

6-2-15
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ADDED PHOTOS

DRAFT
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 8th Floor
April 27th, 2015 – 7:00 PM

MEMBERS	APPT BY	ATTENDANCE	Cumulative Attendance 1/2015 through 12/2015	
			PRESENT	ABSENT
1. Alena Alberani, Chair	II	P	3	1
2. Jason Liechty, Vice Chair	IV	P	4	0
3. Daniel Ayers	M	P	3	1
4. Lawrence Clark	I	P	2	0
5. Lance Cutrer	I	P	2	0
6. Jeffrey Huber	II	P	2	1
7. Jim Moyer	III	P	4	0
8. Chad Scott	II	P	2	1
9. Mate Thitisawat	C	P	3	1
10. Enrique Vadiveloo	IV	A	3	1
11. Cheryl Whitfield	III	P	3	1

Staff Present

Sustainability Division of Public Works

Gene Dempsey, Urban Forester

Melissa Doyle, Program Manager - Solid Waste & Recycling

Adrienne Ehle, Environmental Analyst, Interim Staff Liaison

Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability Division

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Call of Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Alberani at 7:00 pm, roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

Communication to the City Commission

The Sustainability Advisory Board recommends identifying one or more sections of beach where beach wrack, the organic material washed onto the beach by waves and wind, would not be removed.

The Board further recommends the installation of educational signage at any selected stretches explaining the importance of beach wrack, the threats to the beach posed by erosion and sea level rise, and the importance of dunes to coastal resilience.

Beach wrack is defined more fully as "organic material such as kelp and sea grass that is cast upon the beach by surf, tides, and wind. It marks the high tide line. The organic portions of wrack provide food and habitat to many species that inhabit the shoreline, including insects and birds. Wrack also provides an incubator to grasses and other plants which grow along the shoreline and help to anchor dune systems." (Source: www.beachapedia.org.)

Although often considered unsightly and removed as part of beach "grooming"—the current practice in Fort Lauderdale, where the collected organic material is composted—beach wrack is vital to the coastal dune system and beach ecology. Beach wrack serves as a seed source for beach vegetation, allowing dunes to form. Dunes protect beaches from erosion and thus buffer coastal cities against sea level rise. As Tropical Storm Sandy demonstrated, beach areas without dunes suffer more damage from erosion. Beach wrack plays a similarly integral role in the beach ecosystem, supplying food and protection for organisms. The wrack line is like a seafood buffet for migrating shorebirds, especially species with very long-distance migrations; they depend on it to feed. Florida is a critical geographic location for this feeding before or after birds cross the ocean during their migratory journey.

Numerous coastal municipalities are aware of the vital services provided by beach wrack and prohibit the removal of wrack lines, except under extreme circumstances. The Board therefore recommends that the City designate one or more stretches of beach from which beach wrack will not be removed, for the benefit of the coastal environment and as an educational measure for the public.

Respectfully submitted,
The Sustainability Advisory Board

Attachments

- I. **Beach Wrack Presentation** (SAB meeting 2/23/15): select slides showing examples of educational signage from: Santa Barbara, CA; San Onofre State Beach, CA; Sarasota County, FL.

Motion

Motion made by Mr. Liechty, seconded by Mr. Scott to advance the above Communication to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed 10-0.

Educational Signage - Santa Barbara, CA.



Photo by Wikimedia Commons user Dor

Educational Signage - San Onofre State Beach, CA



Photo: Mark Rausche

Share the Shore Signage - Sarasota County, Florida

