

**BURNT STORE ISLES  
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
JUNE 12, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Hughes, Chairman  
John Forr, Sean Harrigan,  
Mike McIntosh, Jack Pryor

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor  
Rick Keeney, Director of Public Works  
Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting, and Compliance Manager  
Sharon Knippenberg, Controller

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
- 1. Next Scheduled Meeting - July 10, 2018
  - Messrs. Hughes and Harrigan disclosed they would not be able to attend.
  - Mr. Pryor indicated he might be unable to attend.
  - Mr. McIntosh stated he would monitor whether the Committee would have a quorum.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

- There were none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Approval of Minutes - May 8, 2018
  - Mr. Hughes requested the correction under Item A be read into the record.
  - Recording Secretary Welch read the minutes as follows: Mr. Hughes briefly reviewed the April 2018 Marine Volunteers in Policing Report.
  - Mr. Pryor MOVED, Mr. Harrigan SECONDED to approve the May 8, 2018 minutes as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REPORTS**

- A. Patrol Update - May 2018
  - Mr. Hughes drew attention to the May 2018 Marine Volunteers in Policing (VIPs) Report, as delineated in the agenda material, confirming there were no questions.
- B. Finance Reports - May 2018
  - Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, drew attention to the finance reports for May 2018, as delineated in the agenda material, confirming there were no questions.
- C. Budget Utilization Report - May 2018

- Ms. Miller announced no funds had been expended during the reporting period.
- D. Seawall Replacement Status Reports - May 2018
  - Ms. Miller announced Marine Construction Group (MCG) expected to begin repairs in Burnt Store Isles (BSI) prior to October 2018.
  - Mr. Pryor inquired if BSI had been awarded to a contractor working in PGI.
  - Ms. Miller responded MCG expected to complete one of their PGI project areas by fall of 2018.
  - Mr. McIntosh requested staff investigate reports of an elevator lift installation which had cracked the seawall cap at 3707 Candia Drive.
  - Ms. Miller agreed to do so.
  - Mr. Hughes informed the Committee he had been advised the lock's lights were not functioning.
- E. Permits Authorized by City Staff - May 2018
  - Ms. Miller announced four permits had been issued.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Fiscal Year 2019 Strategic Plan Input
  - Ms. Miller pointed out page 11 of the Strategic Plan depicted completion of the perimeter canal dredging project.
  - Mr. Hughes questioned if dredging would be conducted annually from this point forward.
  - Ms. Miller replied funds were budgeted to do so; however, she relied heavily on boaters to report areas requiring maintenance.
  - Mr. Rick Keeney, Public Works Director, explained the Committee could make recommendations as a whole or members could do so individually.
  - Mr. Hughes requested members submit their comments, or confirm they had none, to staff via email by July 31, 2018.
  - Mr. Forr questioned the status of projects previously identified by the Committee.
  - Ms. Miller responded those projects were listed in the budget, as delineated in the agenda material, specifically BSI Seawall Maintenance Alternatives/Seawall Panels, BSI Inlet Widening/Removal of South Side Lock Infrastructure and BSI Channel Corner Widening.
  - Mr. McIntosh inquired if the lock would be widened in 2021.
  - Ms. Miller responded funds were budgeted in FY 2020/2021, but the project's timing could be adjusted.
  - Mr. McIntosh questioned if the lock would require widening if the City selected an alternative to cement seawalls.

- Ms. Miller opined there would be a transition period to the seawall alternative. She explained the Committee was being asked to review CIPs due to their impact on the FY 2018/2019 budget.
- Mr. McIntosh spoke in favor of pursuing the greatest lock width possible.
- Ms. Miller stated the Channel Corner Widening Project (Corner Project) would address four corners in the perimeter canal, noting while funds were budgeted in FY 2019/2020 for consulting and permitting, construction would occur beyond the five-year plan.
- Mr. Hughes questioned if land or mangroves would be removed.
- Ms. Miller responded the latter, voicing uncertainty regarding the project's feasibility due to mangrove permitting and property ownership.
- Mr. Forr questioned if chokepoints in the south would be addressed.
- Ms. Miller responded the channel corners identified for widening were the four the Committee had discussed and approved previously; however, she opined the southern part of BSI did not have corners which required attention.
- Mr. Forr recalled the Committee also requested widening of the channel at Brindisi Court.
- Mr. Harrigan commented in some sections of the perimeter canal, the channel's principal depth was adjacent to the seawall. He expressed concern structures along those sections of seawall would impinge on the canal's principal depth, suggesting the rewrite of City Code Chapter 6 would address the definition of a navigable channel in addition to other issues.
- Ms. Miller reiterated this project still could be amended.
- Mr. Hughes inquired if the Inlet Widening Project could be eliminated as it would not benefit the majority of boat owners, and BSI residents faced numerous assessments in the near future.
- Ms. Miller replied affirmatively.
- Mr. Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager, interjected the project was principally intended to allow fully assembled, loaded barges to navigate the canals.
- Mr. Pryor expressed concern regarding poor navigability of the lock, questioning if a consultant could be hired to complete a preliminary evaluation before the Committee took action.
- Ms. Miller responded \$25,000 was budgeted in FY 2017/2018 for same.
- Mr. Hughes inquired as to the percentage of seawall which would be replaced at the conclusion of scheduled repairs.

- Mr. Disher responded approximately 15% of BSI's seawalls had been replaced.
- Ms. Sharon Knippenberg, Controller, then reviewed the preliminary Proforma for the BSI Operating Budget, as delineated in the agenda materials, noting funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was progressing but was unlikely to be disbursed for several months. She pointed out the Hurricane Irma Seawall Repairs line item, which denoted the total expected cost of \$1,073,000, \$938,875 of which was anticipated to be paid through Federal and State funds with the remaining 12.5% to be paid through the annual canal maintenance assessment. She noted discussions between staff and the City Manager concluded an increase was not recommended at this time, requesting feedback from the Committee regarding same following her presentation. She pointed out a standard seawall replacement program of \$235,000 was proposed in FY 2018/2019, adding those funds could be reduced if the community experienced significant seawall failures during the remainder of FY 2017/2018. She stated funds were budgeted to hire additional inspectors to examine seawall construction daily, indicating staff recommended this practice continue in the future. She announced the dredging project would not require a sixth year of additional assessment, recommending the additional assessment be combined with the regular operating assessment; however, a final decision regarding the additional assessment would occur in FY 2020/2021 when relevant financial circumstances could be taken into account.
- Mr. Hughes recalled the assessment was intended to sunset after a specific number of years; however, the Finance Department wished to move the assessment into another category.
- Ms. Knippenberg suggested alternative seawall materials might reduce seawall repair costs. She reiterated the decision required this date was specific to the FY 2018/2019 Operating Budget and assessments. She advised the additional assessment would increase reserves, noting widening the lock was intended to mitigate future repair costs.
- Mr. Pryor recalled previous discussion regarding purchasing property for staging, pointing out savings related to alternative seawall materials could not be determined at this time. He spoke in favor of widening the lock but expressed hesitation in combining the dredging assessment with the regular assessment.
- Discussion ensued with regard to members' concerns regarding failure to end the dredging assessment as originally planned.
- Ms. Knippenberg offered to create a third line indicating a reserve for special projects.

- Discussion ensued with regard to the impact of CIP project costs on annual canal maintenance assessment fees.
- Mr. McIntosh inquired if failure to complete the Corner Project would defeat the Inlet Widening Project's purpose.
- Mr. Disher replied in the negative, explaining barges currently navigated the canals with some degree of difficulty.
- Mr. Hughes questioned whether the Corner Project was of high priority.
- Mr. Disher replied affirmatively, contingent upon the Seawall Alternatives Project; however, the Corner Project could possibly be eliminated if an alternate seawall replacement methodology was identified.
- Mr. Harrigan inquired as to when a recommendation regarding seawall materials would be made.
- Mr. Disher replied within six to twelve months after the project's scope was approved, advising implementation of a new seawall replacement methodology would require City Council approval.
- Ms. Knippenberg summarized her presentation, suggesting the \$95 dredging assessment be transferred to a new "Tentative Rate" line item which would be allocated to a new "Other Reserve" line item to fund operations and special projects. She further recommended continuing the current assessments to fund the City's portion of Hurricane Irma-related repair expenses.
- Consensus was to accept staff recommendation.
- Ms. Knippenberg commented briefly on the status of the City's application to FEMA for disaster funding. She then spoke regarding a hazard mitigation project involving installation of riprap at drain pipes and seawalls repaired with FEMA funds, explaining FEMA would consider the project following approval of the Hurricane Irma-related repair funds, and staff approved of the project.
- Mr. McIntosh inquired as to how far riprap would extend from the seawall, expressing concern the waterway's navigability would be reduced.
- Mr. Disher replied it would extend five feet from the seawall and seven feet from drain pipes but would not extend past the current seven-foot berm; therefore, the riprap would not impinge upon the navigable channel.
- Ms. Knippenberg requested a recommendation regarding the FY 2018/2019 budget, stating the Finance Department would adjust same based on comments made this date.
- Mr. McIntosh MOVED, Mr. Pryor SECONDED to recommend approval of the FY 2018/2019 budget and assessment as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. BSI Perimeter Canal - Mangrove Trimming
- Ms. Miller announced staff trimmed a mangrove at a citizen's request, noting she advised the homeowners they could ask the Committee to advance the timeline for annual mangrove trimming.
  - Mr. Hughes responded a Marine VIP explained the usual trimming process to the citizen, who was content with same.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Hurricane IRMA Seawall Failure Updates
- Ms. Miller announced the City's insurance coordinator requested the City inform homeowners of their liability and risk associated with damaged seawalls, reviewing several options and related costs. She advised staff recommended placing signs, sending letters or both.
  - Discussion ensued with consensus to send letters in a manner which could be tracked.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

- Ms. Irene Ploskina, Community Outreach Coordinator, reviewed information to be highlighted in a brief video on seawall repairs.
- Mr. Hughes requested the video be shared through Councilmember Nancy Prafke's newsletter or community groups.
- Ms. Ploskina agreed, noting the video would also be available on the City's website. She then announced a workshop was being scheduled for September or October 2018 at the Twin Isles Yacht Club.

#### **COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS**

- Mr. McIntosh questioned if complaints had been received regarding the delay in seawall repairs in BSI.
- Mr. Hughes responded he had addressed some comments.
- Mr. Harrigan expressed his expectation the mangrove issue would return to the Committee.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting Adjourned: 3:01 p.m.

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Bill Hughes, Chairman

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Sara Welch, Recording Secretary