

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
MARCH 19, 2018**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor
Bob Nikula, Project Manager
Sharon Knippenberg, Controller
Gary Disher, Public Works Analyst
Mark Gering, City Engineer
David Ouimette, Roger DeBruler, Tim Weller,
Gail Heveron

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
- 1. April 16, 2018

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes – February 20, 2018
- Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Dye SECONDED approval of the February 20, 2018 minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- Mr. David Ouimette requested the Committee address navigability difficulties at the unmarked channel from Ponce de Leon Park to the perimeter canal.

REPORTS

- A. Patrol Updates – February 2018
- Mr. McBride reviewed the February 2018 Marine Volunteers in Policing (VIPs) Report, as delineated in the agenda material, noting directed patrols were conducted near the failed seawalls. He then announced the Punta Gorda Police Department had requested VIPs document boats anchored in the Harbor near Gilchrist Park.
- B. Finance Reports – February 2018
- Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, drew members' attention to the February 2018 financials, as delineated in the agenda material, confirming there were no questions.

- C. Budget Utilization Report – February 2018

- Ms. Miller drew members' attention to the February 2018 Budget Utilization Report, as delineated in the agenda material, confirming there were no questions.
- D. Seawall Replacement Status Reports – February 2018
 - Ms. Miller confirmed the Committee approved of the new report format.
 - Mr. Cort inquired as to the disappearance of some maps from the City's website.
 - Mr. McBride explained the maps did not display properly on cellphones and tablets.
 - Ms. Miller stated staff would investigate the technical issue.
 - Mr. Dye confirmed completion of seawall repairs was verbally communicated to residents.
- E. Permits Authorized by City Staff – February 2018
 - Ms. Miller announced 42 permits had been issued in February 2018, noting the details of same were provided in the agenda material.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Recording Secretary Welch swore in all participants.
- A. Special Permit CCSP 02-18
 - Mr. Bob Nikula, Project Manager, explained the request sought to allow a dock and boat lift which were already constructed to remain in place. He provided a review of the history surrounding the construction of the elevator boat lift at 1610 Appian Drive, noting previous permitting issues. He concluded staff recommended favorable consideration of the request.
 - Mr. McBride confirmed the dock varied slightly from the drawings which had been submitted due to a measurement error on the part of the lift manufacturer. He then inquired if the date of the dock's construction was known.
 - Mr. Nikula responded in the negative, recalling a final inspection had not occurred.
 - Mr. Dye reviewed the history of the construction, clarifying two permit extensions were filed. He detailed issues surrounding the dock and boat lift's location, drawing attention to surveys conducted by the applicant and neighbor. He explained the applicant had decided to construct the dock and lift within City Code, thus the special permit application had been withdrawn. He concluded the neighbors' concerns were addressed and they no longer objected to the dock and boat lift.
 - Ms. Wright confirmed construction commenced during an extension of the permit.
 - Mr. Van Midgley, petitioner, indicated he spoke with the Building Division many times about the issues surrounding the dock.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the dock
 - Mr. McBride called three times for anyone to speak on CCSP-02-18.
 - Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Raffa SECONDED to close the public hearing.

- Messrs. Cort and Raffa voiced their support for CCSP-02-18.
- Mr. Dye stated his conflict of interest precluded him from voting.
- Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED approval of CCSP-02-18. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. “Blueway Trails in Punta Gorda Isles” – Mr. DeBruler
- Mr. Roger DeBruler, Charlotte County Parks and Natural Resources, gave a presentation on Blueway Trails, as delineated in the agenda, reviewing the history of the program. He opined markers were needed within the Punta Gorda Isles’ (PGI) canal system for visitors unfamiliar with the area; therefore, the County was requesting this project be recommended to City Council. He concluded an interlocal agreement would be created regarding the maintenance of the markers.
 - Mr. Hannon inquired as to the replacement of signs.
 - Mr. DeBruler confirmed missing signs would be replaced at no cost to the City.
 - Discussion ensued with regard to the placement of Blueway Trail markers.
 - Mr. Dye questioned how the signs were constructed.
 - Mr. DeBruler explained Charlotte County would produce the aluminum markers, clarifying same met all State and United States Coast Guard regulations.
 - Ms. Miller advised a permit exemption was required to install pilings in the rim and private canals, adding markers required approval from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
 - Mr. Knabe confirmed the pilings would require reflective banding.
 - Ms. Miller stated Public Works would return at a later date with more information on the project.
 - Ms. Wright MOVED, Mr. Hannon SECONDED to recommend moving forward with the project. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- B. Budget
- Ms. Miller questioned if the Committee had any requests regarding the upcoming budget.
 - Mr. Cort requested the process be started to widen the Ponce de Leon inlet.
 - Messrs. Dye and McBride voiced their support of same.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the width and depth which should be dredged.
 - Ms. Miller explained she could include the estimated cost of the widening project study in FY 2019, pointing out costs may vary.
 - Ms. Sharon Knippenberg, Controller, noted an assessment increase might be necessary if the cost of the study was included in FY 2019.

- Mr. McBride confirmed there was consensus to tentatively include the dredging study in FY 2019's budget.
- Ms. Miller announced the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would not reimburse the City for replacement of undamaged seawalls. She explained the City's usual practice of replacing seawall from property line to property line would cost \$800,000, questioning whether undamaged walls should be replaced. She noted additional costs could still be incurred.
- Mr. Gary Disher, Public Works Analyst, added FEMA agreed to reimburse additional damage as it was identified.
- Mr. Dye spoke against piecemeal repair as it caused greater disruption to property owners.
- Mr. McBride agreed, voicing concern same caused diagonal cracks in the older wall.
- Mr. Disher stated current seawall replacement methodology reduced the stress placed on existing seawalls.
- Mr. McBride requested more information before a decision was made. He stated the consensus of the Committee was to replace damaged seawall from property line to property line; however, members desired guidance regarding at what point the costs of these repairs outweighed the benefits.
- Ms. Miller replied she would provide more information regarding same at the April 16, 2018 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Hurricane IRMA Seawall Failure Updates
- Mr. Disher announced staff continued to work with FEMA on mitigation and pricing, noting all of the contractors were working at full speed with additional barges and crews.
 - Mr. McBride inquired if contractors were responsive.
 - Ms. Miller replied affirmatively, inquiring as to complaints.
 - Mr. McBride replied there were complaints regarding noise.
 - Mr. Cort inquired as to the placement of "sox" and whether residents had been informed they would receive same.
 - Mr. Mark Gering, City Engineer, replied approximately one half of the allocated funds were being utilized for sox, noting several locations had been identified. He stated the remainder of the funds would be utilized for medium risk locations; however, there was not yet a schedule to address same.
 - Mr. Cort noted continued erosion at some locations, inquiring if advice to prevent same should be posted on the City's website.

- Mr. Gering responded some advice had been posted, noting most erosion had stabilized with the growth of grass. He stated the City had an obligation to expend funds in a fiscally responsible manner.
- Ms. Knippenberg stated the current year's budget for PGI would be exhausted; therefore, the City would open a line of credit to fund the repairs and would be paid back by the CMAD.

COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- Mr. Hannon voiced his support of the sox for seawall stabilization.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Mr. Tim Weller spoke at length regarding the delay of Hurricane Irma-related seawall repairs at 1217 Aqui Esta Drive, requesting clarification of the steps residents could take to facilitate repairs.
- Mr. Gering opined the contractor's lack of familiarity with Punta Gorda contributed to the delays.
- Mr. Cort confirmed this location was scheduled next for repair.
- Mr. McBride confirmed property owners should contact the City's project supervisor for the site if they had questions regarding repairs.
- Ms. Miller noted property owners received a letter regarding any action required before repairs could begin.
- Mr. McBride suggested the project supervisor for this area be directed to facilitate communication between the contractor and residents, requesting an update on this situation next month.
- Ms. Gail Heveron stated erosion at her father's property had caused his house to begin to separate, reviewing the action taken to preserve the property to date. She inquired as to how he could receive assistance.
- Ms. Miller responded staff would investigate the situation the following day.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 3:35 p.m.

David McBride, Chairman

Sara Welch, Recording Secretary