



Meeting Minutes Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, January 10, 2022

3:00 PM

Council Chambers

[22-5383](#)

Sale, Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at the Public Beaches

Assistant City Manager Clinch introduced the subject of the sale, possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages at the public beaches, stating the City has historically prohibited the practice except for special events and the Brohard Park leasehold for the Venice Pier Group (Sharky's and Fins Restaurants), but recently the concessionaires at two other City of Venice beach properties, the South Jetty and Venice Beach, have requested they be permitted to sell beer and wine to customers. He described research and discussion that has taken place among the City Attorney, City Manager, Police, Parks staff, and Solid Waste staff, which also included consideration that neighboring jurisdictions allow for sale and consumption of alcohol at their public beach parks.

Chris Johnson of Jetty Jacks LLC, the concessionaire at the South Jetty, presented his request to allow him to serve beer and wine, and he produced a multi-page document that he stated contains signatures from customers requesting the ability to purchase and consume beer and wine at the South Jetty.

Bryan Bloomquist with The Pilot House, concessionaire at Venice Beach, presented his request to allow him to serve beer and wine to customers.

Justin Bloomquist also with The Pilot House requested permission to sell beer and wine at Venice Beach and described his operation at Nokomis Beach, Sharktooth Concessions, where under agreement with Sarasota County he is permitted to sell beer and wine.

Robert Arrighi with Jetty Villas Association spoke in opposition to any change, stating that where he lives adjacent to the South Jetty he is often confronted with intoxicated individuals trespassing and playing loud music, and he is concerned that changing the current prohibition against alcohol will make the situation worse.

Stan Chmielewski, also a resident of Jetty Villas, presented his concern that alcohol consumption at the South Jetty may lead to slip and fall accidents among the large rocks as well as cause additional litter that will

negatively impact the cleanliness and appearance of the area.

Venice Police Chief Charlie Thorpe answered questions from board members regarding the current demands on police relating to consumption of alcohol at the beach parks. Chief Thorpe stated the current ordinance is a tool that enables police to address troublesome behavior by intoxicated individuals that occasionally occurs and usually involves short-term visitors.

Mr. Jalwan described concession operations at Sarasota County beach parks where the sale of beer and wine is permitted and expressed that concessionaires have developed good relations with law enforcement, and he has had no issues or disturbances related to the sale of beer and wine by concessionaires during the six years that he has been in his role with the County.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkenson, seconded by Mr. Hinshaw, recommending approval for a change to the ordinance prohibiting the sale, possession and consumption of alcohol within City beach parks that allows concessionaires to sell beer and wine during daylight hours with appropriate training and oversight. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Mr. Effron, Mr. Hinshaw, Mr. Wilkenson and Mr. Patel

No: 2 - Ms. Kargas and Mr. Blaser

Absent: 2 - Ms. Roberts and Mr. Auxier