

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David McBride, Chairman
Fredric Cort, Jake Dye, Fred Hannon,
Robert Knabe, Paul Raffa, Colleen Wright

OTHERS PRESENT: Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor
Kristin Simeone, Finance Director
Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting, and Compliance Manager
Macalle Finkle, Paralegal
Bob Nikula, Project Manager
Mike Parr, Paula Conte, Tom Knapp

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
 - 1. October 21, 2019
 - Mr. McBride announced he had served the maximum number of terms allowed on the Committee, adding this meeting would be his last.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. July 15, 2019
 - Mr. Raffa MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED approval of the July 15, 2019 minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- There were none.

REPORTS

- A. Finance Reports - July and August 2019
 - Ms. Kristin Simeone, Finance Director, reported reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Irma-related seawall repairs increased from 75% to 90%, noting contributions from the City and State were each reduced to 5%. She explained permitting for the mitigation project had caused delays which could take an additional two years to resolve; therefore, staff had requested an extension from FEMA.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the rip-rap mitigation project and FEMA's reimbursement process, with members confirming the savings produced by the increased reimbursement could be utilized for current loans.

- B. Budget Utilization Report - July and August 2019
 - Mr. Disher offered to answer any questions regarding the July 2019 and August 2019 reports.
 - Mr. McBride inquired if the percentage of work completed denoted in the reports was expected to increase before the end of the Fiscal Year.
 - Mr. Disher replied the mangrove trimming percentage would increase.
- C. Seawall Replacement Status Report - August 2019
 - Mr. Disher offered to answer any questions regarding the August 2019 report.
 - Mr. McBride questioned whether installation of sod had been completed for all projects.
 - Mr. Disher replied affirmatively, noting all Hurricane Irma-related seawall repair projects were complete. He stated annual inspections were taking place, adding final reports on the projects would be provided at a future date.
- D. Permits Authorized by City Staff - July and August 2019
 - No discussion.
- E. PGI Capital Improvement Status 20190910
 - Mr. Disher reported the Seawall Alternative Material consultants had completed tasks one through three, as delineated in the agenda material, noting a report would be presented on their findings at the November 18, 2019 meeting. He then stated negotiations were ongoing with contractors for the Ponce De Leon Inlet Widening and Dredging Project and the Spoil Site Channel Project.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Recording Secretary Pues swore in all participants.
- A. Special Permit – CCSP-08-19 - Petition for Special Permit under the provisions of Section 6-6(j) of the Punta Gorda Code to install a second and third boat lift at a property with less than 85 feet of seawall as prohibited by section 6-6(c)3, Punta Gorda Code at Lot 41, Block 13, Section 4, aka 27 Tropicana Drive, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950.
Owner/Petitioner: Steve Mullins
Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412211157013
- Mr. Bob Nikula, Project Manager, displayed photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material, briefly reviewing the request. He concluded the request did not conflict with the approval criteria for a Canal Construction Special Permit and staff recommended approval of this request.
- Mr. Mike Parr, authorized agent, explained the boat lift would allow for a jet ski to be stored on the dock and the existing ladder on the dock would be relocated.

- Ms. Paula Conte questioned whether the proposed construction would encroach on her property, expressing concern a depression located on her property seawall would be adversely affected.
 - Mr. Nikula replied the proposed construction was within the required limitations. He then stated staff could inspect and remedy the current depressions as needed, noting the request should not cause or exacerbate any depressions along the seawall at Ms. Conte's property.
 - Mr. Tom Knapp inquired whether the construction would negatively impact visibility within the canals or the future sale of his parent's property.
 - Mr. Parr explained the impact to the view would be comparable to that of a standard boat lift, clarifying weight limitations would prevent storage of a larger watercraft.
 - Mr. McBride called three times for public comment.
 - Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the minimal impact swing lifts had presented within the canals, with members suggesting regulations for swing lifts be addressed separately from standard boat lifts.
 - Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Dye SECONDED to approve CCSP-08-19. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- B. Special Permit - CCSP-09-19 - Petition for Special Permit under the provision of Section 6-6(j) of the Punta Gorda Code to install 4 outpilings with 3 of 4 outpilings and a portion of an aluminum walkway outside the 45 degree angle at a property with less than 85 feet of seawall as prohibited by Sections 6-6(c)3 and 6-6(c)4 Punta Gorda Code at Lot 1, Block 224, Section 14, aka 3949 Turtle Dove Boulevard, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950.
 Owner/Petitioner: Joseph Smiley
 Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412224452001

NOTE: Mr. Dye left the dais at 2:03 p.m.

- Mr. Nikula displayed photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material, noting mangroves located on the back side of the property would require trimming. He stated staff recommended approval of this request, adding members should have received correspondence from an adjacent property owner regarding the request.
- Mr. McBride noted the aluminum walkway extended further from outpilings than was typical for a corner lot, opining same might indicate a larger vessel would be stored at the dock.

- Mr. Dye explained the distance between the pilings would allow easier access to store and secure the vessel, adding tide slides would be installed.
- Mr. McBride called three times for public comment.
- Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Raffa SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. Cort opined the outer pilings were not needed if tide slides were installed, recommending the two outer pilings be denied.
- Ms. Wright expressed concern regarding the number of pilings, noting restrictions were established for a reason.
- Mr. Dye responded the property owner requested the additional pilings to provide added protection during storms.
- Mr. McBride confirmed the proposed pilings would not impede waterways any more than adjacent properties which had boat lifts outside the 45 degree angle.
- Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to approve CCSP-09-19.
- VOTING AYE: McBride, Cort, Hannon, Knabe, Raffa
- VOTING NAY: Wright
- MOTION CARRIED.

NOTE: Mr. Dye returned to the dais at 2:21 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Buckley's Pass Additional Harbor Access Project Update
- Mr. Disher displayed aerial footage recorded on September 4, 2019, and September 11, 2019 depicting the progress made on the Buckley's Pass Dredging Project.
 - Mr. Cort questioned where the dredge spoils would be off-loaded.
 - Mr. Disher clarified dredging had not yet commenced, noting the dredge spoils would be off-loaded at the Casey Key Drive site, and then transferred to the Colony Point spoil site. He concluded staff would provide weekly video updates documenting the project, noting most of the clearing had been completed and placement of seawall panels had commenced.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the seawalls and staging locations utilized for the project.
 - Mr. McBride inquired whether signs prohibiting fishing within Buckley's Pass would be installed.
 - Mr. Disher replied in the negative, adding same could be addressed in the rewrite of Chapter 6.
 - Mr. Cort confirmed rock was discovered along the entirety of the seawall alignment.
 - Mr. Disher then verified Buckley's Pass would become part of the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committees' jurisdiction once completed.

- B. Final Draft of Chapter 6 "Vessels, Docks and Waterways" Rewrite"
- Ms. Finkle announced the final draft of Chapter 6, Punta Gorda Code, was ready for review, providing a brief overview of revisions made. She noted Buckley's Pass would be added to the list of locations where fishing was prohibited in Section 1-6(e) of Chapter 6. She then stated staff would present the revisions to marine contractors and other stakeholders, explaining a workshop would likely be held for City Council to review the final draft.
 - Mr. McBride opined provisions should be made to allow one swing lift in addition to a standard boat lift.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the devices utilized for storing vessels and what should be allowable without a special exception.
 - Ms. Finkle concluded the final draft would be brought back to the Committee for review once feedback from stakeholders was received.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Mr. Disher announced the vacant lot count for each zoning district would be provided at the October 21, 2019 meeting.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:55 p.m.

David McBride, Chairman

Leah Pues, Recording Secretary