



2018 Beach Code Revision Recommendations

The Beach Code Enforcement Department has completed the 2018 beach code revision recommendation information gathering process and submits to the Walton County Board of County Commissioners the following beach related municipal code sections for review and consideration. The information gathering process includes a post season beach vendor public workshop, a public workshop for beach management, a Destination Improvement Committee meeting, a Beach Management Committee meeting, a Tourist Development Council meeting, and individual Commissioner meetings. The information gathered from these various public workshops, advisory committees, and Commissioner meetings is condensed into lists of items/sections and associated revision recommendations that reflect the input received. Additionally, the list associated with the Beach Management Committee, Destination Improvement Committee, and Tourist Development Council includes the considerations and action taken by the advisory committees. Outlined below is the condensed version of the items/sections that were discussed at the different meetings.

Post Season Beach Vending Workshop

Beach Code Enforcement dept. conducted a post season beach activities workshop to discuss the 2018 beach activities season and receive input on how the beach activities code and enforcement practices could be improved. The public workshop was held on Sept 20, 2018 and had reasonable attendance by beach vendors, HOA/COA representatives, and concerned citizens. Topics of discussion included:

1. Vendor use of public beaches.
 - a. Ghost sets
 - b. Storage at the toe of the dune
 - c. Vendor attitude and interaction with beach visitors
 - d. Managed vendor program
2. Vendor zones associated with Regional Beach Accesses
 - a. Size and location
 - b. Vendor zone violations
3. The Vendor Zones associated with Neighborhood Beach Accesses
 - a. Conflict with upland property written authorization
 - i. Removal of vendor zones or moving of vendor zones
 - ii. Blanket no vending notice property owners upland of vendor zones



- iii. Upland property owner that wants vending but no vendor zone
- b. Storage of vendor beach equipment at the toe of the dune
 - i. Conflict w/ LNT
 - ii. Verification of being rented the next day
- 4. Early set up of beach equipment
 - a. Vendor vs public – consistent enforcement
 - b. SWTW turtle monitoring text program
 - c. Understanding established SOP
- 5. Garbage collection
 - a. Enforce vendor requirement for trash pick up
 - b. Provide more garbage collection stations on beach
- 6. UAS's
 - a. Allow on beach by permitted vendors
 - b. Allow on beach by annual permit

Public Workshop for Beach Management

Beach Code Enforcement dept. conducted a public workshop to discuss the 2018 beach activities season and receive input on how the Walton County beaches are managed. The public workshop was held on Sept 25, 2018 and had good attendance by beach vendors, HOA/COA representatives, and concerned citizens. Topics of discussion included:

- 1. Dogs
 - a. Allowable times – same all year vs. change for CDST and CST
 - b. Ban dogs
 - c. Issue citations
 - d. Revoke permits for permit abuse (transfer to rentor)
- 2. Vendor use of public beaches.
 - a. Ghost sets
 - b. Storage at the toe of the dune
 - c. Managed vendor program
 - d. Co-op vendor program on public beaches
 - e. Ban vendors from public beaches
 - f. Restrict vendor start time to 9am



3. The Vendor Zones associated with Neighborhood Beach Accesses
 - a. Conflict with upland property written authorization
 - i. Removal of vendor zones or moving of vendor zones
 - ii. Blanket no vending notice property owners upland of vendor zones
 - iii. Upland property owner that wants vending but no vendor zone
 - b. Storage of vendor beach equipment at the toe of the dune
 - i. Conflict w/ LNT
 - ii. Verification of being rented the next day
 - iii. Proximity to Coastal Dune Lake outfalls
4. Section 22-60(d)(8) – Upland property authorization
 - a. Not applicable to beaches that do not have an ECL
 - b. Abolish and add more vendor zones
 - c. Keep as same, but remove vendor zones and allow vending on any section of public beach with upland property owner authorization
5. Early set up of beach equipment
 - a. Vendor vs public – consistent enforcement
 - b. SWTW turtle monitoring text program
 - c. Understanding established SOP
6. UAS's (drone) restrictions
 - a. Allow UAS's use by permitted vendors
 - b. Allow UAS's use by annual permit
7. Tents
 - a. Ban tents on all public beaches
 - b. Ban tents universally
 - c. Allow by annual permit

Beach Management Committee, Destination Improvement Committee, and Tourist Development Council recommendations

The Beach Management Committee and Destination Improvement Committee are two advisory committees to the Tourist Development Council. Beach Management is tasked with analyzing and offering recommendations on how Beach Operations manages the beach related programs. The Destination Committee is tasked with offering



recommendations on how to improve the beach related amenities. Both committees are asked to review the beach activities code, understand the dynamics of beach activities and offer suggested revisions to the existing code that would improve the code in regards to user understanding and code officer enforcement ability. The committee meetings are open to the public and used to gather public input along with committee input. Code revision suggestions from both meetings included:

1. Section 22-31 – Horses, dogs on beach
 - a. 22-31(b)(2) Annual permit – Add prohibition for transferring permit to person(s) not able to receive permit with penalty of permit revocation for 1 year (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Destination Improvement Committee) (This item discussed by the Destination Improvement Committee only) (Approved by the TDC)
 - b. 22-31(b)(2) Allowable times – Change allowable time for dogs on the beach to 3:30 pm to 8:30am (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Beach Management Committee and Destination Improvement Committee)(Approved by the TDC) (Approved by the TDC)
2. Section 22-54 – General use of beach
 - a. 22-54(b)(5) Fire permits - Strike verbiage “24 hr permit (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Beach Management Committee and Destination Improvement Committee) (Approved by the TDC)
 - b. 22-54(g) – Personal Property on the beach - Prohibit unattended equipment (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Destination Improvement Committee) (Tabled by TDC pending additional information on enforceability)
 - c. 22-54(r) – Personal property on the beach – 15’ clear corridor at water’s edge – Change restriction to include all of the beach (public and private) (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Beach Management Committee and Destination Improvement Committee) (Tabled by the TDC pending legal counsel determination if within county jurisdiction/right to regulate) (Item generated a lot of discussion and input by TDC members and citizens in attendance)
 - d. 22-54(p) – Holes – Restrict leaving holes on the beach, suggested max size 2’x2’x1’ (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Destination Improvement Committee) (Approved by the TDC)
 - e. 22-54 (q) – Tents - Public beach – prohibit tents, Private beach – Allow by annual permit (Received recommendation Approval vote from Destination



- Improvement Committee) (Beach Management Committee did not approve for recommendation) (Approved by the TDC)
3. 22-55 – Obstructions on the beach – Add verbiage to include beach equipment in list of defined obstructions (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Beach Management Committee and Destination Improvement Committee) (Approved by the TDC)
 4. 22-57(d) – Additional 50 permits in 2015 – Remove due to non-applicable in 2018 (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Destination Improvement Committee) (This item discussed by the Destination Committee Only) (Approved by the TDC)
 5. 22-60 - Beach Vendors
 - a. (a) – Policy – Research and develop a managed vendor program for Regional Beach Accesses (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Beach Management Committee and Destination Improvement Committee) (Approved by the TDC – with additional instruction of return proposed plan to the TDC for review/approval)
 - b. 22-60(b)(1) – Delivery vendor equipment storage- Prohibit delivery vendors from storing equipment at the toe of the dune on public beach accesses (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Destination Improvement Committee) (The Beach management Committee voted to recommend that vendors be allowed to store equipment at the toe of the dune per existing code, but must secure the equipment to prevent unauthorized use) (Approved by the TDC)
 - c. 22-60(d)(6) – Storage boxes for specific place vendors – Allow storage only in boxes and Change distance between boxes to 20' (Received Recommendation Approval vote from Beach Management Committee and Destination Improvement Committee) (Approved by the TDC)

Walton County Board of Commissioners Meetings

1. Vendor issues
 - a. Managed vendor program at Regional Beach Access – Develop plan with committee of stake holders. Implement as pilot program at one RBA for FY 2019 season.
 - b. Storage at toe of dune at public beach access
 - c. Ghost sets
 - d. Upland property authorization for public beach property seaward of/contiguous to private property
 - e. Vendor permit revocation process



- f. Vendor permit moratorium (Delivery Vendors)
- 2. General issues
 - a. Tents – Allowance by size, location, and or permit (private property)
 - b. Leave No Trace – obstructions on the beach
 - c. Signage on the beach
 - d. Beach Ambassadors stationed at Regional Beach Accesses
 - e. Increase in Beach Code Enforcement officers

The next step in the beach code revision process is to identify which items/code sections the Walton County BCC would like to revise. After this identification process has been completed direction should be given to the WC Legal Dept and the Beach Code Enforcement Dept to draft the specific code language that reflects the BCC's direction and set a Public Hearing to consider revisions and take action to adopt/not adopt the code revisions.