

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David McBride, Chairman
Fredric Cort, Vice Chairman
Jake Dye, Fred Hannon, Robert Knabe,
Paul Raffa, Colleen Wright

OTHERS PRESENT: Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor
Bob Nikula, Project Manager
Gary Disher, Public Works Analyst
Mark Gering, City Engineer

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- 2. Presentation of Plaques
 - Mr. McBride spoke of the service Messrs. Charles Thomas and James Thompson provided to the Committee, welcoming new members Ms. Wright and Mr. Hannon.
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
 - 1. To Be Determined (President's Day Holiday)
 - Mr. McBride confirmed February 20, 2018 as the next meeting of the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes – December 18, 2017
 - Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED approval of the December 18, 2017 minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- There were none.

REPORTS

- A. Patrol Update – December 2017
 - Mr. McBride briefly reviewed the November 2017 Marine Volunteers in Policing (VIPs) Report, as delineated in the agenda material, stating VIPs focused on areas of major seawall damage. He noted approximately 95 signs which alerted boaters to the damaged seawalls and associated erosion were installed throughout the canal system.
- B. Finance Reports – December 2017
 - Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, drew members' attention to the December 2017 financials, as delineated in the agenda material, offering to answer questions.
 - Mr. Cort requested clarification between Line Items #63-80 and #34-13.

- Ms. Miller replied Line Item #63–80 referred to Hurricane Irma–related repairs.
 - Discussion ensued with regard to how encumbrances fit within the current budget.
 - Ms. Sharon Knippenberg, Controller, explained the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016/2017 funds had been reappropriated; thus, when the current year’s proforma was presented, the FY 2016/2017 end balance would be increased. She reaffirmed this would not impact the standing of the current budget.
 - Mr. McBride confirmed the apparent overspending for Line Item #63–80 would be cleared through the movement of funds between accounts.
- C. Budget Utilization Report – December 2017
- Ms. Miller drew members’ attention to the December 2017 Budget Utilization Report, as delineated in the agenda material, advising FY 2016/2017’s work was almost complete.
- D. Seawall and Cap Replacement Status Report – December 2017
- Ms. Miller drew members’ attention to the November 2017 Seawall and Seawall Cap Replacement Status Reports, as delineated in the agenda material, stating the work program for the year had been completed. She noted staff would have new status reports prepared next month.
- E. Permits Authorized by the City – December 2017
- Ms. Miller reported 23 permits had been issued in November 2017, as delineated in the agenda material. She then announced Ponce de Leon Inlet had been dredged, as requested, displaying an aerial view of same. She pointed out areas depicted in red required additional dredging, stating a number of boaters who traveled outside the navigable channel became grounded. She added dredging could be performed only within the permitted width of the channel, noting completion of same was anticipated within approximately two weeks.
 - Discussion ensued with regard to the actual width of the navigable channel.
 - Ms. Miller pointed out an unapproved Neighborhood Watch sign had been installed at Ponce de Leon inlet, asking if members were interested in placing signage closer to Sancho Panza Court.
 - Mr. McBride discussed the history of Neighborhood Watch signs in the canal system, noting his surprise the sign had not been approved.
 - Ms. Miller explained the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission required the sign to be formatted in the same manner as regulatory signs.
 - Mr. McBride suggested placing a sign on City–owned land at Sancho Panza Drive, remarking upon the importance of keeping Neighborhood Watch signs’ appearance cohesive nationwide.

- Ms. Miller acknowledged the idea's merit.
- Mr. Knabe noted same could be done at Ponce de Leon Park.
- Ms. Miller disagreed as Ponce de Leon Park was adjacent to State waters, which would require permitting, explaining Sancho Panza Drive was ideal as it was at the border of State waters. She then advised the channel marker program had concluded.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Mr. Dye announced he would abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest (see Voting Conflict form attached).
 - Recording Secretary Kelly swore in all participants.
- A. CCSP-01-18 – A Petition for Special Permit pursuant to Section 6-6(j), Punta Gorda Code, to install a boat lift with 1 piling outside the 45 degree angle, and to install a second boat lift, a portion of which was also outside the 45 degree angle, at a property with less than 85 feet of seawall, as prohibited by Section 6-6(c)3 and 6-6(c)4, Punta Gorda Code, at PGI Section 6, Block 51, Lot 8 (a/k/a 2608 Rio Plato Drive, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950).

Owner/Petitioner: Kevin Wittkamp

Charlotte County Parcel ID: 412214328016

- Mr. Bob Nikula, Project Manager, displayed an aerial view of the subject property and proposed construction drawings, both delineated in the agenda material, stating the applicant sought approval to install an existing boat lift, a portion of which would extend outside the 45 degree angle, and a second boat lift with both bunks extended just beyond the 45 degree angle. He explained the boat lift could not be moved closer to the existing dock.
- Mr. Dye explained the applicant had purchased a second boat which required him to change the manner in which he berthed the first vessel, noting the proposed change to the lift would not greatly change the space the boats currently occupied.
- Mr. Nikula concluded staff recommended favorable consideration of CCSP-01-18.
- Mr. Dye advised the applicant had received support from one adjacent neighbor.
- Mr. McBride called three times for anyone to speak on CCSP-01-18.
- Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Mr. McBride commented the total footage of the catamaran and sailboat appeared to leave less than the required 25 foot navigable channel.
- Mr. Nikula replied the canal was just 100 feet wide.
- Mr. McBride voiced concern with the proposed configuration, acknowledging the need for Special Permits, but noting very few set-ups extended outside the 45 degree angle

on straight canals. He opined a configuration could have been devised which abided by the 45 degree rule, adding he did not feel it was in harmony with the general intent of Section 6-6(c), Punta Gorda Code.

- Mr. Raffa inquired as to the combined length of the boats.
- Mr. Dye replied with uncertainty, noting only the lift would be moved in order to be centered under the boat.
- Discussion ensued with regard to the space limitations and requirements of the boats.
- Ms. Wright inquired if the powerboat fit before the sailboat was brought in.
- Mr. Dye responded the applicant was aware of the lot limitations when he purchased the sailboat.
- Mr. Cort asked if there was a different lift that could be used in the current set up.
- Mr. Dye replied in the negative.
- Ms. Wright confirmed members were being asked to approve this dock arrangement so both boats could be housed at this property as the new sailboat's size currently precluded same.
- Mr. Cort MOVED, Ms. Wright SECONDED denial of CCSP-01-18 based upon the evidence and testimony presented.
- VOTING YEA: Cort, Knabe, Raffa, Wright, McBride.
- VOTING NAY: Hannon.
- MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Hurricane IRMA Seawall Failure Updates
- Mr. Disher announced all parcels had been reevaluated, adding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reduced the total from 13.31 miles to 8.9 miles. He announced 2,395 feet were then reinstated, mentioning some of the initial reduction was due to erroneous citizen reports. He noted the exact distance to be repaired was likely to increase.
 - Mr. McBride asked if the seawall which was no longer included would be replaced by the City.
 - Mr. Disher replied in the negative, explaining the discounted sections were areas where no failure occurred. He clarified seawall repairs could still be captured for reimbursement if damage was discovered later.
 - Discussion ensued with regard to work schedules and communication of same to residents.
 - Mr. Mark Gering, City Engineer, clarified the contractors had not finished compiling their work schedules.

COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Hannon stated projections were quite liberal, asserting 30 feet per day was not substantial.
- Mr. Cort apologized for any difficulty caused to staff, requesting a copy of the most recent map from the Public Works Division.
- Mr. Dye asked staff to forward any information on scheduling to Committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:50 p.m.

David McBride, Chairman

Sara Welch, Recording Secretary