

**BURNT STORE ISLES
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2008**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Rick Keeney, Public Works Director
Randy Broderson, Project Manager
Dennis Murphy, Growth Management Director

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting - Tuesday, December 9, 2008 - 1:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Meeting - September 8, 2008
 - Mr. Wiechec MOVED, Mr. Totten SECONDED approval of the September 8, 2008 minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CANAL MAINTENANCE MONTHLY REPORTS

- Mr. Gil asked why Mr. Richard Benson, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, was not in attendance.
- Mr. Rick Keeney, Public Works Director, announced Mr. Benson was out on leave until early December 2008, and had announced his intention to retire at the end of 2008. He asked members and citizens to advise him of any outstanding issues.
- Mr. Gil asked if Mr. Benson's position would be filled.
- Mr. Keeney replied a requisition for same had been turned in to the Human Resources Department.
- Mr. Gil confirmed the position would be filled, asking if anyone had been temporarily appointed.
- Mr. Keeney replied Mr. George Rizzuto, Senior Crew Chief, was assuming Mr. Benson's duties in the interim.
- Mr. Wiechec mentioned a recurring high spot in the area of Richard's Cut, stating Mr. Benson had routinely sent a crew in each year to dredge the area.
- Mr. Keeney responded he would follow up on same.
- Mr. Brewster recalled at the Committee's last meeting, Mr. Benson had advised funds were available to dredge that area.

- A. Permits Authorized by City Staff - Installation of Docks, Lifts, Outpilings, etc.
- Mr. Keeney announced two permits had been issued in September 2008 and none in October 2008.
- B. Seawall Cap Repairs
- Mr. Keeney noted a list of locations slated for seawall cap replacement was included in the Committee's agenda material.
- C. Budget Utilization Report (draft)
- Mr. Keeney drew members' attention to the draft Budget Utilization Report (Report), as delineated in the agenda material, stating this format was utilized by the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee (PGICAC). He provided a detailed review for the Fiscal Year (FY) commencing on October 1, 2008, as follows: Seawall Replacement - Estimated Quantity, 300 feet; October 2008 Work, 138 feet; Seawall Cap Replacement - Estimated Quantity, 2,641 feet; October 2008 Work, 263 feet; Mangrove Trimming - Estimated Quantity, 0%; October 2008 Work, 0%; Inlet Dredging - Estimated Quantity, 120 hours; October 2008 Work, 0 hours. He then reviewed budget figures for the same time period as follows: Seawall Replacement - Budget, \$90,000; October 2008 Expense, \$5,844.30; Seawall Cap Replacement - Budget, \$210,000; October 2008 Expense, \$16,878.59; Seawall Stabilization - \$45,000; October 2008 Expense, \$0; Inlet Dredging - \$35,400; October 2008 Expense, \$0. He expressed hope the report format was agreeable to the Committee.
 - Mr. Gil asked if the two middle columns were intentionally duplicated.
 - Mr. Keeney explained October 2008 represented the start of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008/2009, providing a brief explanation of same. He noted the format would begin to be more clear in December 2008 and as the year progressed.
 - Mr. Totten recalled the Committee had requested a report depicting cost by linear foot for both seawall and seawall cap replacement; however, the Report confused same somewhat.
 - Mr. Gil stated those cost items formed the budget figures in the lower half of the Report.
 - Mr. Keeney added costs varied, dependent on whether crews could mobilize on a vacant lot versus a barge, for example.
 - Mr. Gil confirmed the same contractor was being used as the previous year.
 - Mr. Zajicek questioned the possibility of delineating work which was performed by the City and that which was accomplished by outside contractors.
 - Mr. Keeney responded the majority of work was done by outside contractors.
 - Mr. Totten questioned the need for separating out that information.

- Mr. Zajicek explained he was curious as to how much work was being performed by the City as compared to outside contractors.
- Mr. Keeney stated City crews typically worked only on seawall cap repairs on vacant lots and construction of seawall panels in the yard.
- Mr. Wiechec asked if the cost for seawall construction had dropped at all.
- Mr. Keeney replied it had not.
- Consensus of the Committee was approval of the Report's format.

CURRENT BUSINESS

- Mr. Gil stated he had been contacted a number of times by a homeowner on Macedonia Drive regarding work being conducted at the end of Isparta Court. He explained the gentlemen had advised a crane and dirt piles had been sitting on an empty lot for three months.
- Mr. Wiechec commented a seawall replacement project was ongoing at the end of Maltese Drive, stating work had continued for an extraordinarily long time with very little progress.
- Mr. Gil added the above mentioned homeowner also complained about crews throwing debris from the seawall and seawall cap 15 feet out into the canal.
- Mr. Keeney confirmed he would follow up on these concerns.
- Mr. Gil provided Mr. Keeney with the applicable contact information.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Recommendations for Strategic Plan

- Mr. Keeney confirmed members had been provided with a request from Mayor Larry Friedman requesting input with regard to development of the City's 2009 Strategic Plan.
- Mr. Gil commented on the amount of the District's annual assessment fee, stating significant seawall failures could lead to a large increase in same.
- Mr. Totten stated it seemed there may be more seawall cap deterioration than in the past, adding protecting seawall caps in turn protected the seawalls themselves.
- Mr. Keeney expressed agreement with same, stating he would research whether that activity had increased and report back to the Committee. He reminded members an inventory of the canal system was done, stating staff hoped to contract for Geographic Information System (GIS) services through Charlotte County to keep that inventory up to date.
- Mr. Gil recalled locations had been prioritized as part of that inventory, which was an important element of same. He expressed his understanding a City employee was being trained to provide GIS services.

- Mr. Dennis Murphy, Growth Management Director, confirmed City Council approved the interlocal agreement with Charlotte County for GIS services. He noted the agreement must now be presented to the County Commission for their approval.
- Mr. Totten clarified the update was currently being provided on paper as opposed to electronically.
- Mr. Zajicek asked why quicker progress was not being made on seawall cap replacement.
- Mr. Brewster opined the budget prohibited same.
- Mr. Zajicek countered funds were budgeted, suggesting work be started sooner rather than later.
- Mr. Keeney displayed a list of estimated and actual seawall cap replacement footage, as delineated in the agenda material, noting work had indeed begun.
- Mr. Zajicek confirmed only one contractor was retained by the City, asking if other contractors could be utilized as well.
- Mr. Keeney replied the current contractor had pledged whatever size crews were necessary to keep up with the City's demands. He confirmed he would follow up on what appeared to be various delays and report back to the Committee.
- Discussion ensued with regard to the condition of BSI seawalls as compared to the older PGI seawalls.
- Mr. Gil then commented on the possible Alligator Creek cut-through and its peripheral effect on the BSI canal system, stating there was potential for both environmental as well as boat traffic impacts to the BSI community. He asked Mr. Keeney for an update.
- Mr. Keeney replied Team Punta Gorda (TPG) had been tasked to visit the regulatory agencies, i.e., Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), with regard to permitting. He announced the cut-through may be possible, albeit difficult to accomplish. He noted TPG must next develop a plan for City Council's review.
- Mr. Gil commented he was impressed with the amount of work denoted in the Strategic Plan which was already complete. He requested an update on the issue of underground utilities, noting the feasibility of same was being pursued in the downtown area to include the Sunloft Center and Lashley Park.
- Mr. Murphy explained the City's participation with the Florida League of Cities (FLOC) was to encourage Florida Power & Light (FPL) to provide the City with a better incentive/reduction in costs, adding same was being tackled on a project by project basis. He stated the Sunloft Center financed the cost for underground utilities in and around their area.

- Mr. Gil clarified he was not objecting to same but rather felt it would be beneficial to encourage underground utilities throughout the entire City. He confirmed all utilities in the area of the Punta Gorda Housing Authority (PGHA) property were underground.
- Mr. Brewster asked if the Municipal Underground Utilities Consortium (MUUC) was a local organization.
- Mr. Murphy replied it was not but rather was State-wide.
- Mr. Gil then recalled interest in a possible development at the entrance to BSI, stating the developer was advised the seawall must be raised to the District's standards as it was not currently located within same; however, it appeared that project would not be realized, asking who would assume financial responsibility for the seawall.
- Mr. Keeney responded the developer would eventually be responsible for same.
- Discussion ensued with regard to whether the Committee wished to formally comment on the Strategic Plan.
- Mr. Murphy reminded members of their concerns raised earlier with regard to the Alligator Creek cut-through.
- Consensus of the Committee was to express their concerns based on the above mentioned effect on the BSI community.
- Mr. Zajicek spoke in favor of increasing the momentum of the seawall cap replacement program.
- Mr. Gil countered he did not believe same was applicable to the Strategic Plan but rather was part of operations. He expressed concern in that funds would not be available for unexpected disasters later in the year if same were expended early.
- Mr. Zajicek countered that was the basis for having a reserve.
- Mr. Gil responded reserves were expended quickly. He asked Mr. Keeney to consider the feasibility of accelerating the seawall cap replacement program and be prepared to address same at the Committee's next meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Mr. Keeney asked if a canal clean-up had been conducted in BSI.
- Mr. Wiechec replied affirmatively, suggesting staff contact Mr. Charley Longenbarger at the Boat Club.
- Mr. Zajicek mentioned the need for adequate police patrol throughout the canals.
- Mr. Keeney offered to ask Acting Police Chief Arenal to make a presentation to the Committee similar to that which had been provided to the PGICAC.
- Mr. Gil agreed that would be helpful. He then stated he recently observed a lawn mowing contractor throw a great deal of fruit into the canal, asking if same was allowed.

- Mr. Keeney replied he did not believe so, suggesting Mr. Gil contact the Code Compliance Division.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:26 p.m.

Joseph Gil, Chairman

Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary