

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

Minutes
May 8, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

Capt. Ron Blago, Chair
Len Harris, Vice Chair
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary
Mel Staudmyer
William Bergman
Richard Anderson
Robert Leonard
Raymond Rose
Richard Johnson
Anthony Tonz
Capt. Jay Buckley
Paul Marcuzzo
Tom Hamilton
Capt. Tim Lynch
David Rubin
Fred Mesler

MEMBERS

Maurice Sabourin
William Kumm
Paul Marcuzzo
Skip Mansfield

STAFF

Commissioner Tom D'Aprile
Derek Rooney, Attorney's Office
Bob Hebert, Administration
Tara Musselman, Public Works
Mike Koenig, Parks and Recreation
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Ken Schweim
Randy Brodersen, City of Punta Gorda
Grace Amodeo, Manchester Advisory Committee
John Homer Fleming, Pirate Harbor

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

Chair Blago called the May 8, 2008, **Marine Advisory Committee** to order at 9:35a.m., noting there was a quorum present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by **Dick Anderson** and seconded by **Capt. Jay Buckley** to accept the April 10, 2008, Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Chair Blago advised there would be a change in the order of today's Agenda including an addition by Parks and Recreation.

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner D'Aprile provided an update on the geotextile tubes at Stump Pass and announced they will not be removed until the end of the turtle nesting season. It is his hope this will allow time for further negotiations.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Budget Discussion

Bob Hebert provided a brief update of the budget procedure saying all recommendations made by the Committee will be submitted to WCIND tomorrow. He denied a rumor that additional funds are

available at this time and felt it was possible there could even be a deficit this year. Current projects were addressed and it was stated a report will be forthcoming. **Mr. Hebert** responded to an inquiry by **Chair Blago** about left over funds and advised a contingency fund was set aside last year for this, adding that requests must meet the intent need of the act that created the funds and cannot be used for other purposes. Another update will be provided next month.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

Public Works Department Update

Tara Musselman provided updates regarding the following projects: Ackerman Waterway, Alligator Creek, Buena Vista Area Waterways, Edgewater North, Gulf Cove Waterways, Harbour Heights, Hayward Canals, Manchester Lock Removal, Northwest Port Charlotte, Peace River Shores, Pirate Harbor, Southbridge Waterway, South Gulf Cove, and Suncoast Waterway. **Mel Staudmyer** asked for a list of MSBU meetings. **Ms. Musselman** stated she does not have any Waterway meetings scheduled at this time but will provide email notifications for future meetings on a bi-monthly basis. She also spoke briefly on funding for a Bathometric Survey and installation of Channel Markers at Chadwick Cove and stated a cost estimate will be provided.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

Joint Advisory Board Meeting

Mike Koenig announced that a Joint Meeting was requested of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee, the Marine Advisory Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to discuss several issues, including the hours of fishing piers and boat ramps, kayaking canoe launching guidelines, and the status of the Wisteria Boat Ramp. The meeting is scheduled to take place at the Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center on June 17, 2008, at 9:30a.m., and all members are encouraged to attend. A question and answer period ensued. **Chair Blago** requested a copy of the agenda in advance of the meeting and confirmed that a quorum will not be necessary as there will only be an exchange of information and no voting will take place. Those planning to attend were indicated by a show of hands.

Vacancies

Gerald Meckenberg advised there are two Committee vacancies and stated an applicant has applied for the Member-at-Large position previously held by Bob DiMuzio and is present at today's meeting. Requirements and advertising were discussed and it was confirmed applications are still being accepted for the Member-at-Large position previously held by Thomas Knight. **John Homer Fleming** introduced himself and provided information on his background and credentials. **Attorney Rooney** advised on procedures for electing and advertising Member-at-Large positions and the Recording Secretary confirmed the vacancies are on the BCC docket for later this month. **Grace Amodeo** commented she would like to see representation from the Manchester Waterway and expressed interest in the position. **Chair Blago** explained that Committee Bi-Laws do not allow membership in more than one County Advisory Board and reiterated that applications are being accepted for two vacancies and anyone not already a member of another County Advisory Board is welcome to apply. He stated the Committee is seeking good representation from all members of the community as it relates to boating and fishing interests. Discussion continued. **Attorney Rooney** provided a review of the Marine Advisory Committee Resolutions and Bi-Laws. Discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mooring Issue

Chair Blago provided members with a brief update on the background of this issue and it's progression to date. A discussion took place regarding the process of establishing mooring zones. **Capt. Buckley** confirmed the City of Punta Gorda's plans are underway and spoke of a recent workshop he attended. **Chair Blago** added that funds were dedicated to Punta Gorda as the Committee recognized getting the first zone established was a step to getting the problem resolved for the entire county. **Richard Anderson** provided additional information regarding the difficulties of establishing mooring zones.

Chair Blago confirmed there are no motions before the Board concerning mooring issues and suggested following the normal procedure of contacting law enforcement agencies and using resources already in place to resolve matters on an individual basis.

Pole and Troll

Bob Leonard advised that the Stakeholders meeting mentioned last month by Lucy Blair will be meeting later this month and recommended a member from MAC attend and provide a report at the next meeting. **Chair Blago** appointed **Bob Leonard** as representative for the Committee. He further suggested going on record by summarizing work done by the Committee and forwarding it to the BoCC along with recommendations of proposed areas for potential mitigation sites. Discussion continued. It was decided to table this for the next meeting following a report from the Stakeholder's meeting.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS - None

X. LIASON REPORTS - None

XI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Staudmyer complimented Committee officers on their performance to date.

Randy Brodersen was asked to provide information about a proposed Parking Meter Ordinance in the City of Punta Gorda. He stated a proposal was made to recoup funds through parking meters at parks and boat ramps. Monies would be used for park and ramp maintenance and annual parking stickers would be available and could be purchased at a discounted rate for property owners. A discussion ensued. **Mr. Brodersen** and his crew were acknowledged for receiving the Outstanding Marine Development Award for 2007. **Mr. Leonard** asked about the closure at Ponce de Leon Park at dusk and the origin of this decision. **Capt. Buckley** inquired further about parking sticker requirements and a discussion took place concerning the declining economy and the resulting increases for fees and services.

It was confirmed to **Len Harris** that the Director of Parks and Recreation would Chair the upcoming Joint Meeting.

XII. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 12, 2008 @ 9:30 A.M. in room 119

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 10:41a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary