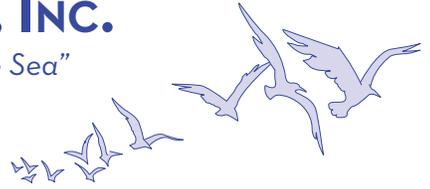


BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

Dedicated to the Preservation and Enhancement of "Our Village by the Sea"

455 NE 5th Ave., #D-272 | Delray Beach, FL 33483
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MID-TERM NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

We congratulate the City Commission on addressing the need to upgrade various infrastructure items to prevent continuing damage related to problems of flooding throughout the city. Flooding caused by seasonal high tides and storm activity are becoming more prevalent along with increasing sea level rise. A consultant hired by the City Commission has provided a report including recommendations to accomplish a long-term flood protection plan. This newsletter will

provide you with our response and support of this forward thinking and add updates on the Beach Master Plan Phase 2 and the current A1A street light problem.



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Long-Term Flooding Prevention

The Beach Property Owners' Association has been paying close attention to the increasing frequency and disruption caused by seasonal high tides in the streets close to the Intracoastal Waterway. These flooding conditions occur even during periods without any storm activity. A moderate storm surge during a King



Tide event would convert mere nuisance street flooding into real and significant damage to infrastructure and beach area homes. The increasing rate of sea level rise will only make these serious problems worse in the coming decades.

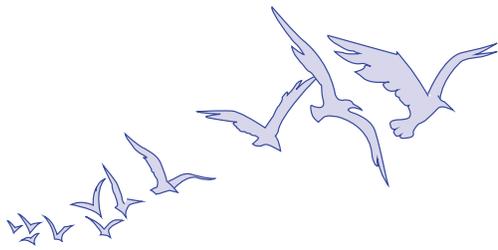
We have worked to keep beach area residents informed on flooding concerns through numerous membership meetings addressing new flood zone maps, the flood insurance program, and the importance of the beach sand renourishment and dunes management for protection of upland properties. We have also stressed these topics in special newsletters. The City of Delray Beach is beginning to address these issues and has recently hired outside consultants to examine what actions and costs are involved in preventing flooding some 30 years into the future, and taking into account the expected sea level rise during that period.

The BPOA Board of Trustees has recently sent a letter to the City Commission making certain recommendations. We share a condensed version of that letter on page 2...

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To the City Commission of Delray Beach -

The BPOA has been tracking flooding problems on the barrier island and in the rest of Delray Beach for many years. Several of our Board of Trustees members were in attendance at your 2/12/2019 Workshop meeting which presented these problems clearly and presented potential long-term solutions. As you were, we were also stunned at the costs involved (\$378 million) to prevent flooding in strong storm conditions 30 years from now, with the projected sea level rise expected over that time. We have several comments and suggestions regarding these critical issues for the long term sustainability of Delray Beach.

We would highly recommend that the report be presented once again in a longer and broader forum than the 30 minutes allocated at the Workshop. A single-topic forum would be best given the criticality of these issues to the long term health of Delray Beach.

We believe the report is sound in its fundamental assumptions and analysis. The Rising Waters Task Force report of two years ago reached similar conclusions and made generally similar recommendations. Basically, the city must continue and accelerate its program of placing one-way backflow valves in outflow pipes to prevent salt water from flooding streets during high tides in the Intracoastal Waterway.

This is a currently existing problem which occurs several times each year even in non-storm conditions. Current levels of storms, and future sea level rise, greatly increase these flooding problems. Stormwater pumps need to be repaired and their capacity increased to prevent flooding in various city neighborhoods both near water and further inland.

The necessary and next step concerns the missing or aging seawalls throughout the Waterway in Delray Beach, both public and private. A long term program of raising all these walls must be initiated and funded. The city has taken the first step of "leading by example" at Veterans Park by replacing the aging seawall with a higher seawall and built sufficiently strong at its base to allow further raising by adding a higher seawall cap in the future.

Now for some specific comments regarding the analysis performed for the city by APTIM and ADA Engineering. Their cost estimates are very much driven by the stated requirement of essentially zero flooding due to strong storms 30 years into the future. This may be a specified Level Of Service which cannot be realistically achieved with the fiscal constraints of a city of our size. Some temporary nuisance flooding during rare storms on low-lying streets must be tolerated in any long-term resiliency plan. Although street flooding of up to 6 inches may make a road unsafe for regular automobile driving, and may temporarily strand homeowners, it is not in itself a life endangering catastrophic event. Real damage to property and infrastructure, and a safety threat, probably occurs at street flooding levels above 12-18 inches. We recommend that cost models be evaluated at different levels of tolerated flooding; using 3, 6, 9, and 12 inches of street flooding.

In summary, we recommend that the City Commission devote more time hearing and analyzing this report, continue with its backflow valve installation and pump program, develop increased seawall height regulations, establish a realistic Level of Service goal for the future, and begin to define the long term funding mechanisms. Without a clear-eyed and realistic plan, the future of Delray Beach three decades from now would be placed at great risk.

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PHASE 2 - IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BEACH PROMENADE

This summer the City will implement the finishing touches to the recently rebuilt beach sidewalk area. Pedestrian lights, upgraded crosswalks, and dune foot traffic barriers will be implemented.

Pedestrian lights will be installed along the length of the promenade to enhance nighttime visibility and safety. Approximately every 50 feet, a 10 foot high light pole and fixture will be installed along the grassy area immediately adjacent to the east sidewalk. The lights themselves will be turtle friendly. The bulbs will be amber in hue and shades will be incorporated that will shield three-quarters (270 degrees) of the light from the ocean side and be directed onto the walk itself.

All of the crosswalks between the west side of A1A and the promenade will be repaved and restriped to increase visibility and aid driver recognition. These crosswalks will be to the latest DOT standards and will be identical to those being upgraded at the Atlantic crossings at A1A, Gleason Street and Venetian Drive.

New post and rope “dune deterrents” (see photo) will replace the existing hurricane fencing that discourages foot traffic onto the dunes from the promenade. The post and rope replacements are designed to be more attractive, allow better visibility into the dunes, and be easier to maintain. These foot traffic deterrents also will be installed along the pathways from the sidewalk, through the dunes, and onto the sand area of the beach.



Example of Post and Rope Deterrent. Courtesy EDSA

Additional improvements will include replacement of the benches in the pavilion and installation of some 20 additional bike racks.

The work on Phase 2 is expected to begin in May and be completed in October of 2019.

A1A STREET LIGHTS

You may have noticed that A1A along the beach is especially dark at night. The reason is it is turtle season and FPL has turned off their white street lights. While the darkness is good for the turtles, it is dangerous for pedestrians. The BPOA board has been actively engaged with the City Commission and the City Manager over the last few months to find a suitable solution.

Missie Barletto, Assistant Public Works Director, has communicated to the B.P.O.A. board that the City of Delray Beach is currently working with Florida Power & Light (FPL) to have seven of the white streetlights on A1A in the commercial area changed to turtle-friendly red lights during sea turtle nesting season. The white lights are turned off during nesting season, March 1 through October 31, in order to prevent nesting sea turtles and, later in the season, their hatchlings from becoming disoriented and turning away from the ocean when it is time to go into the water.

FPL informed us that they do not have red lights in stock and need to obtain them from the light manufacturer. FPL is communicating with the light manufacturer and a schedule has not been determined. FPL believes the light manufacturer will need to fabricate the lights and it may be several weeks before they are ready to install. FPL has expressed eagerness to work with the City and install them as soon as possible.

The amber streetlights that were originally along Ocean Boulevard in Delray Beach belonged to the City. Florida Power & Light required the City to remove its equipment from the FPL owned poles and this was done a couple of months ago. The only turtle-friendly streetlight that FPL has approved currently is a light that is more red than amber. FPL is working with the Florida Freshwater Fish and Conservation Commission (FWC), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to get a permit for a new amber light offering, but there is not an available timeframe for when this will become available.