

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Raffa, Acting Chairman
Jake Dye, Fred Hannon,
Robert Knabe, Mark Kuharski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Fredric Cort, Colleen Wright

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember John Miller
Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor
Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager
Bob Nikula, Project Manager
Rick Keeney, Public Works Director
Macalle Finkle, Paralegal
Mike Parr, Barbara Frush

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. She then opened the floor for nominations for Acting Chairman.
 - Mr. Dye NOMINATED Mr. Raffa for Acting Chairman.
 - As there were no other nominations, Mr. Raffa was appointed Acting Chairman by acclamation.
- A. Roll Call
 - B. Next Scheduled Meeting
 - 1. September 21, 2020

NOTE: Citizen Comments on Agenda Items Only was heard following Approval of Minutes.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. June 15, 2020
 - Mr. Knabe MOVED, Mr. Kuharski SECONDED approval of the June 15, 2020, minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORTS

- A. Finance Reports - July 2020
 - Ms. Miller confirmed there were no questions regarding the July 2020 report from the agenda material.
- B. Budget Utilization Report - July and August 2020
 - Ms. Miller verified there were no questions regarding the July and August 2020 reports.

- C. Seawall Replacement Status Reports - July and August 2020
 - Mr. Dye questioned if projects listed in the Seawall Replacement Program schedule were ever completed out of order.
 - Ms. Miller replied affirmatively, explaining same was done only when there were extenuating circumstances.
- D. Permits Authorized by the City - July and August 2020
 - Ms. Miller expressed uncertainty as to the exact number of permits authorized in July and August 2020, indicating there were many.
- E. PGI Capital Improvement Status - Update
 - Mr. Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager, announced the final draft of the Seawall Materials and Methods Feasibility Study was distributed to members and would be presented at the September 21, 2020, meeting. He then stated the Ponce de Leon Inlet Widening & Dredging Project had been presented to City Council along with the Master Permitting Agreement, noting staff was working with the consultant on the scope for the seawall and rip-rap permitting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Recording Secretary Pues swore in all participants.
- Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Kuharski SECONDED to hear CCSP-14-2020 as the last item under Public Hearings. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- A. Special Permit CCSP-12-2020 - Petition for Special Permit under the provisions of Section 6-6(j) of the Punta Gorda Code to install a boat lift with three (3) boat lift pilings and a portion of a two (2) foot wide aluminum walkway outside the 45 degree angle, which is prohibited by Section 6-6(c)4, Punta Gorda Code, at Lot 1, Block 132, Section 12, aka 2828 Deborah Drive, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
 Owner/Petitioner: Miketich Miho
 Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412214356007
 - Mr. Bob Nikula, Project Manager, displayed photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material, providing a brief review of the request. He concluded safe navigation would not be impeded and staff recommended approval of the request.
 - Mr. Mike Parr, applicant's agent, noted the proposed design was typical for corner lots.
 - Mr. Raffa called three times for public comment.
 - Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
 - Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED to approve CCSP-12-2020. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Special Permit CCSP-13-2020 - Petition for Special Permit under the provisions of Section 6-6(j) of the Punta Gorda Code to install a boat lift with three (3) boat lift pilings and a portion of a two (2) foot wide aluminum walkway outside the 45 degree angle, which is prohibited by Section 6-6(c)4, Punta Gorda Code, at Lot 15, Block 136, Section 12, aka 3800 Bermuda Court, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950.

Owner/Petitioner: Donald Harter

Charlotte County Parcel: 412223110001

- Mr. Nikula explained this request needed to be advertised again and was postponed to the September 21, 2020, meeting.

NOTE:Mr. Dye stepped down from the dais at 2:05 p.m.

NOTE:CCSP-14-2020 was heard following CCSP -09-2020.

C. Special Permit CCSP-14-2020 - Petition for Special Permit under the provisions of Section 6-6(j) of the Punta Gorda Code to install a third boat lift as prohibited by Section 6-6(c)1, Punta Gorda Code, at Lot 11, Block 21, Section 2, aka 180 Bayshore Court, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

Owner/Petitioner: Robert Abbs

Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412211359009

- Mr. Nikula displayed photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material, providing a detailed review of the request. He concluded safe navigation would not be impeded and staff recommended approval of the request.
- Mr. Dye disclosed he would abstain from voting on this request (see Form 8B Voting Conflict attached). He provided additional details regarding the specifications of the proposed construction, noting both neighboring property owners had submitted emails in support of the request.
- Mr. Raffa called three times for public comment.
- Mr. Kuharski MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. Knabe opined the proposed request was a practical solution for the subject property and was an example of why members should continue to examine the rewrite of Chapter 6 of the Punta Gorda Code.
- Mr. Kuharski MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to approve CCSP-14-2020. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTE:Mr. Dye returned to the dais at 2:18 p.m.

NOTE:CCSP-09-2020 was heard following CCSP-13-2020.

D. Special Permit CCSP-09-2020 Cont'd - 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, and outside the 45 degree angle, as prohibited by Section 6-6(c)4, Punta Gorda Code, at Lot 14, Block 168, Section 13, aka 3115 Guadalupe Drive, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950.

Owner/Petitioner: Gary Evans

Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412213252013

- Mr. Nikula explained this request, which was continued from the June 15, 2020, meeting, was to install a floating lift, 10 feet in width and 19 feet in length, as a second boat lift at the southern end of an existing concrete dock with a portion of the boat lift outside the permitted 45-degree angle on a property with less than 85 feet of seawall. He confirmed the neighboring property owner to the south of the subject property could access their boat lift from the south, then displaying photographs of the subject property and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material. He concluded staff recommended approval of the request.
- Mr. Mike Parr, applicant's agent, indicated he was uncertain whether concerns from the neighboring property owners had been resolved with the applicant.
- Ms. Barbara Frush spoke on behalf of her neighbors near the subject property, questioning whether the floating lift would be secure during a hurricane.
- Mr. Parr verified same would be secured with two 20-foot galvanized steel pipes.
- Mr. Raffa called three times for public comment.
- Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. Dye opined the request would have no adverse impact on neighboring property owners and the request was reasonable.
- Mr. Kuharski recalled there had been concerns the applicant intended to operate a business at the property with his vessel.
- Discussion ensued regarding the applicant's intentions as well as previous requests for floating lifts considered by the Committee.
- Mr. Nikula cited similar examples which had previously been approved.
- Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to approve CCSP-09-2020.
- VOTING AYE: Dye, Hannon, Knabe, Raffa.
- VOTING NAY: Kuharski.
- MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

NOTE: Discussion regarding cameras in the canal system was heard following CCSP-14-2020.

- A. Discussion regarding Cameras in the Canal System.
- Councilmember John Miller presented a proposal to install a security camera to monitor boat speeds and other activities in the canal system, explaining a resident had expressed concern regarding excessive speeds in the canals. He noted similar proposals made in the past had not moved forward due to financial and legal issues, acknowledging the cameras could not be used to issue citations; however, the Police Department had agreed to speak with people identified as speeding. He spoke on matters which needed to be addressed if the proposed pilot program was to move forward, as delineated in the agenda material, noting a resident had volunteered his property for placement of the camera and there would be signage indicating the area was being surveilled. He suggested additional cameras could be installed at other locations within the canal system if the pilot program was successful, requesting approval of the project and funding of approximately \$1,500. He stated the Police Department was in favor of the proposal; however, they would be unable to monitor the video footage and would instead review same when an issue arose. He acknowledged funding the program might require a change as this was not a maintenance project.
 - Mr. Dye indicated additional information regarding funding was needed, opining the pilot program would assist in addressing vessel thefts.
 - Mr. Kuharski questioned how a vessel's speed would be detected from video footage.
 - Discussion ensued regarding determining if vessels were speeding as well as potential methods for storing and monitoring the video footage.
 - Mr. Raffa expressed concern regarding potential theft of and damage to the camera, verifying the City would be responsible for protecting the equipment during a hurricane.
 - Mr. Miller confirmed the cameras would operate 24/7 and could detect activity at night.
 - Mr. Rick Keeney, Public Works Director, explained City Manager Howard Kunik requested the proposal be brought to the Committee to determine whether there was support for same, noting the City Attorney indicated the Committee could not fund the proposal as it stood this date; however, another funding source could be determined.
 - Mr. Kuharski spoke in favor of using the cameras to address security rather than speeding vessels.
 - Mr. Keeney stated staff would address the matters delineated in the agenda material if the Committee supported the proposal.

- Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to support the proposal for a trial surveillance program. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Presentation of the Draft Seawall Materials & Methods Feasibility Study by Taylor Engineering
 - Mr. Disher reiterated the draft for the Seawall Materials & Methods Feasibility Study would be presented at the next meeting.
 - Mr. Knabe questioned the status of the rewrite of Chapter 6 of the Punta Gorda Code.
 - Ms. Macalle Finkle, Paralegal, replied the City Attorney would finish his review of the rewrite this week, noting same would be scheduled for a public hearing before City Council in September 2020.

STAFF COMMENTS

- None.

COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- None.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:51 p.m.

Paul Raffa, Acting Chair

Leah Pues, Recording Secretary