

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Dauster, Acting Chairman
Bill Folchi, David Gerdel, Spencer Hughes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Dixon, Richard Kresge, Thomas McAlear

OTHERS PRESENT: Randy Brodersen, Canal Maintenance Supervisor
Dennis Murphy, Growth Management Director
Rick Keeney, Public Works Director
Nancy Prafke, Noel Hyde, Tom Carroll,
Bill Gunther, Jay Buckley

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting - Monday, December 21, 2009 - 1:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Meeting - October 19, 2009
 - Mr. Hughes MOVED, Mr. Folchi SECONDED approval of the October 19, 2009 minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Note: Item A, New Business, was heard following Approval of Minutes.

CANAL MAINTENANCE MONTHLY REPORTS

- A. Permits Authorized by City Staff for Installation of Docks, Lifts, Outpilings, etc.
 - Mr. Randy Brodersen, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, reported 14 permits were issued in October 2009.
- B. Budget Utilization Report
 - Mr. Brodersen displayed an overhead of the Budget Utilization Report, as delineated in the agenda material, offering to answer any questions.
 - Mr. Gerdel requested a report depicting the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/2009 figures, confirming same would be included in the Committee's December 2009 agenda packets.

Note: Item B, New Business, was heard following Canal Maintenance Monthly Reports.

NEW BUSINESS

Note: Item A was heard following Approval of Minutes.

- A. Branding Presentation
 - Ms. Nancy Prafke, Team Punta Gorda (TPG) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), announced the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce (PGCC) had been charged with the

responsibility of branding the City upon dissolution of the former Enterprise Punta Gorda (EPG). She explained consulting firms were interviewed; however, estimates came in at \$65,000, which was simply cost prohibitive considering the current economic climate. She continued work had been underway by the PGCC, TPG, Fishermen's Village (FV), Main Street Punta Gorda (MSPG) and the Downtown Merchant's Association (DMA) for a brand to be used specifically to attract business, tourism and residents to the area. She displayed an overhead, as delineated in the agenda material, depicting the following tag line: "Punta Gorda - It's Happening on the Harbor." She mentioned the tag line was currently in the process of being trademarked. She noted all City Councilmembers had seen the tag line and expressed their approval of same, adding City Manager Howard Kunik had requested this be presented to all of the City's advisory boards/committees. She advised the tag line had been approved by TPG, MSPG, DMA and PGCC, the latter to be the custodian of the trademark's rules and regulations regarding any future usage. She concluded with a request for the Committee's support.

- Mr. Folchi MOVED, Mr. Gerdel SECONDED to support the logo presented this date.
- Mr. Folchi questioned the cost involved in development of the logo.
- Ms. Prafke replied the graphics were done in exchange for a PGCC membership, adding TPG, PGCC and FV had funded a portion of the trademark fee. She mentioned there had been some discussion relative to imposing a small, right-to-use fee to help defray ongoing costs.
- Mr. Folchi asked what entity would own the trademark.
- Ms. Prafke replied PGCC. She noted the objective was to gain the support of all of the City's advisory boards/committees in the hopes of City Council approving use of the logo on the City's web site.
- Mr. Folchi asked how PGCC would make the logo available to other entities such as TPG, for example.
- Ms. Prafke replied TPG was already utilizing the logo, adding PGCC's goal was for widespread use but under certain guidelines to ensure its proper use.
- Mr. Noel Hyde asked if the colors, graphics, fonts, etc. depicted on the overhead were part of the trademark.
- Ms. Prafke replied affirmatively.
- Mr. Tom Carroll asked why the City's support was being sought in that the trademark would be owned by PGCC.

- Ms. Prafke replied it was hoped the City would utilize the trademark as well. She reiterated City Manager Kunik as well as City Council wished to learn the feelings of the City's advisory boards/committees regarding to the logo.
- Mr. Bill Gunther asked if anyone, such as the many realtors in Charlotte County, would be able to utilize the logo without permission.
- Ms. Prafke replied the PGCC was working on those types of issues.
- Mr. Gunther commented it seemed use of the logo would be controlled by the above mentioned fee.
- Ms. Prafke agreed, noting the fee would be nominal as opposed to hundreds of dollars.
- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Note: Item B was heard following the Canal Maintenance Monthly Reports.

- B. Canal Markers - Sergeant Joe King, Punta Gorda Police Department
 - Mr. Gunther, Neighborhood Marine Watch Program (NMWP) Coordinator, announced Sergeant King had asked him to address the Committee. He explained the Police Department was partnering with the NMWP and had been formed to patrol the City's canals, stating signage would be placed at the seven entrances into same. He expressed hope the NMWP would serve as a deterrent to criminal activity. He advised the NMWP was comprised of 42 members and 24 boats, stating same were out on the waters between 40 to 50 hours a month. He mentioned all activity was being accomplished at no cost to the City. He stated the NMWP hoped to place the signs at the last possible visible location just prior to entering the canal system on each side directly on the seawalls; however, he expressed doubt the Fish & Wildlife Commission would allow placement on their navigational marker pilings. In conclusion, he requested the Committee's input with regard to comments, questions or suggestions.
 - Ms. Dauster mentioned her husband, Mr. John Dauster, was volunteering in this program from 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. or 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. She expressed concern with regard to the upcoming mullet season during which the canals experienced the greatest number of boaters running without lights and utilizing netting, which was illegal. She mentioned she had seen as many as five boats running in this fashion at one time; thus, she was concerned for the safety of the two man volunteer teams.
 - Mr. Gunther responded volunteers were strictly non-confrontational, stating participants were directed to immediately contact the Police Department if suspicious activities were observed. He commented the program had grown significantly since its inception in May 2009 from 12 to 42 volunteers, stating the community's response

seemed to be favorable. He noted volunteers' boats were equipped with signage, the cost for which was being paid by the Police Department.

- Mr. Gerdel opined operations were between the volunteers and the Police Department, asserting the Committee should not become involved in micromanagement.
- Mr. Dennis Murphy, Growth Management Director, interjected signage must be permitted through Ms. Teri Tubbs, Zoning Official.
- Mr. Gerdel MOVED, Mr. Hughes SECONDED to adopt the concept of the canal markers as presented this date. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Research/Fact Finding - Committee Update

- Mr. Gerdel advised he had been tasked to develop a bell curve relative to the life of PGI's seawalls; however, obtaining the information necessary for same had proven difficult. He commented on Mr. Dixon's electronic mail, as delineated in the agenda material, stating it appeared the Committee must be prepared to make a recommendation to City Council at their next meeting.
- Mr. Hughes then stated he had personally observed many bulkheads in very poor condition, some with rebar hanging down.
- Ms. Dauster agreed, noting the seawalls continued to age; however, she pointed out additional funds would be dedicated to that portion of the budget.
- Mr. Gerdel argued same raised a legitimate question relative to the Budget Utilization Report presented this date. He expressed hope the following month's report would depict the execution schedule for seawall replacement, stating he seemed to recall that schedule was usually included within the agenda material.
- Mr. Brodersen explained staff had stopped generating the report as it appeared there had been little interest in same; however, he confirmed he would present a current report at the Committee's next meeting.

B. Seawall & Seawall Cap Engineering Study Update

- Mr. Brodersen announced the contract for the subject study had been let to HDR Engineering, stating he anticipated results being available some time in January 2010.
- Mr. Murphy then mentioned Charlotte County Geographical Information System (GIS) staff had encountered a technical snag between their software and server; however, they continued to work toward a solution.

CURRENT BUSINESS

- Mr. Rick Keeney, Public Works Director, read the above mentioned electronic mail from Mr. Dixon into the record which referenced the following: plans for draft and then final recommendations in December 2009 and January 2010, respectively, by the Burnt

Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee (BSI CAC) with regard to the canal maintenance assessment fee methodology; PGCC's presentation on a proposed brand; Sergeant King's presentation on the NMWP. He then stated at the Committee's previous meeting, Mr. Steve Fabian had advised members of the significant amount of time he had spent on a linear foot assessment methodology, adding Mr. Fabian had calculated 700 man hours would be required to determine the linear footage of every lot. He pointed out the significant cost associated with same, conservatively estimating a per hour price of \$50 or a minimum of \$35,000. He asked members if they had reached the same understanding based on Mr. Fabian's comments, confirming staff would not move forward on gathering that information until both the BSI CAC and this Committee decided to change methodology.

- Consensus of members was agreement with that understanding of Mr. Fabian's comments.
- Mr. Murphy agreed \$50 was a reasonable, anticipated cost; however, he felt 700 hours may be somewhat low, basing his opinion on conversations with Charlotte County staff. He acknowledged an agreement was in place wherein the County performed maintenance on the City's existing GIS file at a rate of \$25 per hour; however, the County did not have sufficient personnel to perform the tasks described by Mr. Fabian.
- Ms. Dauster commented linear foot lot measurements were subject to challenge by homeowners. She concluded by asking members to be as prepared as possible for the Committee's next meeting.
- Mr. Brodersen then announced staff was scheduled to make presentations to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the PGI Islander's Boat Club in an effort to increase public awareness and education.
- Ms. Dauster noted staff had also made a presentation to the Mariners of PGI.

MEMBER COMMENTS

- Mr. Folchi announced City Council would present a proclamation for National GIS Day at their November 18, 2009 meeting, expressing disappointment at the inability to obtain canal information through GIS.
- Mr. Gerdel requested an opinion from the City's Zoning Official on the assessment issues specific to single family homes constructed on multi-family zoned property.
- Mr. Murphy responded the zoning designation was irrelevant as far as the assessment methodology. He advised such properties could not be rezoned without the owner's request, adding spot zoning was illegal. He clarified only the assessment methodology itself could be changed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Mr. Jay Buckley commented on the Committee's discussion at their previous meeting of possibly opening the barge canal, stating the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would definitely not permit same.
- Ms. Dauster stated she understood the discussion was only to remove the berm at the barge canal, which would open same only for canoes, kayaks and other small craft. She explained Blind Pass in Captiva had been opened; thus, some precedent had been set. She acknowledged there was not a significant push for seeking DEP's approval for such action.
- Mr. Buckley responded the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) relied on DEP's recommendations, stating DEP would insist on flow and water quality studies, the latter required to be done during two seasons of the same year and the former to be ongoing. He advised the cost of a flow study was estimated at \$45,000, adding the cost for a water quality study would be in a similar range. He pointed out the current downturn in the economy as well as the City's lack of available funds would essentially prohibit such studies. He concluded this was viewed as a PGI project in that only PGI would receive any benefit.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:31 p.m.

Nancy Dauster, Acting Chairman

Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary