

PUNTA GORDA WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN 2019



The vast majority of those contacted for input were extremely supportive of the plan. While no significant changes were suggested additions were made to this presentation as a result of ideas offered. The Historic District HOA voiced several concerns which are noted at the end of this presentation.



Punta Gorda



- Located at the confluence of Peace River & Charlotte Harbor

The Punta Gorda Waterfront



- Has and continues to play a decisive role in the development of the City
- Key to future development
- Greatest resource

Boating Community



- Punta Gorda Isles & Burnt Store Isles
 - Premier boating communities
 - Accounts for bulk of City population
 - Increases residential revenue
- Benefits all citizens, residential & commercial sectors

Punta Gorda Recognition

- Money Magazine (1996 & 2003)
 - Top 10 “Best Small Cities to Live in”
- Yachting Magazine 2011
 - One of the 50 Best Yachting Towns in America
- Miami Herald (2014)
 - “...these waters are known internationally for fishing and sailing...”
- Where to Retire magazine (2018)
 - One of the “8 Gulf Coast Beauties”



Why A Master Plan?



- PGBA approached the City with a request to revise and update Waterfront Master Plan
- March 8, 2018 Council approval to move forward
- Plan Focus
 - Develop a plan which:
“promotes Punta Gorda as a destination for a variety of water-oriented activities....”

Waterfront Master Plan

Mission Statement

- *“To develop and submit a Master Development Plan to the City of Punta Gorda with regard to, but not limited to, the development of and management of our waterfront. This Plan will seek to establish Punta Gorda as THE premier recreational boating community in the continental United States. The implementation of this plan will ensure our citizens experience a superior boating environment and visiting boaters will enjoy enhanced amenities while taking advantage of our boating-friendly community and businesses.”*

Member Organizations

- Laishley Marina
- The Mariners of PGI
- The PGI Cruising Club
- PGI Islanders
- Pier 1 Yacht Sales
- Platinum Point Yacht Club
- Port Charlotte Yacht Club
- Punta Gorda Boat Club
- Punta Gorda Sailing Club
- Punta Gorda Yacht Brokers
- PGI Seafarers
- Burnt Store Marina
- Burnt Store Isles Boat Club
- Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club
- Charlotte Harbor Regatta
- The Community Sailing Center
- Emerald Pointe Yacht Club
- Fishermen's Village Marina
- Isles Yacht Club
- Sea Tow
- SWF Marine Industries Association
- Team Punta Gorda

Advisory Organizations

- Peace River Sail and Power Squadron
- U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 98
- Punta Gorda City staff
- Charlotte County staff
- Charlotte County Beaches & Shores
- Punta Gorda City Council liaison
- Charlotte County Marine Advisory Committee

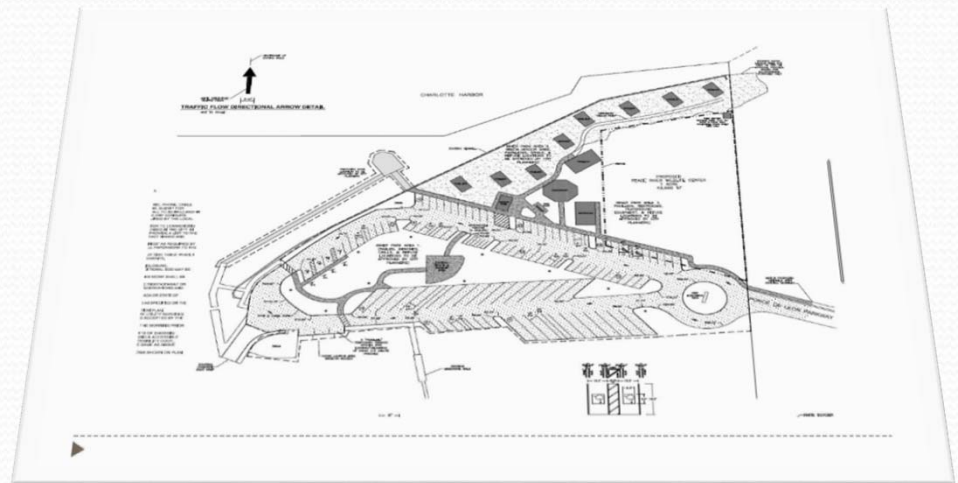
The Punta Gorda Waterfront Development Master Plan



- OBJECTIVE
 - Establish Punta Gorda as a preferred destination for visiting boaters and support recreational boating in our community.

Ponce DeLeon Park Redesign

- Includes
 - Relocation of the Peace River Wildlife Center
 - Redesigned parking
 - Kayak launch ramp
 - Restrooms
 - Pavilions
 - Playground



Fishermen's Village Marina



- There is an increasing shortage of slips/ dockage
- Recommend the City should work with Fishermen's Village Marina to expand the number of slips at the marina

The Punta Gorda Waterfront Hotel & Marina



- Lack of slip availability
- Recommend the City work with owners to rebuild the marina
 - Would provide additional
 - Slips
 - Dinghy docks
 - Restrooms
 - Showers for visiting boaters
 - Inviting environment for visiting boaters

Four Points Hotel/Marina

- Lack of slips available
- Recommend the City work with owners to rebuild the marina
 - Would provide additional
 - Slips
 - Dinghy docks
 - Restrooms
 - Showers for visiting boaters
 - Inviting environment for visiting boaters



Amenities for Visiting Boaters



- Enhanced trash receptacles
- Potable water access for boaters
- Establishment of Wi-Fi along the waterfront
- Showers for visiting boaters (Fishermen's Village or The PGH)
- Visitors Information Center located near the water

West Mooring Field

- Establish west mooring ball field
 - Promotes boating tourism
 - Provides the City a mechanism to manage and control anchorage off of Gilchrist Park
 - Commercial entity management (Fishermen's Village Marina or The [re-established] marina at Punta Gorda Hotel).
- Provides the City with ability to
 - Manage length of stay on mooring balls
 - Provide additional "dockage" during high season



Day/Dinghy Docks

- Because of limited day and dinghy dock locations the following should be considered:
 - Working with the County to construct day/dinghy docks behind the Charlotte Harbor Event Center
 - Dinghy Docks at Four Points and PGH
 - Construct a breakwall at the Gilchrist Landing dinghy docks



Kayak Launch Sites

- Establish sites at:
 - Ponce DeLeon Park
 - East of Highway 41 adjacent to the Harborwalk
 - Colony Point Drive

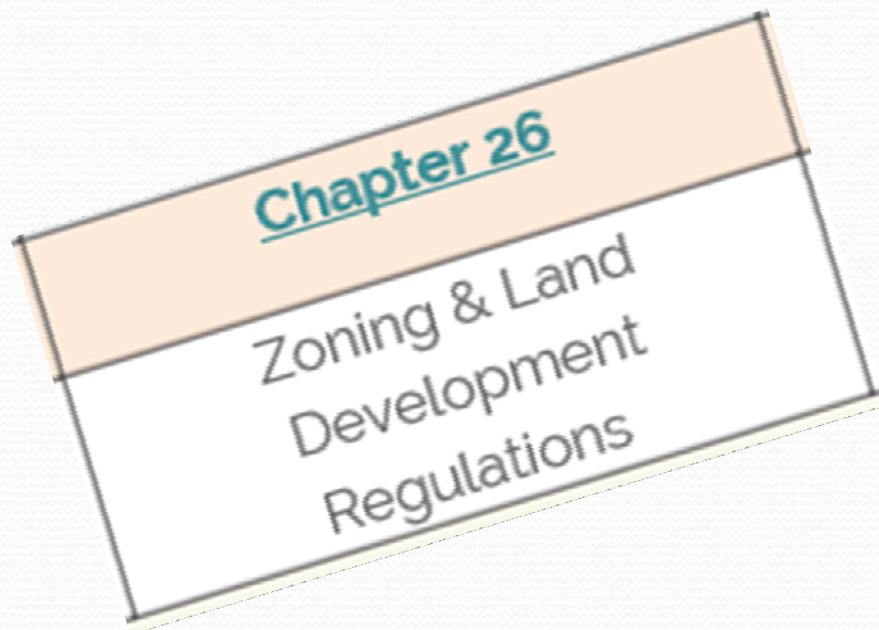


Boat Club/Bayfront Waterfront Buildings

- City should act on one of three options:
 - Renovation of both buildings
 - Cost would be significantly less than replacing the buildings
 - Extended lease would allow renter to invest in improvements
 - New facade on exterior of the buildings
 - Update the interior: new restrooms and other improvements
 - Would greatly improve their usability
 - Improve “curb appeal”
 - Remove the old buildings and replace them with a new structure (if first option is taken this should be a 10-year goal.)
 - Do nothing (not an acceptable solution).



Ordinances



- City recently established clear ordinances for boaters utilizing the dinghy docks at the Boat Club and Laishley Marina
- City should continue to establish ordinances (rules) for boaters living in and visiting our city
- City should work with/lobby the State for statewide legislation which would allow PG to quickly deal with derelict boats.

Collaboration and Cooperation

- Working with The FWC and The U.S. Coast Guard to ensure all boats are properly registered.
- Publicize that the Pump-Out Boat is free while partnering with FWC and The U.S. Coast Guard to ensure no boaters are polluting our waters and inform all boaters it is being monitored by law enforcement.
- Enforce all regulations related to anchoring on boats anchored near our shores.
- Promote and co-sponsor safe boating courses.

Alternate Access

- Complete Buckley's Pass
 - “Bird Cut”



Dredging

- Review/apply for permits for Ponce Inlet
 - Dredge deeper (7')
 - Two year permitting process... need to apply now
- Work with County to dredge Alligator Creek deeper



Water Taxi Service

- City should work with Sunseeker to
 - ensure reliable Water Taxi Service is established.
 - Promotes tourism for Punta Gorda
 - Reduces the impact of automobile traffic



Boating Events

- City and Chamber of Commerce should work with local clubs and organizations to
 - Develop large boating events (Sail-in's; Trawler Fest)
 - Attracts visiting boaters & visitors
 - Expand existing events
 - Example: The Conquistador Cup and Leukemia Cup, held annually on the Peace River.



MARINE PATROL



At least one full-time marine patrol officer is needed in Punta Gorda. The police department needs to assign a permanent officer to these duties and have them routinely patrol waters within the City limits.

Marketing



Punta Gorda
FLORIDA

- Establish an enhanced ongoing campaign and City branding aimed at boaters and tourists interested in water-based activities in partnership with
 - The City, Punta Gorda & Charlotte County Chambers of Commerce
Charlotte County Tourism Bureau

Continued Focus on Infrastructure and Environment

- Manage & maintain harbor facilities by continuing and developing programs for repair, reconstruction and maintenance of
 - Harbor Walk, seawall, beaches, dinghy docks, boat access areas, piers and fishing wharfs
- Provide consistent & attractive signage, public access improvements and an information and maintenance program



Continued Focus on Infrastructure and Environment

- Continue working with environmental groups to protect the environment (i.e.: CHNEP)
 - Establish oyster beds, living shorelines etc.
- Work closely with State, County and Federal officials to protect our water quality.
- Promote and educate the citizens of Punta Gorda about the ecology and what each person can do to protect our environment.



The Waterfront

- Our most valuable resource
- Proactive measures must be taken by:
 - City
 - County
 - State
 - Federal governments
- Proactive measures must be taken to:
 - manage & develop this resource
 - benefit our citizens
 - attract visiting boaters & tourists to our community
 - benefit of our commercial sector



Additional input was gathered during the last quarter of 2018 regarding The Punta Gorda Waterfront Development Master Plan from the following groups:

The Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce

The Burnt Store Isles HOA

The Historic District Homeowners Association

The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association

The PGIslanders

The Punta Gorda Sailing Club





Punta Gorda is a beautiful and unique boating community. We need to plan our future, enhance the lives of our citizens, and protect our little corner of paradise.