-coastal waterway
- **Dog Beach** continues to be very popular. Main issues continue to be dogs off leash, dogs on dogs, dogs on people and people on people. No current method for tracking number of dog beach visitors.

Parks & Recreation Report: N/A

Concession Report: All is well. Deputy Enforcement is out on the causeway controlling speeding. New automatic locks will allow restrooms to be locked from 11pm till morning. County has been filling potholes on North side access road. Lanie to provide John with the name of County personnel responsible for grading.

Boating Report: N/A...Still searching for member

Storm Water Sub Committee Report: Next meeting April 7th

CEQ Sub-Committee Rep – N/A...Still searching for member

Ad-hoc Bridge Report – Meeting on March 11th at the Hale Center. Open house commences a 5:30 and the presentation will commence at 6:30. Consultant to host the meeting.

Old Business: 2020 Committee Initiatives

- Frank discussed the alligator (Land Vehicle Track). Built in 1937 with training starting in 1941. Originally made in Dunedin, they were eventually built for the military. YouTube has numerous videos on the LVT.
- Army Corps of Engineers input on channel dredging project was discussed. John asked who to contact to invite to one of our meetings. Lanie stated that you go to them they do not come to you, and they are in Brandon. John suggested doing a phone call discussion and reporting back to committee. Lanie to provide phone number.
- Glenn showed historical aerial shots of the causeway (early/present day). From the pictures, you can see that the causeway has lost a great deal of sand due to erosion.
- Anita informed the committee that she reached out to Heather Gracy regarding the berms and we have an active case open. CATS 52343 is our project number to refer to in the future.

Open Floor:

- Discussion on how to determine how many people are utilizing the Park vs. people on causeway. A traffic study was discussed as a possibility. Possible to use Bridge Project data?
- Jill Gunn reported on a derelict boat that lost its anchor during a recent storm. Because of its proximity to the marina it could have been a huge safety issue. The boat went aground on a spoil island and could take up to 6 months to remove. Lanie stated that the derelict boats are closely monitored from Day 1 and the Sheriff's office has been on top of this from the beginning. Derelict boats are tagged, reported to the state and the process begins. Sheriff's office in charge and works with the state. Lanie pointed out that you cannot regulate anchored boats, only live-a boards. Lanie is meeting with counties within the month to discuss live-a boards.
- Kim Begay asked about the sailing center comment from last month's minutes (possible location on North side of Causeway). She was concerned that the water was not deep enough in this area and that boating could cause damage to the sea grass. John reiterated that these were only ideas being discussed and that any potential facility design would incorporate a risk assessment.

Adjournment: 9:19AM

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

March 10, 2020 - 8AM Dunedin Community Center

April 14, 2020 – 8 AM Dunedin Community Center

May 12, 2020 – 8 AM Dunedin Community Center