

**BURNT STORE ISLES  
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joseph Gil, Chairman  
Gary Brewster, Leslie Totten,  
Frank Wiechec, Charles Zajicek

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Richard Benson, Canal Maintenance Supervisor  
Mayor Larry Friedman  
Rick Keeney, Public Works Director

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting - Tuesday, October 14, 2008 - 1:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Regular Meeting - June 9, 2008
  - Mr. Wiechec MOVED, Mr. Totten SECONDED approval of the June 9, 2008 minutes.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CANAL MAINTENANCE MONTHLY REPORTS**

- A. Permits Authorized by City Staff for Installation of Docks, Lifts, Outpilings, etc.
  - Mr. Richard Benson, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, reported five permits were issued in June 2008, three in July 2008 and one in August 2008.
  - Mr. Gil confirmed none of the permits were out of the ordinary.
- B. Budget Utilization Report - Draft
  - Mr. Benson displayed an overhead of the draft Budget Utilization Report (Report), as delineated in the agenda material, stating a member had requested same at the Committee's previous meeting. He mentioned this form was currently utilized by the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee (PGICAC). He reviewed seawall replacement figures for the current fiscal year as follows: estimated quantity, 300 linear feet; completed, 318 linear feet; remaining, 2 seawalls. He then provided an update on seawall cap replacement as follows: estimated quantity, 3,000 linear feet; completed, 1,776 linear feet; remaining, 1,510 linear feet. He mentioned seawall cap replacement figures would be reduced as he planned to transfer funds to complete the two, above mentioned seawalls. He reported mangrove trimming was complete, adding 110 hours of inlet dredging had been accomplished out of an estimate of 120 hours. He reminded members \$90,000 had been budgeted for seawall replacement, stating \$95,400 had been expended as 18 additional LF had been accomplished over and above that which had been projected. He reported out of a seawall cap

replacement budget of \$233,130, \$123,419 had been expended. He reiterated a portion of the remaining balance of \$109,639 would be used to cover the cost of the remaining two seawalls requiring replacement. He stated \$45,000 had been budgeted for mangrove trimming, and \$40,870 had been expended, leaving a balance of \$4,130. He concluded \$32,450 had been expended on inlet dredging out of a total budget of \$35,400; thus, \$2,950 remained in that account. He asked if the Committee wished to continue to receive the Report.

- Mr. Gil commented favorably on the format of the Report.
- Mr. Zajicek agreed, requesting the Report include other expenses such as man hours.
- Mr. Benson responded he would do so.
- Mr. Wiechec clarified "Inlet Dredging" referred to any location within the perimeter canal. He stated a number of friends who resided at the far end of the perimeter canal near the mangroves were all experiencing difficulty navigating through one particular section which routinely filled in from the south branch of Alligator Creek.
- Mr. Benson confirmed he was aware of the area to which Mr. Wiechec was referring.
- Mr. Wiechec explained navigation into or out of the area was impossible in a large boat unless there was an extraordinarily high summer tide.
- Mr. Benson responded he would address the problem.
- Mr. Gil noted ten hours remained in the budget for inlet dredging prior to the start of the next fiscal year, asking if same would be adequate.
- Mr. Benson responded ten hours equaled only two days; however, much could be accomplished in that time frame.
- Mr. Wiechec asked if seawall replacement costs had dropped at all in light of the slow down in the building industry.
- Mr. Benson replied the City's cost was still \$300 per foot, adding the Procurement Division was able to secure a lower price for the next fiscal year; however, steel and concrete costs had increased.
- Mr. Gil asked where the silt described by Mr. Wiechec formed.
- Mr. Benson replied primarily near "Richard's Cut."
- Mr. Gil asked if a silt screen could be utilized.
- Mr. Benson expressed uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of same. He reminded members the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had required the City to install a rip rap wall across the area, stating silt simply washed around both sides of the wall. He explained DEP then requested the rip rap be extended on both sides, adding the results had been the same; thus, the wall had been removed and replaced

with pilings, which allowed manatees to pass through but prohibited boats from doing so.

- Mr. Gil commented a significant amount of funds had been expended on this problem.
- Mr. Brewster then clarified the two seawalls currently under construction were not included in the figures presented in the Report, questioning the number of feet.
- Mr. Benson replied approximately 70 feet total.
- Mr. Gil clarified the cost would be roughly \$20,000.
- Mr. Benson agreed, stating he would be able to keep expenses within the budget.
- Mr. Zajicek asked if any seawalls had failed as the result of recent heavy rains.
- Mr. Benson replied there had been none.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. Revised Bylaws

- Mr. Gil drew members' attention to the revised bylaws, as denoted within the agenda material, stating City Council recently instituted a new attendance policy for members of all City advisory boards and committees.
- Mayor Larry Friedman stated the policy allowed members three absences in a twelve month period after which they would automatically forfeit their seat, such vacancy to be filled by City Council. He explained there had previously been no manageable, enforcement procedure, adding in a very few cases, the policy had been abused. He noted the issue came to a head when a public hearing had to be continued due to another board's failure to obtain a quorum. He reiterated the new policy was in effect for all of the City's advisory boards/committees. He noted members who wished to appeal this forfeiture to City Council would have the opportunity to do so in writing through the City Clerk's Office, adding the City Clerk would then refer same to City Council.
- Mr. Wiechec pointed out another amendment to the bylaws reflecting the Committee's new meeting day on the second Tuesday of the month.
- Mr. Totten requested any such future changes to the bylaws be highlighted in the agenda material.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting Adjourned: 1:46 p.m.

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Joseph Gil, Chairman

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Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary