



**FINAL MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF JUPITER
BEACH COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMUNITY CENTER ROOM A
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026
6:00 PM**

In the absence of the Committee's Chair and Vice Chair, Ms. Emily Johnson took over as Chair for the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Emily Johnson; Louis "Coke" Coakley; Troy Holloway; Gail Whipple; Julie Whitten; John Pugsley (ALT); Kay Strickland (ALT); Councilor Dan Guisinger, Ex Officio; Merriane Lahmeur, Staff Liaison. Rick Opton (ALT), David Uhlfelder, Shirley Brostmeyer, and John Smith (ALT) were absent.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

All Non-agenda items are limited to three (3) minutes. Anyone wishing to speak is asked to go to the podium and state his/her name and address for the record. **The Committee will not discuss these items this evening.**

Mr. Andre Melo, a resident of Deerfield Beach, provided an overview of a pilot beach well system designed to provide water on beaches using shallow wells and solar-powered pumps. He explained the technology, maintenance requirements, costs, and results from an existing pilot program installation.

Committee members discussed maintenance responsibilities, water quality and salinity, potential impacts on sea turtles, reliability of the solar-powered system, installation and future expansion needs, potential applications beyond beaches, and jurisdictional matters.

Ms. Sue Ponsetto, a resident of Ocean Bluffs Boulevard, spoke about her concerns with fishing and the number of poles being used by individuals on the beach. She also inquired about applicable regulations.

Ms. Ponsetto was provided with the contact information for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and a jurisdictional map of the beaches.

MINUTES

1. January 26, 2026, Beach Committee Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Gail Whipple moved to approve the January 26, 2026, Beach Committee Meeting Minutes; Seconded by Mr. Troy Holloway; motion passed.

Coakley	Whipple	Holloway	Johnson	Whitten	Strickland	Pugsley
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

PUBLIC BUSINESS

2. Presentation on Sunshine Law and Public Records.

Ms. Merriane Lahmeur, Staff Liaison, provided the Committee with a presentation on Sunshine Law requirements, public records laws, ethics requirements, meeting procedures, public participation requirements, voting responsibilities, and committee responsibilities.

There was a brief discussion on ethics training requirements from the State and the County and upcoming legislative changes for additional training requirements for elected officials.

3. Updates regarding A1A beach shower drainage, iguana management options, and the prior traffic and capacity study.

Ms. Lahmeur welcomed the Committee's newest member Julie Whitten, who had been appointed by Councilor Guisinger.

Ms. Lahmeur next provided an update on several ongoing projects and initiatives, including the A1A beach shower improvements and drainage basin upgrades, Iguana and invasive species education efforts, and the North County Comprehensive Shore Protection project. It was noted that Andy Studt, Program Supervisor, Coastal Resources Management, Palm Beach County, would provide a formal presentation with updates in July.

4. Friends of Jupiter Beach - Quarterly Update.

Ms. Mary Aguiar, Executive Director, provided a quarterly update. Ms. Aguiar highlighted from her report, volunteer beach cleanups (85 in attendance), community cleanup events, FPL volunteer projects, volunteers and total service hours (over 1800 service hours), trash and recycling collection totals, and beach ambassador activities. She noted that there have been no dog incidents on the beach during the last quarter.

Ms. Aguiar also reported that she had received a call regarding the two new showers that were recently installed, which are no longer equipped to rinse dogs. She inquired if there could be a solution and noted that Friends of Jupiter Beach could donate valves or hoses needed to make the showers dog friendly again.

Ms. Aguiar also inquired about a potential parking accommodation for the Friends of Jupiter Beach van.

5. Discussion regarding the Committee's Goals & Objectives – Next Update in August.

Ms. Lahmeur reviewed the goals and objectives previously submitted to Council and identified beach related matters in the Town's 2026-2028 Strategic Plan. Members were requested to review the plan, and Ms. Lahmeur provided the timeline for updating the goals and objectives in the August Council report.

Prior to Reports, Ms. Lahmeur confirmed the meeting date and time for the next meeting, and polled members for attendance to ensure a quorum.

REPORTS

Mr. Coakley thanked Councilor Guisinger for his attendance and discussed the beach erosion that was starting again in the A1A westside area.

Ms. Whipple discussed recent beach renourishment and dredging activities. She provided an update of the recent Jupiter Inlet District related activities and requests they had received from boaters to dredge a channel through a sandbar outside the inlet.

Ms. Kay Strickland discussed public safety concerns with rip currents, and the possibility of installing additional lifesaving equipment along the beach.

There was additional discussion by Committee members regarding congestion on the A1A sidewalk during peak season and accessibility concerns. Councilor Guisinger noted that in a recent email, Palm Beach County Commissioner Maria Marino had requested the County's Engineer to review this issue.

Ms. Lahmeur recommended to the Committee that future recommendations to the Town should be adopted through formal Committee action and transmitted to the Town Manager's Office or Town Council as official Committee recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:27 p.m.

Merriane Lahmeur, Staff Liaison