

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES  
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 19, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Dixon, Chairman  
John Dauster, Nancy Dauster, Fred Hannon,  
Thomas McAlear, David McBride, James Thompson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Randy Brodersen, Canal Maintenance Supervisor  
Gary Disher, Project Manager  
Tracy Quintana, Executive Assistant  
Rick Keeney, Public Works Director  
George Keerl

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Roll Call
  - 1. Presentation of Plaque – Nancy Dauster
    - Mr. Dixon presented Ms. Dauster with a Certificate of Appreciation, stating she had provided much service to the City in her capacity as a member of this Committee.
    - Ms. Dauster thanked Mr. Dixon, Committee members and staff, stating she had enjoyed her years of service as a member of this Committee.
  - 2. Presentation of Plaque – Bill Dixon
    - Mr. McAlear presented Mr. Dixon with a plaque denoting his years of service as a member of the Committee.
    - Mr. Dixon expressed his appreciation, stating it had been an honor to serve.
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
  - 1. Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.
    - Mr. Dixon announced the Committee’s next meeting date had been rescheduled from the third Monday of the month to the third Thursday due to a conflict with a City observed holiday.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Meeting of November 21, 2011
  - Ms. Dauster noted a correction to page 5.
  - Mr. Dauster MOVED, Mr. McBride SECONDED approval of the November 21, 2011 minutes as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REPORTS**

- A. Permits Authorized by City Staff – November 2011  
Mr. Randy Brodersen, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, announced 12 permits had been issued in November 2011, pointing out same were detailed in the agenda material.

- B. Budget Utilization Report – November 2011
- Mr. Brodersen drew members’ attention to the Budget Utilization Report, as denoted within the agenda material, offering to answer any questions.
  - Mr. Dauster noted Seawall Replacement was 12% complete while the Report later indicated expenditures were 15% complete, requesting clarification of same.
  - Mr. Brodersen replied the percentages would almost never be equal due to the timing of submitted and/or paid invoices.
  - Ms. Dauster recalled a question raised at the Committee’s previous meeting regarding whether a particular project had been the cause of a significant increase in seawall stabilization figures early in the fiscal year.
  - Mr. Brodersen replied a large project on Colony Point Drive had been completed involving 190 feet of rip rap.
- C. Seawall and Seawall Cap Replacement Status Report – November 2011
- Mr. Brodersen confirmed there were no specific questions regarding this report.
- D. Patrol Update
- Mr. Dixon reported the Police Department had maintained a presence on the water for 139 hours and issued no citations, 21 warnings and 4 incident reports. He advised the Volunteers in Policing (VIPs) had spent 164 hours on the water and patrolled 196 miles of canal.
  - Mr. Dauster confirmed repair/maintenance of the police boats was paid by the Police Department as opposed to the Canal Maintenance Division.
  - Ms. Dauster then mentioned she had observed boaters anchoring directly adjacent to the “No Anchoring” signage near her home, confirming she had reported same to the Police Department.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Update on Geographic Information System (GIS) Seawall Assessment
- Mr. Gary Disher, Project Manager, announced the current year’s assessment of all seawalls and seawall caps had begun, noting Burnt Store Isles (BSI) was 100% complete. He stated work had begun in the area of Colony Point Drive, adding work would continue in the area west of Fishermen’s Village. He displayed an overhead depicting the areas in which assessment was underway, stating staff was focusing their attention somewhat differently this year. He explained the same data was being collected but in smaller segments, i.e., lot line to lot line. He announced data had been obtained from Marine Contracting Group (MCG) from 2002 to the present for that which had been replaced, confirming that information had been entered.
- Mr. Dixon commented favorably on staff obtaining such historical data.

- Mr. Disher then asked if the Committee knew of anyone having dock space available for mooring the boat on weekends while assessments were ongoing.
  - Mr. Dixon mentioned his 58 foot dock would be available after February 1, 2012.
  - Mr. McAlear suggested approaching members of the community's boating organizations as well.
  - Mr. Hannon asked if the boat could be tied up at an empty lot with a dock.
  - Mr. Disher replied affirmatively but with the owner's permission. He then concluded his review of the assessment program, offering to answer any questions.
  - Mr. Thompson commented there did not appear to be any major seawall failures over the past year.
  - Mr. Disher replied there had been four as compared to twelve or thirteen the previous year.
  - Mr. Thompson opined same spoke well of the program.
  - Mr. Brodersen clarified no recent seawall failure was due to staff's failure to identify same for replacement.
  - Mr. Dauster asked if staff felt the previous backlog was beginning to be caught up in Punta Gorda Isles (PGI).
  - Mr. Disher replied it was too soon for a definitive response.
- B. Progress Report on Installation of Lights on Pilings/Markers #9 & #10 in Ponce de Leon Channel
- Mr. Brodersen stated he had made several attempts to contact the Coast Guard regarding this issue to no avail; however, he hoped to have an answer by the Committee's next meeting.
  - Mr. McAlear stated he and another volunteer had taped all the pilings; however, he opined the reflective tape should be wrapped a few more times to make same more visible.
  - Mr. Brodersen then noted the Committee had submitted several questions at their previous meeting, reporting dredging was permitted in Ponce de Leon Inlet to the mean low water mark.
  - Mr. McAlear mentioned he had observed a sail boat with a five foot keel hitting the bottom near Marker #7. He noted his depth sounder indicated inconsistent depths throughout that area.
  - Mr. Brodersen noted a great deal had been dredged from Ponce de Leon Inlet recently.
  - Mr. McAlear agreed, explaining the problem was more the unevenness.
  - Mr. Brodersen commented it was difficult to obtain a uniform depth; however, if a specific location of a high spot could be reported, he would have same re-dredged.

- Mr. Hannon stated he believed the high spots were between Markers #5 and #6 and the fishing pier.
- Mr. McAlear asked if staff still had the "T" shaped stick previously used as a depth pole.
- Mr. Brodersen replied affirmatively, stating he would provide same to Mr. McAlear. He then recalled a question relative to a large property on Jamaica Way where four lots had been combined into one, stating he had confirmed the property was being assessed for two lots. He noted the Finance Department was looking into the matter.
- Mr. Thompson clarified that determination was made by the Charlotte County Property Appraiser.
- Mr. Brodersen then commented on the mangrove trimming project in Ponce de Leon Inlet, stating ETI had provided a maintenance schedule relative to exotics removal and mangrove trimming.

C. Update on Anchoring of Vessels

- Mr. Dixon drew members' attention to copies of correspondence, as delineated in the agenda material, to and from the City Manager's Office regarding the Committee's November 21, 2011 letter on anchoring enforcement. He observed the Committee was subsequently advised the matter had not been scheduled for review by City Council.
- Mr. McBride opined City Council would not want to place the matter on an agenda for discussion based on the City Attorney's response which stated the City had the proper authority relative to anchoring of vessels.
- Mr. Dixon recalled the City Attorney had indicated the "No Anchoring" signs were not enforceable, asking if anyone was aware of what language was necessary to remedy same.
- Mr. McAlear replied he did not; however, he opined the signs should not be removed, acknowledging they were not enforceable due to lack of a City ordinance number.
- Mr. McBride countered the signs were not enforceable because they read "No Anchoring."
- Mr. Dauster commented the existing signage was effective by virtue of its very existence. He expressed concern with regard to the general public being unaware of the limits or boundaries of the area where anchoring was not permitted due to the potential for same interfering with navigation.
- Mr. Dixon expressed frustration at what he saw as a lack of resolution to this matter.
- Discussion ensued with regard to the boundaries of the area in which anchoring was prohibited so as not to impede navigation.

- Mr. McAlear then stated a proposal was underway to perform shore patrol where two individuals in uniform would be stationed at Fishermen's Village and the Ponce de Leon dock with binoculars and a camera to take photographs of vessels exceeding the wake limit. He explained boat owners could be identified through vessel registration numbers, adding written warnings would then be mailed accompanied by a photograph.
- Mr. George Keerl, 1921 West Marion Avenue, asked if use of a radar gun would prove beneficial.
- Mr. McAlear replied in the negative, stating there were no speed limits in the canals but rather citations could be issued for excessive wake which could be depicted in a photograph.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

- Ms. Tracy Quintana, Public Works Department Executive Assistant, requested members spread the news about the newly created Citizens Academy. She advised the winter session would commence on January 10, 2012, and the summer session on May 15, 2012.

#### **COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS**

- Ms. Dauster again stated she enjoyed her time on the Committee
- Mr. Thompson recalled mention of the seawalls in the Boat Club's basin becoming the responsibility of the City, asking if they would be considered part of the Canal Maintenance Assessment District (CMAD).
- Mr. Rick Keeney, Public Works Director, explained he understood the City would take over maintenance responsibility; however, he did not believe they would be considered part of the CMAD. He stated funding would most likely be derived through the General Fund.
- Mr. Thompson asked Mr. Keeney to confirm same.
- Mr. Dixon stated he had greatly enjoyed his time on the Committee.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:28 p.m.

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Bill Dixon, Chairman

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Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary