

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES  
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
OCTOBER 21, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fredric Cort, Acting Chair  
Jake Dye, Fred Hannon, Robert Knabe,  
Paul Raffa, Colleen Wright

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** David McBride

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor  
Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager  
Bob Nikula, Project Manager  
Wendy Stine, Peter Aratari, Karen Kuske, George Ruchti,  
Bill Drummond

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
  - 1. November 18, 2019

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

- There were none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. September 16, 2019
  - Mr. Raffa MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED approval of the September 16, 2019 minutes.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- B. Certificate of Appreciation – David McBride
  - Mr. Cort announced Mr. McBride was not present to accept the Certificate of Appreciation.

**REPORTS**

- A. Finance Reports – September 2019
  - Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, announced the September 2019 report marked the beginning of Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/2020.
  - Mr. Cort noted approximately \$5 million of the Hurricane Irma-Seawall Replacement funds had rolled over while the remaining purchase order balance was almost \$7 million, questioning whether those two balances should match.
  - Ms. Miller explained the figures differed due to delays in processing payments, noting the funds would eventually balance and any remaining funds would be applied to the loan for the City's share of Hurricane Irma-related seawall repairs.

- B. Budget Utilization Report - September 2019
  - Ms. Wright confirmed funds denoted under "Remaining Quantity" would roll over.
  - Ms. Miller noted the figure for Hurricane Irma-related seawall replacement could change as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had considered reimbursing the City for sod, stating the Finance Department could provide more detail at a future meeting.
- C. Seawall Replacement Status Reports - September 2019
  - Ms. Miller drew attention to the Seawall Replacement Work program for FY 2019/2020, noting the highlighted projects were priorities.
  - Mr. Cort confirmed homeowners would be notified six to eight weeks prior to the beginning of work.
- D. Permits Authorized by City Staff - September 2019
  - Ms. Miller announced staff had authorized 18 permits in September 2019.
- E. PGI Capital Improvement Status Update - September 2019
  - Mr. Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager, reported the Seawall Alternative Material consultants had completed task four, noting a report would be presented at the November 18, 2019 meeting. He explained members' input would be incorporated into the final document and presented to City Council in December 2019. He then stated staff would likely rewrite the scope for the Ponce De Leon Inlet Widening & Dredging/Spoil Site Channel projects with member's feedback and put the project out to bid.
  - Consensus was to move forward with rewriting the project scope.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- Recording Secretary Pues swore in all participants.

**NOTE: Mr. Dye left the dais at 1:43 p.m.**

- A. Special Permit - CCSP-11-19 - Petition for Special Permit under the provisions of Section 6-6 of the Punta Gorda Code to install a boat lift with three (3) boat lift pilings outside the 45 degree angle which is prohibited by Section 6-6(c)4, Punta Gorda Code, at Lot 1, Block 200, Section 14, aka 3666 Whippoorwill Boulevard, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950.  
Owner/Petitioner: DAMAS USA LLC  
Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412224210004
  - Mr. Bob Nikula, Project Manager, displayed photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material, briefly reviewing the request. He explained the outermost piling would be 24.6 feet from the seawall, noting the end of the canal was 125 feet wide. He stated there would be no negative impact related to

the six criteria required for approval of a Special Permit, reporting staff recommended approval of this request. He opined the lift could store a 24- to 26-foot boat.

- Mr. Dye stated he would abstain from voting on this matter. (See attached 8B Voting Conflict Form.) He then explained the location of the proposed construction was selected to minimize the impact to the adjacent neighbors, noting he had a lengthy discussion with the adjacent property owner to ensure there were no objections. He noted the neighbors to the right approached their dock from the right; therefore, they would not be impacted by the proposed configuration.
- Discussion ensued regarding the adjacent neighbors' access to the waterway.
- Ms. Wright inquired if an alternative configuration or lift could be used.
- Mr. Dye replied a three-post lift could be installed; however, the footprint would not change. He expressed preference for four-post lifts as they provided greater stability.
- Ms. Wendy Stine expressed concern the applicant's vessel would navigate in front of her property when entering and exiting the dock, questioning whether the lift could be reconfigured to approach the dock straight on rather than from the side.
- Mr. Dye responded in the negative, pointing out the lift was configured to allow easier access to the dock.
- Discussion ensued regarding the proposed lift's proximity to Ms. Stine's lift, with Ms. Stine expressing opposition to the request.
- Mr. Peter Aratari opined the proposed construction was the best and safest solution, noting an elevvert lift could be constructed without a Special Permit; however, doing so would likely impact the adjacent property to the right.
- Mr. Dye stated the proposal would not impede visibility within the canals.
- Ms. Karen Kuske indicated she owned the adjacent property to the left, expressing concern the applicant's vessel would encroach on her property when entering and exiting the lift.
- Discussion ensued regarding the proposed dimensions of the boat lift and the vessel limitation lines.
- Mr. George Ruchti opined the applicant should have considered the issues presented by installing a boat lift before purchasing the property.
- Mr. Cort called three times for public comment.
- Mr. Knabe MOVED, Mr. Raffa SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. Hannon MOVED to approve CCSP-11-19.
- MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

- Mr. Raffa requested a revised proposal be presented at the November 18, 2019 meeting, opining the entrance to the lift use a straighter alignment.
- Ms. Wright MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to continue CCSP-11-19 to the November 18, 2019 meeting.
- VOTING AYE: Hannon, Knabe, Raffa, Wright.
- VOTING NAY: Cort.
- MOTION CARRIED.
- Mr. Dye stated he would look into revising the proposal, adding there would be some degree of impact within the canals regardless of any changes.
- Mr. Nikula clarified the Committee was requesting the configuration of the pilings be more parallel with the vessel limitation lines.

**NOTE: Mr. Dye returned to the dais at 2:12 p.m.**

- B. Special Permit – CCSP-12-19 - Petition for Special Permit under the provisions of Section 6-6(j) of the Punta Gorda Code to install a lift with three (3) boat lift pilings outside the 45 degree angle which is prohibited by Section 6-6(c)4, Punta Gorda Code, at ESP Section 000, Block 0000, Lot 0111, aka 3233 Purple Martin Drive, Unit 111, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950.

Owner/Petitioner: Gregory Hicks

Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412213727002

- Mr. Nikula displayed photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material, briefly reviewing the request. He noted the existing outpiling was located outside the permitted 45 degree angle; however, same was within the boat limitation line. He concluded staff recommended approval of the request.
- Mr. Peter Aratari, authorized agent, verified the existing piling would be reused.
- Mr. Cort called three times for public comment.
- Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Raffa SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Raffa SECONDED to approve CCSP-12-19. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Dye announced Mayor Nancy Prafke had requested information related to automatic boat covers, noting City Code did not specifically authorize such devices. He concluded there had been interest expressed by the Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee to forward with an amendment to the Code to allow the covers.
- Mr. Disher displayed video footage illustrating the operation of the automatic boat cover.

- Mr. Bill Drummond stated he had requested an automatic boat cover for his vessel and was informed a cover was permitted but mechanical covers were not. He requested feedback regarding the device, opining the device would not encroach upon visibility or navigation within the canal. He concluded such a device would assist elderly residents.
- Discussion ensued with members speaking in favor of allowing mechanical boat covers.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### A. Buckley's Pass Additional Harbor Access Project Update

- Mr. Disher announced aerial footage depicting progress made on Buckley's Pass was available on the City's YouTube channel. He displayed the most recent recording, noting tides had required berms to be constructed within the work site.
- Discussion ensued regarding the work completed.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

- Mr. Disher announced he had been working with Todd Helt, City GIS Analyst, on the vacant lot analysis, noting they were closer to completing the workflow which would identify vacant lots. He distributed documentation regarding the preliminary number of vacant lots and provided a brief review of same.
- Ms. Miller announced the Seawall Assessment program would take place in December 2019. She then stated dredging at the Ponce De Leon Inlet was scheduled to commence in November 2019, concluding mangrove trimming at the vacant lot on Surfbird Court had begun.

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:34 p.m.

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Fredric Cort, Acting Chair

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Leah Pues, Recording Secretary