

**PUNTA GORDA ISLES  
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2019**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor  
Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting, and Compliance Manager  
John Smith, Plans Examiner/Inspector  
Macalle Finkle, Paralegal

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
  - 1. July 15, 2019
    - Mr. Cort and Mr. Dye indicated they would not be able to attend the July 15, 2019, meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. May 20, 2019
  - Mr. Knabe noted a misspelling of his last name on page 3 of the May 20, 2019 minutes.
  - Mr. Dye MOVED, Mr. Knabe SECONDED approval of the May 20, 2019, minutes as corrected. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

- There were none.

**REPORTS**

- A. Finance Reports – May 2019
  - Ms. Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, confirmed there were no questions regarding the May 2019 reports denoted in the agenda material.
- B. Budget Utilization Report – May 2019
  - Ms. Miller drew members' attention to the report for May 2019 from the agenda material, noting two project zones were on hold due to nesting birds. She stated affected contractors would be granted additional time to complete their projects.
- C. Seawall Replacement Status Report – May 2019
  - Ms. Miller presented the May 2019 report denoted in the agenda material, stating Marine Contracting Group's contract had been extended because of change orders and delays. She then noted certain lots had not yet been backfilled due to difficulty obtaining sod.

- D. Permits Authorized by City Staff – May 2019
  - Ms. Miller announced staff had authorized 33 permits in May 2019.
- E. PGI Capital Improvement Status 201905
  - Mr. Gary Disher, Mapping, Permitting, and Compliance Manager, reported staff would meet with the Seawall Alternative Materials Project consultants on June 19, 2019, to assess the northern end of the Punta Gorda Isles canal system and discuss the current assessment process.
  - Mr. McBride inquired as to the number of vacant lots currently available for staging.
  - Mr. Disher responded he did not have an exact number at this time. He then stated staff was working with consultants to adjust the scope of services for the Spoil Site Channel Project and the Ponce De Leon Inlet Widening and Dredging Project in order to remain within the current budget.
- F. Irma 17 – Production Levels 2019
  - Mr. Disher drew members’ attention to the report for May 2019 from the agenda material, noting an additional project was on hold due to nesting birds.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Building Permits for Docks and Lifts
  - Mr. John Smith, Plans Examiner/Inspector, announced a total of 330 permits were issued from October 1, 2019, to May 31, 2019, estimating an additional 154 permits would be issued by the end of the fiscal year.
  - Mr. McBride inquired as to the Building Division’s permitting process, particularly as it pertained to ensuring construction followed approved plans.
  - Mr. Smith provided an overview of the permitting process, noting field inspectors verified adherence to the construction drawings on file and the dimensions specified in same. He explained the inspectors addressed discrepancies, estimating only five percent of permit applications raised serious concerns during review.
  - Mr. Cort questioned if Mr. Smith had suggestions for changes to the permitting process.
  - Mr. Smith replied many contractors had stated the requirement for construction in canals less than 100 feet wide to extend no further than 10 feet waterward was problematic, suggesting the Code be amended to address this situation.
  - Discussion ensued with members speaking in favor of addressing same within the Chapter 6 rewrite.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Rewrite of Chapter 6 “Boats, Decks and Waterways”, Article II “Construction In Waterways”
  - Ms. Macalle Finkle, Paralegal, stated the limitation on construction in canals less than 100 feet wide had been addressed during the rewrite, explaining docks could extend 10

feet waterward while other structures could extend up to 25 feet waterward provided construction did not impinge upon the navigable channel. She then drew members' attention to Chapter 6, Article II, Section 6-15(b), Punta Gorda Code.

- Discussion ensued regarding restrictions upon the extent to which construction could protrude into canals.
- Mr. Dye questioned why construction was more heavily restricted for certain properties denoted in Section 6-15(b)(6).
- Ms. Finkle responded staff could research the history of those restrictions.
- Mr. Cort questioned if Mr. Smith believed the revisions to Chapter 6 were workable.
- Mr. Disher responded staff could further discuss the rewrite with Mr. Smith, adding the City Attorney would review the rewrite as well.
- Mr. Dye inquired if all floating structures were considered floating lifts, drawing attention to the proliferation of floating platforms used to store kayaks.
- Mr. McBride expressed concern such floating platforms were not being permitted and did not meet Punta Gorda Code.
- Discussion ensued with members suggesting language be included to address floating platforms.
- Mr. Raffa inquired who would be responsible for verifying docks and boat lifts were in compliance with Punta Gorda Code.
- Mr. Disher responded Code Compliance Officers would do so.
- Mr. Dye questioned why the required width of reflective tape on pilings had increased to 6 inches.
- Ms. Miller replied same was a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission standard, adding the larger reflective tape was more easily visible.
- Ms. Finkle drew attention to Section 6-15(c), requesting member's guidance on the proposed regulations for waterways outside the Canal Maintenance Assessment Districts.
- Discussion ensued regarding the requirement for newly constructed seawall to be similar to adjoining seawalls.
- Ms. Finkle stated staff would continue to refine the language pertaining to seawall construction. She concluded the Chapter 6 rewrite would be presented to the Committee at their September 2019 meeting.

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

- Mr. Cort questioned if the board could cancel the August 2019 meeting if no special permits were scheduled.
- Mr. McBride suggested same be addressed at the July 15, 2019 meeting.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:49 p.m.

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David McBride, Chairman

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Leah Pues, Recording Secretary