



**Beach Preservation Committee
Thursday, March 5, 2026, 9:00am
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Dietmar Ostermann, Wendi Pasterik, Alice Bova, John Schilling, Dan Slotchiver, Council Member Cohen

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester

2. Citizen's Comments -- none

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Slotchiver nominated Mr. Ostermann as Chair of the Beach Preservation Committee. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken with all in favor of Mr. Ostermann as Chair of the Beach Preservation Committee.

Mr. Schilling nominated Ms. Pasterik as Vice Chair of the Beach Preservation Committee. Mr. Slotchiver seconded the motion. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken with all in favor of Ms. Pasterick as Vice Chair of the Beach Preservation Committee.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes – February 5, 2026

As the minutes were mistakenly not included in the meeting packet, they will be voted on at the April meeting.

5. Old Business -- none

6. New Business

A. Discussion with Chris Creed, Foth/Olsen on alternatives analysis

Mr. Chris Creed and Mr. Zak Bedell reviewed the scope work for the alternatives analysis. Mr. Creed said the primary object of the analysis will be to identify the cost of the City's beach management program in the future, the annual financial requirement needed to maintain the program, and available options to preserve the health of the beach. A discussion of the benefits and costs of groin installation will also be included. An outline of the analysis should be ready in the next month, with the final deliverable available in a few months.

Mr. Creed said additional study and discussion about groin installation will most likely be needed upon the completion of the upcoming renourishment project. He said permitting could still take up to 18 months and would be complicated if the City tried to secure permits for both ends of the island simultaneously. Foth/Olsen will talk with the regulatory agencies about any issues the City might face securing permits and if there is a path for expediting the installation. If the City opts to install groins, he suggests they move quickly when the renourishment is finished.

Mr. Creed will also look at long and short-term erosion rates. He said that while the USACE beneficial use project provides free sand, he believes the City should not allow them carte blanche, nor does he believe their projects to be a long-term reliable sand source. When asked if more sand on the south end of the island would be a waste of money, Mr. Creed said “more sand is never a waste of money.”

B. Discussion with Stephen Traynum, CS&E on definition of minimum healthy beach

Mr. Traynum discussed a minimum healthy beach with the Committee. Committee members expressed concern that the current volumes defining a minimum healthy beach are not enough to protect properties. Mr. Slotchiver again expressed his concern about the City not putting enough sand down for the upcoming project causing more problems in the future.

The Committee also engaged in a lengthy discussion with Mr. Traynum about the baseline and house lines on the beach front and how they are used in the calculations of proposed sand volumes. Mr. Traynum said the parameters and sand volumes can be changed if that is the will of City Council.

Administrator Kerr reminded the Committee, “We are trying to cobble together money to do what we can do to make the structures safe, and the ends are not meeting currently...In this group’s tasks is to identify money sources. Get the money rolling in at the appropriate cadence so we have enough money, but otherwise, we are putting the cart before the horse if we say hey, we would like, we are planning to put 1.5 million cubic yards, we would like to put 40 million cubic yards. We clearly cannot afford that.”

Mr. Slotchiver said the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee had made financial recommendations to City Council, and none of them have been enacted. Administrator Kerr said to the Committee: “Until the money is coming in, we have a problem.”

Mr. Traynum added that what is happening at the south end of the island is extremely dynamic and believes groins could help protect the area.

Mr. Traynum explained, “The way the project is formulated is the first step is to get everybody to the minimum healthy volume. So the area along Beachwood and the south end would get at least to 380 yards per foot. Then on top of that, when you add in the advanced fill that would be an amount of sand that would cover 8 years’ worth of erosion rates that we have seen over the past

several years. So by the end of 8 years, again, on paper you are getting back to that minimum healthy volume, and we are never getting beyond that again.”

Ms. Pasterik expressed concern about the negative social media related to the beach and how it could hurt tourism.

Mr. Ostermann said the sentiment of the Committee is that “we should not treat all of Isle of Palms the same. That the situation we have at Beachwood East is not desirable and so we do not want the south end getting into the same position. But, at the same time, it is not realistic to reestablish the situation at Beachwood East or the Ocean Club to the levels that would be desirable. So therefore, I think it would be best to apply these rules of a minimum healthy beach in the effected areas on the north end from the structure, whereas in the south end, we are defining it from the dune baseline.”

Mr. Traynum responded, “We can do that, but I will just say that you are basing that condition off of a line in the sand that was determined by BCM off of a condition that existed 10 years ago. So it is very easy to do these numbers, but if you try to maintain a wider system there that is just going to involved, and I am not saying it is a bad thing at all, it is just a bigger project, a bigger effort to maintain that.”

Ms. Pasterik would like the plan put in easy-to-understand language for the public. She asked for several of Mr. Traynum’s assumptions and rationales behind the assumptions. She would like the applied erosion rate for the next 8 years, the rationale for that rate, if there are any potential shoal attachment and how it factors into the renourishment as well as any erosion predicted from the USACE beneficial use project.

Mr. Traynum said most of those answers can be read in a document he sent to Administrator Kerr late Wednesday, which will be sent to Committee members.

Mr. Traynum suggested waiting until the bids came back to see if there is money to place more sand.

Mr. Ostermann suggested another meeting to review the bids. Administrator Kerr said that while City Council welcomes their feedback, plans for the upcoming project are well underway.

Ms. Pasterik suggested the City get a peer review of the upcoming project. Mr. Schilling believes the definition of a minimum healthy beach is flawed.

8. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Committee will be on Monday, March 23, at 1pm to discuss the beach monitoring report, to review the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee’s financial recommendations, to finalize their recommendations of a minimum healthy beach, and to review the bids.

Ms. Pasterik made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Ostermann seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk