

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
MARCH 18, 2019**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jake Dye

OTHERS PRESENT: Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor
Kristin Simeone, Finance Director
Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting, and Compliance Manager
Macalle Finkle, Paralegal
Steven Stockholm

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
- 1. March 2019

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. February 19, 2019
 - Mr. Cort MOVED, Mr. Raffa SECONDED approval of the February 19, 2019, minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- There were none.

REPORTS

- A. Finance Reports – February 2019
 - Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, offered to answer any questions regarding the February 2019 financial reports, as delineated in the agenda material.
 - Mr. Cort inquired as to the amount approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for reimbursement of Hurricane Irma-related seawall repairs.
 - Ms. Kristin Simeone, Finance Director, replied FEMA had signed off on approximately \$28 million for seawall repairs; mitigation costs were not included.

Note: Colleen Wright arrived at 1:34 p.m.

- B. Long Range Financial Plan – Fiscal Year 2019 – Fiscal Year 2023
 - Ms. Simeone reviewed the Long Range Financial Plan, as delineated in the agenda material.
 - Discussion ensued with members suggesting staff communicate the need to continue the regular seawall replacement program to residents.

- C. Budget Utilization Report – February 2019
- Ms. Miller presented the February 2019 Budget Utilization Report, as delineated in the agenda material, stating final inspection of mangrove trimming was complete and the invoice was paid. She announced dredging would occur this week near channel markers 13 and 15 at Ponce de Leon Inlet, confirming there were no questions.
- D. Irma 17 – Production Levels 2019
- Mr. Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting and Compliance Manager, reviewed the report for February 2019, as delineated in the agenda material.
 - Members’ discussion confirmed the following: (1) Marine Contracting Group had mobilized to Burnt Store Isles (BSI) – South prior to moving to BSI – North; (2) Duncan had approximately 3,000 feet of seawall repairs remaining in Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) – Northwest 2; (3) Duncan would transfer crews to PGI – Northwest 2 as repairs in other zones were completed (4) report figures were based on the number of seawall panels set; (5) FEMA approved the City’s 15% contingency; (6) gaps between FEMA-funded seawall repairs were not included in the report’s estimated repairs but were included in the reported linear feet of seawall panels installed.
- E. Seawall Replacement Status Report – February 2019
- There was no discussion.
- F. Permits Authorized by City Staff – February 2019
- Mr. McBride inquired if the number of Canal Construction Special Permit (CCSP) applications was decreasing.
 - Ms. Miller replied a CCSP was scheduled for public hearing at the Committee’s April 15, 2019 meeting.
- G. Punta Gorda Isles Capital Improvement Status – Update
- Mr. Disher announced the Seawall Alternative Materials and Ponce de Leon Inlet Widening & Dredging projects’ costs were significantly higher than anticipated, questioning if members desired to separate the projects or put the contract on the street.
 - Discussion ensued regarding the process used to obtain bids for the Ponce de Leon Inlet Widening & Dredging project, with members expressing preference for staff to determine whether the projects should be separated.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Rewrite of Chapter 6, “Boats, Docks and Waterways”, Article II, “Construction in Waterways”
- Ms. Macalle Finkle, Paralegal, presented Chapter 6, Article II, Sections 6–15(a) and (b), Punta Gorda Code, for members’ consideration, reviewing the following topics: issuance of canal construction permits by the Building Division; concrete seawalls; allowable number of outpilings on lots with at least 85 feet of seawall; waterward limits for construction in the waterway; floating docks and lifts; enforcement of City Code in the canal system.
 - Members suggested the following: Section 6–15(b) be amended to clarify the Building Division was responsible for approving plans prior to issuing permits; code enforcement in the canal system be addressed on a future agenda; use of a drone to investigate violations in the canal system.
 - Mr. Knabe confirmed the Committee would discuss expiration of CCSPs during the next review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Hurricane Irma Seawall Failure Updates
- Mr. Disher confirmed this item could be removed as same was discussed under Reports.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Ms. Finkle provided a presentation on the Buckley’s Pass Additional Harbor Access Project Special Assessment, as delineated in the agenda material, providing a review of the methodology used to set the proposed assessment rate.
- Discussion ensued regarding assessment of multi-family developments.
- Mr. Cort stated a hearing for the seawall assessment methodology lawsuit had been cancelled; however, the lawsuit was ongoing.
- Discussion ensued regarding scheduling of hearings for the lawsuit.
- Mr. Cort spoke in favor of increased communication to prevent misinformation.
- Ms. Finkle replied additional information could be provided in the Weekly Highlights Report.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Mr. Steven Stockholm questioned who would be responsible for dredging Buckley’s Pass.
- Ms. Finkle replied maintenance of Buckley’s Pass would be paid from the City’s annual budget, noting the specific fund had not yet been determined.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:51 p.m.

David McBride, Chairman

Sara Welch, Recording Secretary