

CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Charlotte County Administration Center, Room 119

Minutes
September 13, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mel Staudmyer, Chair
Capt. Ron Blago, Secretary
Richard Anderson
Maurice Sabourin
Robert Leonard
Bob DiMuzio
Paul Marcuzzo
Anthony Tonz
William Kumm
Gerald Meckenberg
Tom Hamilton
Jay Buckley
Richard Johnson
Tim Lynch

MEMBERS EXCUSED

William Bergman, Vice Chair
David Rubin
Len Harris
James Redding
Raymond Rose
Skip Mansfield

STAFF

Commissioner Tom Moore
Derek Rooney, Asst. County Attorney
Ron Rosiere, Public Works
Laura Kleiss Hoeft, Parks & Recreation
Elizabeth Staugler, Sea Grant Agent
Bob Hebert, Administration
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Richard Benson, City of Punta Gorda
Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda
Charles Rinehart, Punta Gorda Police Dept.
Buzz Lewandowski, Laishley Park Marina
Greg Sutton, CC Sheriff's Marine Unit
Grace Amodeo, Manchester Adv. Committee
Lt. Andy Kolba, CC Sheriff's Marine Patrol

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chair Mel Staudmyer called the September 13, 2007 **Marine Advisory Committee** to order at 9:30 a.m., noting there was a quorum present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Staudmyer led the members and audience in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by **Richard Anderson** to accept the June 14, 2007 Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written, seconded by **Anthony Tonz**. The vote was unanimously accepted.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

Ron Rosiere provided updates and answered questions regarding the following projects: Pirate Harbor, Little Gasparilla Island 25 MPH Zone, Ackerman W.W./Lewis Creek, Buena Vista/Grassy Point Waterways, Northwest Charlotte Waterways, Alligator Creek S-Curve, Manchester Lock Removal, Harbor Heights Dredge Design, Suncoast Waterway Dredge Design, and the South Bridge Dredge Design. A member of the audience, **Bob Bernie**, inquired about markers on the Alligator Creek S-Curve. **Officer Sutton** also expressed concerns regarding the markers on the south side of little Gasparilla Island. **Mr. Rosiere** stated it was his understanding this work was completed last August but he will follow up with Jason Quimet. **Mr. DiMuzzio** asked about the effort to put in a boat ramp from Burnt Store Lakes to the public waterway drainage canal at the south end of Pirate Harbor and was advised by **Bob Hebert** to contact Community Development.

Chair Staudmyer announced that, per a request by Anthony Tonz, an item of New Business would be discussed next.

Mooring Ordinance

Anthony Tonz stated he represents the South Gulf Cove Subdivision and expressed concerns regarding mooring problems and safety concerns in South Gulf Cove lagoons. He advised the Sherriff's office is powerless to act on this problem without an amendment to the Mooring Ordinance and asked Lt. Kolbe what would be needed to make this a feasible Ordinance. **Lt. Kolbe** explained how mooring differs from Derelict and Abandoned Vessels and referred to previous mooring problems at Chadwick's Cove. He mentioned problems with vessels that are not officially classified as derelict or abandoned and stated at this time, Charlotte County does not have an Ordinance to address mooring in public waters. **Bob Hebert** addressed a question by **Robert Leonard** about public nuisance laws and provided details concerning the Abandoned Vessel Ordinance passed this summer by the BCC. **Chair Staudmyer** requested Derek Rooney schedule a meeting with Lt. Kolbe and Anthony Tonz with the results to be tabled for the next meeting. A discussion ensued.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Tom Moore provided information and comments regarding the final budget approval for WCIND.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

The Committee recognized Laishley Park Municipal Marina for Clean Marina Status. **Chair Staudmyer** acknowledged Buzz Lewandowski and Randy Brodersen and read the Proclamation that will be officially presented to them on September 25th before the BCC.

Chuck Rinehart gave an update regarding the VIP Boat Review stating the order is complete and they are now awaiting final approval of the Budget.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Robert Leonard provided an update regarding Code Compliance on the waterways. He apprized the Committee of his report to the Code Compliance Division last spring regarding a fallen dock and confirmed it has been classified as a violation. The homeowners have been given until November 21, 2007 to rectify the situation. A report on the outcome will be tabled for the November meeting.

Laura Kleiss Hoeft spoke on an issue in Coral Creek, stating her department was commissioned to look into an area of conflict concerning the navigation paths of paddlers and boaters. Handouts were provided to familiarize members with the general area in discussion, including Coral Creek Blue Way Trails. In addition, **Ms. Kleiss Hoeft** stated Environmental Specialists met with DOP and, at this time, have denied mangrove trimming in this area. With regard to the paths, it is the department's recommendation to follow suit with neighboring counties by using signage as a way to redirect paddlers into less navigable waterways and to bring about awareness with follow-up brochures at the launch sites. **Capt. Ron Blago**, inquired about jurisdiction and asked how Parks and Recreation see their roll in maintaining waterways and other related issues. **Ms. Kleiss Hoeft** made reference to a letter written in 2004 by MAC to Parks and Recreation asking them to consider establishing a kayak trail on Coral Creek. **Chair Staudmyer** reported that it was his understanding this issue had already been resolved. An open discussion ensued. **Bob DiMuzio** voiced questions about establishing a Blue Way Trail and possible problems that could result for the community. **Paul Marcuzzo** had questions regarding signage at the junction points and was told by **Ms. Kleiss Hoeft** that although they are looking at design, they are mainly looking at this from an informational aspect. She also spoke of dock systems that have been installed in other areas which help slow traffic. **Mr. Marcuzzo** brought up problems recently seen with Manatee signs and was advised this issue would be addressed. **Maurice Sabourin** inquired about

public access. **Ms. Kleiss Hoeft** confirmed there is public access at the Placida Boat Ramp and shared they are looking into a new park that would be part of the bridge realignment area and would also include a launch designation. It is their future goal to attempt to separate boaters from the Placida boat ramp and redirect canoe/kayak launch to a different location. **Capt. Blago** commented he did not want to see boating restrictions in public waterways and suggested a formal poll be taken to obtain the opinion of Coral Creek residents. Also questioned was the cost of sign maintenance. **Ms. Kleiss Hoeft** responded that funding sources would include the Rails and Trails Program as well as possible grants as a way to move forward. Funds are presently available for design, public outreach, and permitting. **Chair Staudmyer** asked for clarification and was provided information regarding the original letter addressed in 2004. It was his understanding MAC denied this request, but the Committee will look into it further.

Elizabeth Staugler provided an update and answered questions on the following projects: Boater Alert Cards; Artificial Reef Program and Memorial Fund Raiser; Mangrove Restoration Project; and upcoming training classes. Handout materials were provided regarding same. **Capt. Blago** complimented Ms. Staugler and her assistant, Roger DeBruler, for their work on the Artificial Reef Program and inquired about a building in Englewood that might be suitable for artificial reef deployment. **Commissioner Moore** commented on the destruction of the building and gave an update on the timeline of this project. He hopes to have resolution with the judicial system within the next 3 months and stated the Commission has not lost any zeal regarding their intent for this project. **Tom Hamilton** asked Ms. Staugler if a budget request was submitted regarding the Boater Alert Cards and was told one had been filled out but she needed to check on it's submittal status.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Marcuzzo suggested charts be made available to members to help visualize the more obscure and remote areas discussed during meetings. **Chair Staudmyer** requested Betty Staugler to put the Boater's Guide on disc.

IX. LIASON REPORTS – None

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER - None

XI. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 11, 2007 @ 9:30 A.M.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 10:55a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr
Recording Secretary