

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

MEETING DATE: December 5, 2011

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 6.d.

SUBJECT: Beach Walkways Discussion

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The extension of public walkways (cross-overs) is necessary to preserve the existing frontal dune system and to allow the frontal dune system to continue to develop both in height and width. The frontal dune system is the first line of protection from the ocean. The following walkways will be extended due to the frontal dune having built up over the walkway and out farther toward the ocean: 2d Street, 4th St., 5th St., 6th St., 9th St., 11th St., 12th St., and 1302 walkway.

Where possible, we would like to cross the dunes with the use of ramps instead of steps. The construction of the ramps is marginally less expensive than to construct steps and allows for ease of access for strollers, wagons, and bicycles. However, the use of ramps versus steps will have to be a site-specific determination. In some areas the use of steps is necessary to traverse dune systems in areas over the length of the walkway where the use of a ramp would result in sections of the walkway being elevated to 6 to 8 feet above the dune grade below (which would result in a higher and more dangerous walkway). Also, where the ramp style of construction is possible it would elevate the walkways above the dune and vegetation system in such a way the walkways would be very visible from the decks of the oceanfront homes. There are some situations where this is unavoidable, but the sections seen above the dune system will be reduced by the use of steps.

If existing decking is changed out to Trex decking the price per linear foot would be based on the price of the Trex (ie \$30 per linear foot). There is also an added expense of the addition of joists as needed in order to give support to the thinner decking. In addition, it would be likely that all of the joists will have to be replaced after removing the existing deck boards. A 5 foot wide walkway would require 5 joists. The total expense would be \$35.03 per linear foot combined decking and joists.

Installing pickets would be an expense of \$6.86 per linear foot.

The cost of doing the cross-over section of all 8 walkways with wood decking and pickets is \$30,295 for materials. The cost of doing them with Trex and pickets is \$48,597, again for materials and not counting labor. If you want to add the pickets in the remaining lengths of those walkways in that first option (let's call it option B), that would add \$6,776 to the \$30,295 and come to \$37,071. If you add Trex and pickets to the remaining lengths of option A the total cost would be \$127,394. So, Trex and pickets would be \$127,394 versus treated wood and pickets at \$37,071. Randy says Trex is hotter to walk on. You don't have to install pickets at 2d through 6th Streets because the decking is so low that there are no rails on those walkways.

If we do a test walkway with the Geodeck material at the Gazebo, it would cost approximately \$34,300 for materials only (\$49,300 if we use the preferred commercial boards). Dustin has had discussions with product sales people and installers, and does not want to do the installation as it would take too much time from other public works duties. Public works will do the 8 cross-overs however and the 3d Street HC walkway. See attached cost breakdown. If we did all 12,500 LF of the beach accesses with Geodeck it would cost about \$2 million for materials only.

See the attached spread sheet for prices of construction on various options for the cross-overs.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS OR COMMENTS:

TOWN ADM: (x) DEPT. HEAD ()

Attachments: (X) Yes () No