

Kite Surfing Public Input & Ideas Event – Summary of Information Gathered

North Shore Park & Youth Center

December 1, 2017 10AM-12PM

GROUP ONE

Locations:

- Characteristics of a good location
 - Not on Bay, no wind
 - Multiple locations are needed – if all are put into one restricted area it is not safe for the kites
 - The entire beach is ideal for the sport
 - Learning areas need to be free of people/beach goers
 - Locations close to kiter's homes
 - 38th Street
 - 25th / 26th Street
 - Differing opinions on area required to launch
 - 22-33 meters
 - Less than 22 meters; same size area as an umbrella or beach chair
- Designated Learning Areas - Specific areas should be designated for learners (below a level 3 certification). Accidents are more likely caused by an inexperienced kiter and additional learning locations will increase safety. These locations can also be used by more experienced kites as well. Potential learning locations include:
 - 34th Street near Faena parking lot (have to consider future plans for the area)
 - 76th Street with an expansion of concession area
 - 46th Street
 - 53rd Street
 - Open Space Park
- Open Access – Experienced kites should be able to use any area of the beach.
 - IKO or PASA certified at a level 3 or above (carry a card)
 - Create a registration process to clearly identify “experienced” kites
 - Streamers with identification number unique to each kiter (Example: TKS)
 - Can get streamer from a lifeguard stand after showing proof of level 3 or above
 - With the streamer you can launch from anywhere on the beach
 - 2 or more for “buddy system” launching
 - No streamer = have to use a designated learning location
- Other ideas
 - Area closer to lifeguard stands so they can enforce the rules and issue citations

- Expand 76th Street concession to include one side for learners and the other side for experienced kites
- Channels put out on windy days (similar to how channels are put out for jet skis)
- Allow kites to launch from one location but land anywhere
- Let kites use the jet ski channels
- Get rid of illegal operators teaching lessons
- Signage –
 - “no commercial activities”
 - level of certification required/allowed at location
 - “Learning area” enter at own risk? No swimmers/bathers?

Rules & Management:

- Rules
 - Require licensing and insurance (IKO provides insurance)
 - Level 3 certified allowed anywhere but under level 3 has to use a designated teaching area with certified instructors
 - Kite 50 feet away from swimmers
 - No standing on beach with kite in air for an extended amount of time – if your kite is up you are launching
 - No flying kite over swimmers or beach goers
- Management
 - Communicate rules to hotels
 - Official statement by city stating that there are unlicensed illegal businesses teaching lessons creating dangerous conditions
 - Lifeguard should blow the whistle if kiter is entering a restricted area unless ingress or egressing to launch or land.
 - Register with a lifeguard to get a temporary banner
- Enforcement
 - Lifeguard has authority to enforce
 - 1st offense – warning
 - 2nd offense – citation
 - 3rd offense – ejected from beach

GROUP 2

Rules & Management:

- Long Beach, Belmont Shore
 - lifeguard stand
 - has a lifeguard trained for the location

- marked areas
- stay 200 feet from shore
- Rules
 - Require proper safety equipment
 - Never fly kite over beach
 - Post the rules on lifeguard stands
- Management
 - Bands to identify kites and level
 - Signage with educational information, including warning information
 - Areas by skillset with signage
- Enforcement of rules
 - Marine Patrol to enforce
 - Police Department / Code Compliance to enforce
 - Fine schedule to include one warning per month

Locations:

- General comments
 - Cannot be overly restrictive
 - Finding a balance
 - Channels, similar to those used by jet skis, are restrictive
 - Concerns over riders too close to shore
- Enforcement ideas
 - Privatization of enforcement
 - Give lifeguards more authority and allow registration
 - How many lifeguards can be placed / where?
 - Kite surfers as first line of enforcement
 - Focus on unsafe operators
- Simple signage with rules and levels (similar to TKS)
- Open Access
 - Access anywhere as long as rules are followed
 - Open access hinders enforcement (non-kiter residents in attendance did not agree with open access)
 - People naturally congregate to popular areas
 - Clarify "open access" as "expanded access"
- Location and Level ideas
 - 83rd Level 1-3
 - 76th Level 1-3
 - 55th Level 1-3
 - 34th Level 1-3
 - 24/25th and rest of beach Level 3 (the angle at 24th/25th location is ideal)
 - 56th – 65th between two lifeguard stands

- 1st Street before 9:30AM / after 4:30PM
 - Concern over surfers in area

Other locations to research:

- Hollywood, FL
- Jupiter, FL
- Long Beach, Belmont Shore
- Pompano Beach, FL
- Tampa Bay Area, FL