

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
May 16, 2007

Mayor Denham called the meeting to order at 9:05 a. m.

Vice Mayor Johnston gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Member present: Mayor Denham, Vice Mayor Johnston, Councilman Jennings, Councilman Pappas, and Councilman Ruane.

Goal Setting

Mayor Denham spoke to each Councilmember choosing three goals for the coming Fiscal Year.

Councilman Pappas arrived at 9:09.

Report on status of City Council's 2006-2007 Goals

Review Previous Years' Goals

Report on status of City Council's 2006-2007 Goals

Report on status of Department 2006-2007 Goals

Review of Other Source Documents

Ms. Zimomra spoke to the following:

- The process and each Councilmember submitting their individual goals to City staff.
- Consensus of goals submitted
- Matrix prepared of goals submitted
- Directors present to answer questions
- Each councilmember received a goal status report from each director prior to the meeting
- Algae and water issues were top priority from each Councilman Reviewed this item as shown on matrix including issues listed under main topic.

Discussion ensued regarding the matrix in the agenda packet, move financial issues relating to algae to financial area, and Ms. Zimomra stated that the goals would be brought back on the June 5th Council meeting agenda for adoption.

Public Comment:

Judy Minchie spoke to the inclusion of removing red drift algae from beaches

Council agreed.

Hazel Schuller opposed to clean-up by mechanical means. She agreed with raking the beach.

The approved Council goal was as follows:

Establishing & Prioritizing Goals FY 2007-2008

AGGRESSIVELY CONTINUE EFFORTS THROUGH EDUCATION, POLITICAL & LEGAL METHODS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY—FEDERAL/STATE/REGIONAL/LOCAL

Stay intimately involved with all organizations and political forces to minimize Lake Okeechobee releases including:

- Release Schedule
- Water Quality C-43
- CERP Projects
- Additional Storage
- Restore water flow south to Everglades

Reduce urban development nutrient releases into Caloosahatchee River by

- Accelerate establishment TMDL's for Lake Okeechobee, the Rivers, and Estuary

- Implement programs to reduce urban nutrient pollution to our waterways including releases on-island such as removing package plants
- Investigate strategies to remove excess nutrient releases from golf courses
- Fertilizer, Wastewater, Septic Systems, and Stormwater Runoff in collaboration with the six counties of SW Florida
- Implement strategies to reduce nutrient releases from Sanibel Sewage Treatment Facility

Develop an Algae Management Plan by October 1, 2007

- The plan will begin to remove red drift algae from our waters and beaches, preventing regeneration of red drift algae that leaves deposits on beaches prior to such deposits occurring. The Plan will utilize environmentally safe techniques including evaluation of water harvesting to remove accumulations at edge of water and beach.

Explore methods to secure the necessary funding that will fund the plan to eliminate red drift algae from our waters and beaches.

Council agreed.

Ms. Zimomra spoke to the next goal of re-development as follows:

- Vision to develop the commercial area (Dunlop Road, Periwinkle Way)
- Develop a redevelopment policy for nonconforming properties both residential and commercial to become a conforming property that would not decrease value

Discussion ensued regarding mixed use architecture insert a comma, change sentence regarding redevelopment policy and nonconforming properties, and Council may want to move to a higher priority.

Public Comment

Louise Johnson spoke to her concern of the last part of the redevelopment policy, the last sentence may result in residents losing density.

Discussion ensued regarding policy may need further review, bottom part of paragraph would be deleted, Council may review further, and Council trying to establish a framework or guideline for property renovation.

Darla Letourneau suggested the Carrying Capacity be addressed as well as the Causeway Issue and Shared Use Master Plan.

Hazel Schuller – Read page 235 of the new Sanibel Plan. She stated that the carrying capacity needs to be prioritized before redevelopment.

Discussion ensued regarding the redevelopment of hotels and motels doesn't mean there will be increased density, questions from residents, need to eliminate last paragraph, only had certain number of units determined for the island, and beaches over utilized.

Ms. Zimomra reviewed the changes to the 2nd goal redevelopment with Council as follows.

CONTINUE REDEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Plan for the commercial district of Dunlop Road to Palm Ridge Road and Tarpon Bay Road area by:

- Developing a vision for the central Commercial District of the Island. The vision will include concepts and philosophies compatible with Sanibel's unique character of the island and include mixed-use, island-compatible architecture, bicycle and pedestrian friendly area, restaurants with outside dining, local serving commercial and retail use enterprises and provision of lower cost workforce housing and serve as the framework for future development proposals.

Develop a redevelopment policy for all non-conforming properties by:

- Establishing a redevelopment policy for non-conforming properties, both residential and commercial, that will allow the owners to develop and/or become a conforming property.

Council agreed to the changes.

Ms. Zimomra reviewed the 3rd goal - Protect the environment by Carrying Capacity.
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Discussion ensued regarding how to control or restrict, central to keeping the Island the way it should be, suggested an additional paragraph regarding research, and enforcement options for number three.

Public Comment

Darla Letourneau spoke to the importance to have carrying capacity information.

David Bath spoke to his agreement of carrying capacity being a goal and the need to develop possibilities.

Judie Minchie spoke to population growth since 1960.

Ms. Zimomra reviewed the changes to the 3rd goal – Carrying Capacity as follows:

PROTECT ENVIRONMENT BY IDENTIFYING CARRYING CAPACITY

Protect Environment by Identifying Carrying Capacity by:

- Determining methods to identify island (beach, road, shared-use path, natural preserve) carrying capacity in order to develop viable methods to enable visitors and residents to enjoy the island while protecting the environment that is the base for our economy.
- Completing research cataloging the best practice strategies being implemented globally to protect carrying capacity of facilities and mitigate congestion.
- Evaluate the options for enforcement of strategies to mitigate congestion and prepare a strategy of legal options to pursue.

Ms. Zimomra reviewed the last two goals:

- Broadcast the City Council meetings via Internet.
- Financial - Budget issues for algae and this would be discussed during the budget process

Public Comment

David Bath spoke to safety issues on the Shared Use Paths and guidance to department directors to hold and/or reduce employees.

Ms. Zimomra stated that staff brings suggestions for reductions in budget and ways to increase revenues every year. She also stated that directors were asked to reduce their budgets with no additional employees.

Darla Letourneau spoke to the important of public input and the Shared Use Path should be ranked higher.

Discussion ensued regarding listed priorities from left to right, other priorities handled by different departments, water must carry number 1 priority, emergencies should take first priority, easier for Council to talk with City Manager and staff when there are priorities, priority list is important, Council decided that water was the number 1 priority, most important issue is the beaches, proposed tax legislation would change municipal revenue stream and nonresidents would be hit hardest, 9000 units on Sanibel, beaches would never be utilized less, and traffic would not decrease in the future.

Ms. Zimomra stated that staff would revise the stated goals for Council's review and approval at the June 5th City Council meeting.

Councilman Ruane made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jennings to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a. m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Beck
Recording Secretary