Dunedin Causeway and Coastal Waterway Committee
Minutes
March 10, 2020

Present:
John Hoopes, Chair
Jim Runyon
Frank Vanore
Dennis Alspaugh
Jill Gunn

Absent:
Anita - excused
Glen Steinke - excused
Kathleen Sands Martin - excused

Guests:
Phillip Beck, Dunedin Parks & Rec, Park Attendant
Ron Matuska
Kim Belay

Lanie Sheets, City Representative report
FT Park Attendant, Phillip Beck (intra-department transfer), added this year, assigned to Causeway and Hammock Park. Works Friday thru Monday, 6a - 5p / Four 10 Hr days to cover busiest times. He is not in a law enforcement capacity but rather to provide helpful direction, clarify guidelines, and be City’s eyes & ears in the busy parks.

Phil introduced himself, welcomes feedback / suggestions. Shared that he has a banking / financial issues background which has helped prepare him for interactions with visitors. Chair John Hoopes invited him to attend all meetings he is able to make, and specifically suggested one following the end of the current spring season, and asked Phil what if any issues he is having. Phil reported his interactions have been positive; he has the tools and team he needs, and so far has primarily been engaged in educating visitors about rules / regulations without controversy to date.

The committee discussed the pros / cons of a new guidelines pamphlet, and it was agreed none is necessary currently. Phil provides his city issued business cards as needed. Advised committee that if we observe or know of issues we should email Phil with a copy to Lanie, except in the case of law enforcement issues which should be directed to the PCSO. John raised a question regarding the buildup of sand on the sidewalk, of which Phil was aware, has and will continue to address including involving the County as it is technically their responsibility though they are sometimes slow to respond. He further addressed the buildup of other sand piles. Member Jim Runyon inquired as to when and where Phil patrols, and Phil explained he is in the process of assessing the demand to best determine the same, explained he currently usually
begins and ends on the Causeway (both by buggy and on foot) which is and where he is currently spending about 60-70% of time.

Phil shared that recycling demand is high, with pickups occurring on Saturday, Monday & Thursday following a comment by Guest Kim Belay who shared a positive compliment she heard from a visitor regarding Phil’s work, including that he stops to pick up trash from the ground.

Phil was welcomed and thanked by the Committee, and excused by the Chair.

Further discussion involved a formal request received by the City to provide a marked and dedicated launch area for jet skis. Lanie explained the current physical breakdown of the south causeway use areas as:
1) Just West of the bridge designed for motor vessel launch;
2) Middle section reserved for no vessels;
3) Western most section closer to Honeymoon Island designated for non-motor launches.

Committee discussed the pros / cons of approving request to designate restricted water access only area (i.e., no parking) in area 1 including impact on other areas, related current and potential parking issues, self-limiting and democratic nature of current designation, availability of alternative water access for jet ski users, optimization of resources for all Causeway users.

Subsequently a motion to recommend no new designated launch or ramp area was passed unanimously.

Lanie reminded Committee of Public meeting tomorrow night, 3/11/2020, at the Hale Center, 5:30 open house, 6:30 presentation and encouraged Committee member attendance. Guest Kim Belay shared that the meeting notice includes a reference to a court reporter.

**Glen Steinke Concessions Report**
None presented

**Boating Report**
No designated member

**CEQ Report**
No designated member

**Jill Gunn Stormwater Report**
No interim meeting, nothing to report
Anita Apley Report re: Road Scraping
Written report read by Chair. Anita has shared with David Duranzo of the County Road Department that the road scraping left piles, and that some but not all debris was removed. Visitors are driving over the remaining piles. Anita will continue to follow up with the County Road department and advise.

Old Business
Derelict boats
Jill Gunn shared that vessel stranded on Bird Island has moved partially off brush and closer to the water. Advised Deputy Nettles of the same via text on Sunday, Mar 8, 2020. Lanie Sheets shared that Harbor Master is able to view status also. Committee discussion of derelict vessel and live aboard rules. Lanie Sheets shared summary from recent County meeting regarding the same (held in Madeira Beach) and explained the State Statutes regulate derelict / live aboard / anchoring laws and thus issue is state-wide. County received information from multiple local municipalities, understands issues and will investigate possible remedies including reaching out to organization of Counties / Cities for potential joint effort at the State level. Concerns of local municipalities included quality of environment and waterway enjoyment, hazards and dangers posed by derelict vessels and live aboard.

Committee Initiatives
Jill Gunn shared historical photos of Causeway provided by Dunedin Historical Museum, and is working on accessing historical articles from newspaper archives. Committee discussion of relevant aspects of photos and regional area aspects followed. Further, Lanie Sheets shared historical information regarding naming of Hog Island, and similarly referenced Dunedin events.

Meeting adjourned