

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Public Works Department

MINUTES OF THE SHORE PROTECTION BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Shore Protection Board was called to order on Thursday, March 23, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

On roll call, all members were found to be present, with the exception of Shore Protection Board Member Goldstein who had an excused absence from the meeting.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Ecclestone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chair Frank, and seconded by Chair Ecclestone, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30, 2017 MEETING

Motion was made by Board Member Baker, and seconded by Board Member Katz, to approve the January 30, 2017 Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM SHORE PROTECTION BOARD MEMBERS

The group agreed to defer Breakers-related comments until after the Agenda Item IX presentation.

Board Member Baker commented that winter has been kind to our beaches. The reaches are in great shape and we have had a great season for long shore drift. He is looking forward to working together today to find a solution.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Chair Ecclestone recommended the audience defer comments until after Agenda Item IX. The Breakers/Clarke Avenue Beach Update presentation from Mr. Paul Leone.

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1 Ms. Melissa Cerialo, 230 South Ocean Boulevard, stated that she lives in the area most impacted
2 by the Mid-Town Project. Ms. Cerialo understood that when the Florida Department of
3 Environmental Protection permitted The Breakers work and the restructuring of the groins to be
4 put in that if there were detrimental impacts to the north or the south, that The Breakers would be
5 required to remediate. She concluded that the work that The Breakers did in 2012 impacted the re-
6 nourishment work that was recently done to Mid-Town's beach.

7
8 Ms. Cerialo asked the Shore Protection Board have The Breakers lower the groins to sea level
9 during the interim process of permitting and look at what might happen or be available going
10 forward in order to continue the flow of sand. Discussion ensued.

11
12 Mr. Leone responded that The Breakers modified the rock pile because the waves were crashing
13 over the seawall and the hotel lobby was shaking. The rock piles settled over time and the
14 modification only brought them back to where they were originally.

15
16 Coastal Program Manager Robert Weber commented that the structures have caused some
17 influence on the system and even Florida Department of Environmental Protection has
18 acknowledged that. The suggestion includes a modification to remove those structures and put in
19 new structures because they currently do have an influence on the down drift beaches.

20
21 Chair Ecclestone suggested to wait and see what happens as these meetings progress, however,
22 there is no question that the sand needs to get to the beach behind these structures.

23
24 Mr. Tom Warnke, of Surfrider Foundation of Palm Beach County has been working with The
25 Breakers group. He offered several observations and suggestions to help address the groins and
26 beach erosion and would like to be a part of the solution as a stakeholder.

27
28 Mr. Warnke noted the need to include a worst case scenario modeling to be factored into the
29 proposal. Another recommendation included pre-allotting funds for new structure removal incase
30 a project negatively affected the Town's beach conditions.

31
32 Mr. Brazil encouraged the group to include as many stakeholders as possible in the dialogue before
33 the permitting phase.

34
35 **VIII. CURRENT SHORELINE CONDITIONS**

36 *Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager*

37
38 Coastal Program Manager Robert Weber provided an update on the shoreline conditions. He noted
39 that it has been a mild winter with favorable weather.

40
41 Vice Chair Frank commented that the feeder beach program is working great. Even the challenging
42 south end of Reach 8 is showing significant improvements to the beach.

43
44 **IX. THE BREAKERS/CLARKE AVENUE BEACH UPDATE**

45 *Paul N. Leone, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Breakers Palm Beach*

46
47 The Breakers President Mr. Paul Leone gave a presentation and took comments afterward.

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1 Chair Ecclestone advised the Shore Protection Board to offer comments as follows.
2

3 Public Works Director Paul Brazil commented on The Breakers presentation by adding a
4 clarification that there is a regulatory constraint against putting sand offshore of The Breakers
5 property. The Breakers rock pile is an offshore resource and an environmentally valuable reef.
6

7 The Breakers President Paul Leone commented that there are alternatives to constraints such as
8 mitigation.
9

10 Mr. Brazil further clarified that the regulatory approach is avoidance, minimization, and mitigation,
11 which is the last possible alternative. The preferred alternative by regulatory agencies is to not
12 impact the resource.
13

14 Mr. Leone noted that the regulatory answer is not the final say. There are other alternatives that the
15 group can explore since this is a unique problem.
16

17 Mr. Brazil stated that other residents also feel that way regarding the north end of Reach 7, Sloan's
18 Curve and Reach 2; yet the Town still cannot get a permit for that either. He clarified that Mr.
19 Leone's presentation did not include the modification of the structures in front of The Breakers.
20 The regulatory agencies and consultants have looked at this issue and concluded that it is a
21 structural problem that needs a structural solution.
22

23 Mr. Leone mentioned that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection identified this
24 region as a '*hot spot*' in terms of erosion in the state of Florida. Continual placement of sand is
25 not going to solve the problem.
26

27 Mr. Brazil stated that the Town has placed sand and it worked. It did not solve the problem
28 immediately in front of The Breakers because the Town is not allowed to place sand at The
29 Breakers. The Breakers proposal includes the placement of an additional one million cubic yards
30 of sand.
31

32 Mr. Leone opined to Chair Ecclestone that an \$18 million project is an unsustainable plan for the
33 Town to spend on the sand every five to seven years or so. He does not think that the plan is
34 'working' or that it is sustainable.
35

36 Chair Ecclestone asked Mr. Leone if he thought the plan presented today was ready to be submitted
37 to the state and federal government.
38

39 Mr. Leone affirmed it is ready to file for permitting, however, the group wants the pre-approval of
40 the Town's Shore Protection Board and the Town Council if it goes to the next level, to share in
41 the funding of the project. The group has done three years of studying but they do not want to do
42 any more studying.
43

44 Discussion ensued between Chair Ecclestone and Mr. Leone and decided that The Breakers should
45 follow the advice of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and move forward with
46 the process and let the regulatory agencies give the final say.
47
48

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1 Mr. Leone emphasized that per Florida Department of Environmental Protection's request, his
2 group needs the support of the Shore Protection Board and Town Council in order to move forward
3 with the proposal's design. He said it is the Town's responsibility to protect the beaches and fund
4 them.

5
6 Board Member Johnson pointed out that the group agreed that structures were needed but the
7 details needed to be worked through. He noticed one historical fact difference; we have the
8 experience of beach re-nourishment years ago that did last, compared to the most recent one that
9 did not last. The only thing that changed is that The Breakers changed their plan.

10
11 Board Member Johnson asked The Breakers' consultants why other options were not selected when
12 they seemed more permittable and cost effective than trying to build new larger offshore structures.

13
14 Mr. Brett Moore, President of Humiston & Moore Engineers, responded that they chose the case
15 that best addressed the concerns raised by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
16 while achieving The Breakers/Lauders' goal and having the best chances to get permitted. They
17 chose the plan with the best chances of succeeding.

18
19 Board Member Gavigan asked if alternatives were so much less satisfactory such that they should
20 be discarded in favor of the one that Humiston & Moore Engineers proposed.

21
22 Mr. Mohammed Dabees, Vice President, Humiston & Moore Engineers, responded that the
23 alternatives were minor modifications to the existing structures. Florida Department of
24 Environmental Protection acknowledged that they needed new structures and wanted them to solve
25 the problem regionally. The approach was to regionally improve the conditions and be an
26 economically feasible project that improved the longevity of Mid-Town area.

27
28 Mr. Dabees noted that the 2003-2006 Mid-Town project received over 2 million cubic yards of
29 sand. He asked if the Town can afford to continue buying sand to replace it every 3-4 years.

30
31 Board Member Johnson asked to see the costs for the plans that have been put forward since the
32 board has not seen them.

33
34 Mr. Dabees responded that the cost-benefit analysis can be done in the permitting phase and show
35 the cost of washing away the sand versus keeping it.

36
37 Mr. Leone added that Mr. Dabees ran three different scenarios with estimates of \$8-10 million
38 dollars per project; not including the cost of the sand.

39
40 Mr. Brazil noted that Mr. Dabees' comments left out that 2003 had a serious impact from a series
41 of hurricanes.

42
43 Board Member Katz commented to The Breakers that it is commendable that they took three years
44 of their time to research this. It was a nice presentation validating that the Shore Protection Board
45 is spending a lot of money on sand. He asked Mr. Moore about the peer review and did they have
46 any comments about interruptions with sand flow. The two different scopes in peer reviews are
47 conflicting and there needs to be an overall study.

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1 Mr. Dabees and Mr. Moore responded that they did a cascade level of modeling by starting regional
2 and then to the specific location.

3
4 Mr. Katz noted that The Breakers is the first business organization in Town to actively participate
5 and that the Shore Protection Board is also for the commercial stakeholders; not just the residents.
6 He thanked them for contribution and for showing interest in the Town.

7
8 Vice Chair Frank responded to the presentation stating that we all love The Breakers. They are a
9 Palm Beach icon and a great asset to the Town of Palm Beach and we want to protect that asset.
10 The Shore Protection Board has been given the job, which will always costs money, to protect the
11 beaches here on this island. He proposes the group work together to find a solution and move
12 forward.

13
14 Vice Chair Frank commented that the Shore Protection Board's solution should be to bring
15 agencies in here and see what can get permitted based on current opinions. The group does not
16 have additional time for new lengthy studies. We should bring the two consulting groups together
17 and have them come up with a solution and help speed things up. Then, together we can get with
18 the permitting agencies and see what they say. Get all of the stakeholders involved and accelerate
19 a solution so that the agencies can make a decision. The longer we wait; the more money it is
20 costing because the beaches are eroding. We should solve this right now and get on the same page.
21 We should get the best out of both of these groups and get into the permitting process. We should
22 also find out the costs involved and share it with the Town Council.

23
24 Mr. Leone asked what would Applied Technology & Management suggest.

25
26 Mr. Brazil answered that Applied Technology & Management only evaluated the Humiston &
27 Moore Engineers report. Applied Technology & Management was not tasked to find a solution
28 and should not do that on the spot.

29
30 Mr. Leone agreed to spend some time together with Humiston & Moore Engineers and Applied
31 Technology & Management to find a compromised-solution.

32
33 Chair Ecclestone agreed.

34
35 Mr. Brazil added that permitting timing is dependent on other factors, not just the Florida
36 Department of Environmental Protection. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers need to issue a
37 permit as well.

38
39 **Motion was made by Board Member Katz, seconded by Board Member Baker, that the Town**
40 **of Palm Beach and The Breakers and both of their consultants will meet together and develop**
41 **an amicable plan to address their differences. The plan will include the timing and costs but**
42 **not include the permitting phase. The motion passed unanimously.**

43
44 **Motion was made by Board Member Katz, seconded by Board Member Johnson, for the**
45 **Town and The Breakers and their consultants meet to find a joint solution including the**
46 **appropriate scope and cost of the project and bring it directly to Town Council. The motion**
47 **carried unanimously. Vice Chair Frank confirmed that Mr. Leone of The Breakers agreed with the**
48 **motion.**

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1 Board Member Baker encouraged the Shore Protection Board to fast track this. He asked Chair
2 Ecclestone make a directive to make sure this gets processed quickly and that the group tackle any
3 issues that come up.

4
5 **XV. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

6 *H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works*

- 7
8
 - Thursday, April 27, 2017
 - FY 2018 Coastal Management Program Budget
 - Dune Planting Discussion
 - Innovative Technologies Discussion
 - Contracting Alternatives for Coastal Projects
 - Shore Protection Timeline
 - Sand Transfer Plant Condition & Potential Improvements

15
16 Chair Ecclestone noted that this is the largest turnout he has seen in 8 years. He advised that the
17 next Shore Protection Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

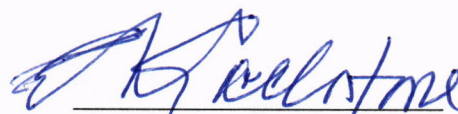
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19 **X. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

20
21 There were no other matters to discuss.

22
23 **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

24
25 **There being no further business, the March 23, 2017 Shore Protection Board meeting was**
26 **adjourned at 11:08 a.m.**

27
28 APPROVED:

29
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31
32 

33 E. Llwyd Ecclestone
34 Chairman