

KEY NOTES

NEWS FROM
THE PERDIDO KEY ASSOCIATION



March 2022

2022 PKA Annual Membership Meeting

The Perdido Key Association held its Annual Membership Meeting on February 19, 2022 at the Eden Condominium. Guest speaker Tim Day, Escambia County's Senior Natural Resources Manager, covered a variety of issues affecting Perdido Key including County efforts to acquire additional public beachfront parking and access, completion of Beach Access #4, resurfacing Beach Access' #2 & 3 parking areas and the status of the Perdido Key Master Plan. He noted construction of the roundabout at the Perdido Key Drive/Johnson Beach Road intersection was on track for completion by the beginning of tourist season, but the east portion of the Perdido Key Multi-Use Path might be delayed pending RESTORE funding approval by the US Treasury. He discussed the Perdido Key beach mouse and how the Perdido Key Habitat Conservation Plan balanced environmental protection with reduced time for construction permit approval. He also fielded questions from attendees including concerns about Perdido Key's shift from District 2 to District 1. Mr. Day's presentation was exceptionally informative and much appreciated – his PowerPoint slides will be available on the PKA website.

PKA President Charles Krupnick then discussed PKA activities during 2021 including membership and survey initiatives, PKA participation in World Oceans Day activities and International Coastal Cleanup Day at Perdido Key State Park. He noted progress toward creation of "Preservation Park" with the installed solar windmill and Coastal Demonstration Garden along the Perdido Key Multi-Use Path, but also concern for golf cart use on the Path. With the installation of concrete utility poles, he still hoped for progress toward underground utilities on Perdido Key. Charles was concerned over the lack of damage repair progress from Hurricane Sally at Perdido Key State Park and Gulf Islands National Seashore (Johnson Beach) adding to challenges for beach parking and access in the coming tourist season. About thirty people attended the meeting in person and a similar number on YouTube.

March 4 Commissioner Bergosh at Hub Stacey's and Beach Access #4 Dedication

District 1 Commissioner Bergosh will be guest speaker at the Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce's Breakfast Briefing at Hub Stacey's on Friday, March 4, 2022. The meeting will

begin at 7:30 AM and the Commissioner's presentation at 8:00 AM. Following his briefing, Beach Access #4 (next to the Crab Trap Restaurant) will have its Grand Opening at 9:30 AM. The new beach access location will have 35 parking spaces and Mobi-Mat beach access as well as protected wildlife areas.

Will Cigarettes to be Banned from Florida Beaches?

According to recent reporting by *News4JAX*, "Florida lawmakers are the closest they've been to passing a ban on smoking at beaches and parks." The legislation would allow local governments to ban smoking on beaches under their control. With the plastic in filtered cigarettes a significant environmental hazard, cigars would not be banned because they are unfiltered. For more on the issue, see the February 25, 2022 *New4JAX* article "Florida lawmakers make progress on bill banning beach smoking" by Aaron Farrar at <https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2022/02/25/florida-lawmakers-make-progress-on-bill-banning-beach-smoking/>.

Pensacola Bay Bridge Completion by Fall 2022

The westbound second span of the new Pensacola Bay Bridge should be completed by late summer or early fall 2022. This is later than previous estimates apparently because of adverse weather conditions and priority given to restoring the eastbound span following damage during Hurricane Sally. For more on the issue, see the February 3, 2022 *Pensacola News Journal* article "FDOT: Pensacola Bay Bridge set for completion in early fall. Here's what's left to finish" by Emma Kennedy at <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/traffic/2022/02/03/pensacola-bay-bridge-to-be-completed-summer-or-early-fall/9304905002/>.

Galvez Landing Closures

The Galvez Landing parking lot and boat ramp will experience periodic closures between February 28 and March 11, 2022 while the parking area is resurfaced and restriped. Drawn from Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce February 14, 2022 "Weekly Update."

Infrastructure Roadmap

In early-February 2022, President Biden and his Administration presented a 461 page guide to help states and local governments access the nearly \$1 trillion authorized by the new federal infrastructure bill. With many US roads, bridges, water systems and other infrastructure in need of repair, according to Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson states wanted flexibility in their infrastructure investments – the guidebook will hopefully help. For more on the issue, see the January 31, 2022 *US News and World Report* article "Biden issues infrastructure 'roadmap' to help spend \$1 T" by *Associate Press* writer Josh Boak at https://www.wfmz.com/news/us/biden-issues-infrastructure-roadmap-to-help-spend-1t/article_8f7c44b0-82c0-11ec-984e-af558a71d26b.html.

Quick Notes on the Environment

Florida Panther Protected Status could Change – With new genetic technology, environmental groups are concerned US officials may change the Florida panther's category under the Endangered Species Act. The panther is currently considered a distinct subspecies of the cougar or mountain lion, but analysis could change its taxonomy and whether the panther will

continue as endangered, threatened, or delisted. For more on the issue, see the February 9, 2022 *Fort Myers News-Press* article “Panther status, taxonomy may change” by Chad Gillis. *What’s Up with Whales?* – February 20, 2022 was World Whale Day and the Ocean Conservancy listed concerns about whales and climate change, including melting polar ice means less krill for blue whales and other species, changing conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence have led to fewer herring for humpback whales, and ocean acidification can affect how whales communicate with each other. Drawn from February 20, 2022 e-mail by Anna-Marie Laura, Ocean Conservancy Director, Climate Policy.

National “Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW)” – During NISAW, sponsors hope to raise awareness about the threat of invasive species and how to prevent their spread. Experts will gather in Washington DC between February 28 and March 4, 2022 to inform officials “about prevention and management priorities.” Locally IFAS/UFL Sea Grant is providing online information about invasive species, beginning with the following link:

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/escambiaco/2022/02/28/national-invasive-species-awareness-week-nisaw-why-be-concerned/>. For “NISAW 101: National Invasive Species Awareness Week 2022” go to <https://www.nisaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/NISAW-Overview-2022.pdf>.

March Calendar

March 02 – Old Christ Church Chamber Music Concert in Pensacola

March 02-07 – Sun Belt Basketball Championship Games at Pensacola Bay Center

March 03,04,05,06 – Dog Shows at Escambia County Equestrian Center

March 04 – Commissioner Bergosh at Hub Stacey’s and Beach Access #4 Grand Opening

March 04,11,18,25 – Guided Pier Walk at Gulf State Park Pier

March 08 – “Finding Focus on the Labyrinth” at UWF Student Commons Auditorium (Bldg. 22)

March 11,12, 25,26,27,31 – Pensacola Ice Flyers at Pensacola Bay Center

March 16 – “Anastasia The Broadway Musical” at Saenger Theatre Pensacola

March 18-20 – The Wharf Boat & Yacht Show

March 19 – Gulf Coast Mustang & Mega Car Show at OWA

March 25 – Ciclovia Pensacola (major streets closed to motorized traffic)

March 26 – Art on the Wild Side at the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo (fundraiser)

March 27 – Perdido Key Craft and Food Truck Fest at 2020 Bauer Road (Sports Complex)

March 30 – “Hairspray The Broadway Musical” at Saenger Theatre Pensacola

March 31 – Easter Egg Hunt at the Flora-Bama

The following websites provide additional information about events taking place in our great Gulf Coast region:

<https://www.visitpensacola.com/>

<http://mygulfcoastchamber.com/>

<http://www.visitperdido.com/>

<http://mulletwrapper.net/>

<https://myescambia.com/>

<http://www.emeraldcoastfl.com//>

<http://alabama.travel/festivals-and-events>

Perdido Key Association Board of Directors