

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA  
PUNTA GORDA ISLES CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 22, 2022, 1:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cort, Chair  
D'Amico, Dye, Hannon, Ludvig, Sullivan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor; Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager; Bryan Clemons, Public Works Engineering Manager; Mary Holt; Brian Holt; Patricia Hornback

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Cort called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

1) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1.a Approval of Minutes January 18, 2022

**Exhibits:**

[Cover Page](#)

[01-18-2022 Minutes](#)

Mr. Knabe **MOVED** to approve the January 18, 2022, minutes, **SECONDED** by Mr. Ludvig.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Recording Secretary Pues swore in all participants of the quasi-judicial public hearing.

2) **REPORTS**

2.a [Finance Report January 2022](#)

**Exhibits:**

[Cover Page](#)

[PGI YTD Expenditure Report 2-3-2022](#)

[PGI YTD Revenue Report 2-3-2022](#)

Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, verified there were no questions regarding the finance reports.

2.b [Budget Utilization Report January 2022](#)

**Exhibits:**

[Cover Page](#)

[PGI Utilization February](#)

Ms. Miller reported funds spent as of January 2022 were for seawall replacements, adding mangrove trimming would commence April 4, 2022.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the responsibilities of property owners versus government entities for managing mangroves, with Ms. Miller verifying

guidelines for mangrove trimming could be found on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency's website.

2.c [Seawall Replacement Status Report January 2022](#)

**Exhibits:**

[Cover Page](#)

[PGI Status Report February](#)

Ms. Miller announced two seawall failures occurred and would likely cause two projects to transfer to the seawall replacement schedule for fiscal year 2022/2023, verifying one property owner at Don Quixote Drive requested to delay the project scheduled for their property to the following year.

Mr. Cort suggested staff provide the new members with a copy of the Seawall Replacement Study (Study) by Taylor Engineering; additionally, all members be given an update on the expected timeframe for seawall replacements and how same would affect assessment rates.

Ms. Miller stated the goal was to present the findings from the latest seawall assessment at the March 21, 2022, meeting, noting staff had made some changes to their methods for assessing seawalls following the Study. She indicated the assessment findings would show there were seawalls in serious condition, noting the assessment only covered the southerly half of Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) and all of Burnt Store Isles.

Mr. Cort recalled members had recommended accelerating the rate of seawall replacements based on the findings from the Study, adding it appeared budgeting for seawall replacements needed be more aggressive.

2.d [Permits Authorized by City Staff January 2022](#)

**Exhibits:**

[Cover Page](#)

[PGI City Permit Report January 2022](#)

Ms. Miller announced there were 24 active permits for the PGI Canal Maintenance Assessment District.

2.e [Punta Gorda Capital Improvement Status Report January 2022](#)

**Exhibits:**

[Cover Page](#)

[PGI Capital Improvement Status 202202](#)

Mr. Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager, indicated the consultants were working on the final report for the Spoil Site Channel project, verifying same would be presented soon.

2.f [Master Permit Agreement Status Report January 2022](#)

**Exhibits:**

[Cover Page](#)

[Master Permit Status 202202](#)

Mr. Disher confirmed there were no questions regarding the status of the master permit agreement.

### 3) QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

#### 3.a Special Permit CCSP 25-2021. Continued from January 18, 2022.

**Exhibits:**

[Cover Page](#)

[CCSP-25-2021 Staff Recommendation Packet 20220217](#)

Mr. Bryan Clemons, Public Works Engineering Manager, announced a request for intervenor status was received from Mr. Stephen Ferrara, 5042 Key Largo Drive (Lot 23), explaining direction from the Legal Division permitted Ms. Patricia Hornback, 5024 Key Largo Drive (Lot 25), to speak on his behalf.

Mr. Cort verified members had no objections to allowing Ms. Hornback to continue with intervenor status for Mr. Ferrara.

Mr. Clemons then stated the request was continued from the January 18, 2022, meeting. He displayed photographs and proposed construction drawings from the agenda material, briefly reviewing the request. He indicated the property had 40 linear feet (lf) of seawall and the canal was approximately 345 lf wide, concluding staff recommended approval of the request based on review of the application as per Chapter 6, Section 2-1(e)(4), Punta Gorda Code, contingent on the testimony of Ms. Hornback acknowledging the current vessel at Lot 25 could safely navigate to and from the dock.

Ms. Mary Holt, applicant, explained the subject property was purchased with the intent to install a dock which could accommodate their vessel, noting same seemed possible after speaking with the City.

Mr. Brian Holt, applicant, provided a detailed review of his presentation for the request, which included photographs of various approved structures similar to the request as well as boundary surveys of the subject location. He stated four marine contractors had provided similar construction designs to the proposed request, noting he also completed related work regularly as a State licensed engineer and developed the construction design to accelerate the process. He explained the rationale and purpose for the request, including additional protection for the vessel during severe storms. He indicated the concern of the adjacent property owners related to mooring and docking their vessels rather than with navigation, opining the proposed design would better preserve the ability for the property owners at Lots 23 and 25 to navigate their vessels from their dock.

Ms. Holt compared the request to the six criteria required for approving special exceptions and how the request adhered to same.

Ms. Hornback questioned whether the proposed dock could be 8 feet rather than 10 feet to shift the structure slightly forward.

Mr. Holt responded same depended on what was developed by the marine contractor, verifying the boat lift was not able to move slightly forward due to restrictions of space between the vessel and seawall.

Ms. Hornback then read a letter of opposition on behalf of Mr. Ferrara, which included a request to deny the special permit application.

Ms. Holt expressed confusion regarding how the structure would impede any construction Mr. Ferrara would develop, reiterating the configurations should provide greater flexibility for him. She pointed out an aerial view of the subject area showed a large vessel was previously stored at the property when Mr. Ferrara purchased it in 2011, expressing desire for Mr. Ferrara to be in attendance to address his concerns.

Mr. Holt added he would not object to any special requests from Mr. Ferrara provided same remained within the vessel limitation lines.

Mr. Cort called three times for public comment.

Mr. Dye **MOVED** to close the public hearing, **SECONDED** by Mr. Knabe.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Mr. Dye opined the design was a reasonable approach to and solution for the property, noting there was no purpose for changing the dock size since the Code addressed hazards to navigation rather than to mooring vessels.

Mr. Ludvig inquired if the request could be modified after approval.

Mr. Clemons responded he did not predict any issues from the Building Division if the structure did not extend beyond the approved limitations.

Mr. Dye **MOVED** to approve Special Permit CCSP-25-2021, **SECONDED** by Mr. Hannon.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

## STAFF COMMENTS

[Election of Chair and Vice Chair](#)

***Exhibit:***

[Cover Page](#)

Recording Secretary Pues opened the floor for nomination of Chair.

Mr. Dye **NOMINATED** Mr. Cort.

As there were no other nominations, Mr. Cort was appointed Chair by acclamation.

Recording Secretary Pues opened the floor for nomination of Vice Chair.

Mr. Dye **NOMINATED** Mr. Knabe.

As there were no other nominations, Mr. Knabe was appointed Vice Chair by acclamation.

## MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary