

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fredric Cort, Chairman
Jake Dye, Fred Hannon,
Robert Knabe, Mark Kuharski,
Colleen Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Raffa

OTHERS PRESENT: Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor
Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager
Bob Nikula, Project Manager
Mike Parr, Mark Benckendorf, John Suessmann,
Peter Aratari

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
 - 1. March 16, 2020
 - 2. Election of Officers - Chairman & Vice Chairman
 - Mr. Cort opened the floor for nomination for Chairman.
 - Mr. Dye NOMINATED Mr. Cort.
 - Mr. Cort called for any other nominations; as there were none, Mr. Cort was appointed Chairman by acclamation. He then opened the floor for nomination of Vice Chair.
 - Mr. Dye NOMINATED Ms. Wright for Vice Chair.
 - Mr. Cort called for any other nominations; as there were none, Ms. Wright was appointed Vice Chair by acclamation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. January 21, 2020
 - Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED approval of the January 21, 2020 minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS

- A. Finance Reports - January 2020
 - Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, offered to answer any questions regarding the January 2020 reports from the agenda material.
 - Ms. Wright questioned whether Federal Disaster Relief funds had been received.

- Ms. Miller replied affirmatively, offering to provide more information once available.
- B. Budget Utilization Report - January 2020
 - Ms. Miller announced the contractor for mangrove trimming was a month behind schedule, confirming comments regarding the delays were relayed to the Procurement Division.
- C. Seawall Replacement Status Reports - January 2020
 - Ms. Miller reported seven projects were completed and three were under construction, as delineated in the agenda material.
- D. Permits Authorized by the City - January 2020
 - Ms. Miller announced 24 permits were authorized in January 2020.
- E. PGI Capital Improvement Status - Update
 - Mr. Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager, announced staff met with the Seawall Alternative Material Project consultants and was continuing to work on the revisions needed for the final report, anticipating same would be available by the March 16, 2020 meeting. He then stated the Ponce De Leon Inlet Widening & Dredging and Spoil Site Channel Projects had been separated and would be completed under separate permits. He explained staff had written the scope which would encompass all projects under a master permit agreement, noting the Procurement Division would be sending same out for bid.
 - Mr. Dye confirmed spoils from dredging was being reused behind seawalls.
- F. Buckley's Pass Additional Harbor Access Project - Update
 - Mr. Disher reported the Buckley's Pass (additional harbor access) Project was progressing as expected, verifying a ribbon-cutting ceremony would take place once completed. He concluded the City's YouTube channel containing footage of the Project had received 33,400 views.
 - Mr. Mark Beckendorf questioned whether additional dredging would commence within Alligator Creek.
 - Mr. Disher replied Charlotte County was responsible for work completed within that area.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Recording Secretary Pues swore in all participants.
- A. Special Permit - CCSP-02-2020 - Petition for Special Permit under the provisions of Section 6-6(j) of the Punta Gorda Code to install a four (4) piling boat lift exceeding ten (10) feet waterward on a waterway less than one hundred (100) feet in width which is prohibited by Section 6-6(c)4, Punta Gorda Code, at Lot 43, Block 199, Section 14, aka 1284 Pine Siskin Drive, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
Owner/Petitioner: Paul Kelton

Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412224207001

- Mr. Bob Nikula, Project Manager, displayed photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material, briefly reviewing the request and concluding staff recommended approval of same.
- Discussion ensued regarding the request, with members confirming safe navigation of the waterways would not be impeded.
- Mr. Mike Parr, applicant's representative, spoke regarding the special permit process for properties located within perimeter canals.
- Discussion ensued regarding the proposal.
- Mr. Cort called three times for public comment on CCSP-02-2020.
- Mr. Knabe MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to approve CCSP-02-2020. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTE: Mr. Dye stepped down from the dais at 9:25 a.m.

B. Special Permit - CCSP-03-2020 - Petition for Special Permit under the provisions of Section 6-6(j) of the Punta Gorda Code to install a second boat lift as prohibited by Section 6-6(c)3, Punta Gorda Code, at Lot 16, Block 3, Section 4, aka 2150 Gulfview Road, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

Owner/Petitioner: Robert Sisk

Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412211401009

- Mr. Nikula displayed photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material, briefly reviewing the request and concluding staff recommended approval of same.
- Mr. Cort verified the three existing pilings would be removed.
- Mr. Dye disclosed he submitted his 8B Voting Conflict Form (see attached). He provided additional details regarding the specifications of the proposed construction, concluding there would be no adverse impact to the adjacent properties.
- Mr. Cort called three times for public comment on CCSP-03-2020.
- Mr. Hannon MOVED, Mr. Kuharski SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. Kuharski MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED to approve CCSP-03-2020. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTE: Mr. Dye returned to the dais at 9:33 a.m.

- C. Special Permit - CCSP-04-2020 - Petition for Special Permit under the provisions of Section 6-6(j) of the Punta Gorda Code to install a boat lift and one (1) boat lift piling outside the 45 degree angle, as prohibited by Section 6-6(c)4, Punta Gorda Code, at Lot 52, Block 226, Section 14, aka 5620 Almar Drive, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
Owner/Petitioner: Mark Benckendorf
Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412225202009
- Mr. Nikula displayed photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material, providing a detailed review of the request. He noted part of the canal connected to the property was outside of City limits, concluding staff could not recommend favorable consideration of the request as the proposed configuration did not meet the requirements for a structure to be aesthetically and functionally compatible with existing structures and uses on surrounding lands.
 - Mr. Mark Beckendorf, applicant, explained the current conditions and alternative solutions could not accommodate the type of vessel he desired, pointing out a previous Canal Construction Special Permit (CCSP) with a similar configuration was approved by the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee in 2017.
 - Mr. John Suessmann expressed concern regarding the number of vessels navigating through the subject area, asserting the lack of space had caused damage to his seawall and dock.
 - A lengthy discussion ensued regarding possible alternatives, with members expressing concern regarding the configuration of the proposed construction and the size of the vessel the applicant desired.
 - Mr. Beckendorf stated his adjacent neighbors had given him verbal approval, verifying the vessel would be close to the property line of his neighbor to the west. He then stated he would be satisfied with a 7-foot dock if the surrounding area were to be dredged.
 - Mr. Disher replied dockside dredging would need to be completed by a contractor.
 - Mr. Peter Aratari, applicant's representative, explained there would still be 56 feet of navigable channel after construction of the proposed lift, indicating the property owner would not store a vessel larger than what was permitted.
 - Mr. Cort called three times for public comment on CCSP-04-2020.
 - Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
 - Mr. Kuharski stated his main concern was the potential size of the vessel rather than the proposed configurations of the boat lift.
 - Ms. Wright noted her concern was with the distance the boat lift would extend into the waterway, adding same could potentially impede safe navigation.

- Mr. Dye commented approval of the request might set a precedent which would allow dock extensions to exceed 25-foot waterward.
- Mr. Cort questioned whether revisions to the configuration of the dock would assist members with approving the request.
- Discussion continued with members suggesting revisions such as decreasing the size of the dock, dockside dredging at the property owner's expense, changing the dock extension to a walk-board, attaching the walkway directly to the boatlift, installing the boat lift piling closer within the permitted 45-degree angle and revising the angle of the boat lift.
- Mr. Benckendorf opined the suggested changes would not make a significant difference, expressing concern the revisions would not be approved. He reiterated a similar request had been approved.
- Mr. Nikula displayed a photograph of CCSP-12-17, which was approved on June 19, 2017, pointing out the basin at that location was over 250-foot wide and the boat lift piling was less than 20-foot from the permitted 45-degree angle as opposed to 24 feet in this request.
- Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to approve CCSP-04-2020 with the exception that the dock extension be eliminated from the request.
- VOTING AYE: Cort, Dye, Hannon.
- VOTING NAY: Knabe, Kuharski, Wright.
- MOTION FAILED.
- Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to table CCSP-04-2020. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. Cort concluded the intent was for the property owner and the contractor to work on an alternative to present to the Committee.
- Consensus was to continue CCSP-04-2020 to the March 16, 2020 meeting.
- Mr. Nikula explained the CCSP would require re-advertisement if the revisions included additional construction outside the permitted dimensions, concluding the revisions would need to return to the Committee by March or April 2020.

STAFF COMMENTS

- None.

COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 10:45 a.m.

Fredric Cort, Chairman

Leah Pues, Recording Secretary