

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fredric Cort, Chairman
Jake Dye, Fred Hannon,
Mark Kuharski, Paul Raffa,
Colleen Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Knabe

OTHERS PRESENT: Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor
Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager
Kristin Simeone, Finance Director
Rick Keeney, Public Works Director

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
 - 1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
 - Mr. Cort opened the floor for nomination for Chairman.
 - Mr. Dye NOMINATED Mr. Cort.
 - Mr. Cort was appointed Chairman by acclamation.
 - Mr. Cort opened the floor for nomination for Vice Chair.
 - Mr. Dye NOMINATED Ms. Wright for Vice Chair.
 - Ms. Wright was appointed Vice Chair by acclamation.
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
 - 1. Consensus was to schedule the next meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. November 18, 2019
 - Mr. Hannon MOVED, Mr. Dye SECONDED approval of the November 18, 2019 minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS

- A. Finance Reports - November 2019
 - Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, confirmed there were no questions regarding the November 2019 report denoted in the agenda material.
- B. Budget Utilization Report - November 2019
 - Ms. Miller reported the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had reimbursed the City for sod, which increased the Seawall Replacement budget from \$1.4 million to

\$1.9 million. She then explained the mangrove trimming line item was added to the report to account for emergency trimming performed at Surfbird Court.

C. Seawall Replacement Status Reports - November 2019

- Ms. Miller reported two projects were completed and three were under construction, as detailed in the agenda material.
- Ms. Wright inquired as to how FEMA reimbursement funds would be distributed.
- Ms. Miller stated funds would be paid toward loans, noting the Finance Department would provide a report on the final numbers in the future.

D. Permits Authorized by City Staff - November 2019

- Ms. Miller confirmed there were no questions related to the November 2019 report.

E. PGI Capital Improvement Status - Update

- Mr. Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager, explained modifications to the dataset for the Seawall Alternative Materials Project had required the presentation on the Project to be delayed, noting members would be provided with the consultant's findings prior to the next meeting. He then reported the Procurement Division had authorized revisions to the scope of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Widening Project so that the project could be re-bid.

F. Buckley's Pass Additional Harbor Access Project Update

- Mr. Disher reviewed progress on the Buckley's Pass Additional Harbor Access Project, confirming same was on schedule.
- Discussion ensued regarding dredging spoils at Casey Key Drive.
- Mr. Disher noted new aerial footage of the Project was available each week, then reviewing the plan for maintenance of Buckley's Pass.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Mangrove Trimming Schedule

- Mr. Disher confirmed trimming in the Barge Canal removed invasive exotic vegetation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discuss FEMA Mitigation

- Ms. Kristen Simeone, Finance Director, requested a recommendation from the Committee as to whether the City should move forward with the permitting process for the Rip Rap Mitigation Project (RRMP), which had an estimated cost of \$250,000. She explained there were no guarantees the permit would be granted; however, staff recommended moving forward with permitting. She noted the City had requested FEMA extend the RRMP's timeline as permitting would be a lengthy process; however the extension had not yet been granted.
- Mr. Cort questioned how much of the \$250,000 would be funded by FEMA.

- Ms. Simeone replied that 95% of the RRMP would be funded between FEMA and the State; however, the City would be responsible for the entire project if the permit was not obtained.
- Mr. Rick Keeney, Public Works Director, provided a detailed overview of the RRMP's history, verifying the permitting process would take two years. He noted FEMA might not choose to fund installation of the rip rap, in which case the City would have to fund same if the RRMP continued to move forward.
- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the permitting process and FEMA funding, with consensus of the Committee to prioritize and proceed with the permitting process for the Rip Rap Mitigation Project.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Ms. Miller reported the Marine Advisory Committee was accepting applications for grants, adding members could inform staff of any projects they recommended. She noted that grants were available for public purpose projects rather than private residential projects.

COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- Ms. Wright requested an updated budget report for the RRMP since there had been recent changes to the funding.
- Mr. Hannon verified a consultant had not yet been selected for the RRMP.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:16 p.m.

Fredric Cort, Chairman

Leah Pues, Recording Secretary