

CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Charlotte County Administration Center, Room B-106

Minutes
November 12, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Capt. Ron Blago, Chair
Len Harris, Vice Chair
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary
William Bergman
Keith Buechel
Douglas Donovan
John Homer Fleming
Tom Hamilton
Richard Johnson
William Kumm
Robert Leonard
Capt. Tim Lynch
Fred Mesler
Raymond Rose
Scott Schermerhorn
Mel Staudmyer

STAFF

Commissioner Bob Starr
Tara Musselman, Public Works
Bill Taylor, Budget
Mike Koenig, Parks and Recreation
Roger DeBruler, EES/Natural Resources
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Mary McMurray, FDEP/CHAP
Grace Amodeo, Manchester Advisory Committee
Richard Bossey, All American Covered Boat Storage
Bill Dixon

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Richard Anderson
Capt. Jay Buckley
Skip Mansfield
Capt. Maurice Sabourin
Anthony Tonz

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
Chair Blago called the November 12, 2009, **Marine Advisory Committee** meeting to order at 9:30a.m. noting there was a quorum present.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Chair Blago offered opening remarks and led the members and audience in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A motion was presented by **Len Harris** to accept the October 8, 2009, Marine Advisory Committee minutes as written. Following a second, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Blago advised the order of today's meeting would be rearranged.

IV. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Starr made introductory remarks and thanked the Committee for their recommendations.

V. BUDGET UPDATE

Chair Blago asked **Bill Taylor** to explain what happens to funds when a request has been approved but the organization that made the request either cannot fulfill the necessary obligations or the project has been completed but comes in under budget. **Mr. Taylor** advised of two situations that could occur and how they would be handled. **Mr. Taylor** also explained information regarding current year funds and CNIF funds. **Chair Blago** stated MAC would like to keep track of these funds. **Mr. Taylor** and **Tara Musselman** responded to questions and concerns from members. **Bill Bergman** inquired about the distribution of CNIF funds to other counties in emergency situations and requested **Mr. Taylor** to look into this further. **Mel Staudmyer** advised on the importance of asking applicants the appropriate questions when they are requesting funds.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

MSBU Update

Tara Musselman provided updates and answered questions regarding the following projects: Alligator Creek, Buena Vista Area Waterways, Gulf Cove Waterways, Harbour Heights, and Hayward Canals.

Stump Pass Delay

Chair Blago provided an update on the status of the letter he was requested to write at the last meeting regarding the Stump Pass project and stated the letter would not be forthcoming until Michael Poff has the opportunity to speak with members of the DEP in Tallahassee. He added that Mr. Poff will provide an update at the next meeting. **Commissioner Starr** confirmed he recently toured the Pass and confirmed that all Commissioners will be touring the area by helicopter. He felt it important that this issue be resolved as quickly as possible and confirmed the permit will expire in 2011.

Ms. Musselman responded to an inquiry from **Grace Amodeo** regarding the Manchester Waterways and stated she anticipated the project being completed in December of this year.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Port-a-Johns

Chair Blago advised of problems he anticipates following the removal of the Port-a-Johns. **Mike Koenig** stated their removal was the result of budget reductions. He advised of other alternatives for funding and said it was his understanding the Port-a-Johns will be returned to all boat ramps. Maintenance costs were discussed and **Chair Blago** suggested that Parks and Recreation speak

with the Committee first regarding funding requests before deciding on reductions in the future. **Mr. Koenig** addressed additional concerns. **Bob Leonard** asked about the location of the Port-a-John at the West Spring Lake Boat Ramp and suggested additional signage be installed near the boat ramp to direct people accordingly. **Tom Hamilton** inquired further about grant requests. **Chair Blago** confirmed a commitment was given by **Mr. Koenig** that all new boat ramps will have permanent restroom facilities. **Mr. Koenig** offered additional comments regarding the collection of parking fees at the boat ramp.

Mel Staudmyer inquired about vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Committee and it was confirmed all seats have been filled. **Mr. Koenig** extended an invitation for members to attend future Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meetings.

El Jobean Ramp Status

Chair Blago asked **Mr. Koenig** and **Ms. Musselman** to discuss the time frame for the dredging project at El Jobean. **Ms. Musselman** confirmed the boat ramp is scheduled to open at the end April.

Chair Blago asked about additional funding requested for the Bay Heights Boat Ramp and asked **Mr. Koenig** to provide an update on the project.

Bob Leonard advised on property that is presently for sale that would be a good location for the expansion of the Placida Boat Ramp. **Mr. Koenig** mentioned other locations the county is also considering.

Chair Blago made known the Marine Advisory Committee has a lot of common ground with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and it would be an advantage for both Committees to work together.

Mr. Koenig invited members to the opening program at South Gulf Cove Park on November 16, 2009 and stated there will be a restroom at this facility as well as a pavilion and small trails. **Chair Blago** advised that **Tony Tonz** was largely responsible for getting this project started.

Gerald Meckenberg inquired about the Bay Heights project and the possibility of unused funds rolling into one of the sources mentioned earlier. **Mr. Koenig** advised he will look into this and advise at the next meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Update – Day Docks – Randy Brodersen

Chair Blago advised Mr. Brodersen was unable to attend today's meeting and provided members with a brief update on the status of the Day Docks.

IX. BUDGET UPDATE (Continued)

Chair Blago further advised that Andy Stevens was unable to attend today's

meeting and stated that the budget cycle is coming up shortly and all requests can be made on the County website.

Derelict Boat Update

Roger DeBruler was introduced by **Chair Blago** and presented members with an update on the Artificial Reef program, the Abandoned Vessel Program, and the Florida Master Naturalist Program. He also advised on related events that will be taking place in the community.

Bill Bergman inquired about the remaining funds left in the budget for the Derelict Boat Program. In answer to a question by **Chair Blago**, **Mr. DeBruler** provided contact information and advised on the protocol for reporting abandoned boats. **Mr. Bergman** made known this information is also listed on the Boater Alert Cards. Additional comments were offered by **Len Harris**.

Mr. Meckenberg thanked **Mr. DeBruler** and advised the Committee of a television program he recently viewed on the Discover Channel regarding derelict boats and the difficulties encountered when they are removed.

Riviera Marina Update

Chair Blago introduced **Mary McMurray** who stated she was unable to obtain information in time for this meeting but will provide an update at the December meeting.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Membership Appointments

Gerald Meckenberg made known that seven (7) terms are expiring in December of this year. He advised that Richard Anderson, Keith Buechel, and Skip Mansfield are resigning and stated all others up for renewal have been endorsed by their organizations and have requested re-appointment. He added that Mr. Anderson's Member-at-Large position has been advertised on the County website. **Keith Buechel** advised that his organization has been notified and a recommendation will be forthcoming in January when the new Commodore takes office. Procedures for membership renewal were discussed. **Mr. Meckenberg** advised a previous candidate has already responded and expressed interest in the Member-at-Large position.

Election of officers

Mr. Meckenberg advised that all officers have agreed to stand for re-election.

ACTION: Bill Bergman presented a motion to accept Ron Blago as Chairman, Len Harris as Vice-Chairman, and Gerald Meckenberg as Secretary for the upcoming year and the motion was seconded by Mel Staudmyer. Following a discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Blago invited members of the audience to address the Committee. **Richard Bossey** discussed Yacht Storage and expansion of his facility. He spoke further on the South Gulf Cove Lock and issues with dredging and additional locks that were planned by GDC. He discussed issues that need to be addressed including a new security system, the installation of Port-a-Johns, and additional signage. At **Chair Blago**'s request, **Mr. Bossey** stated the age of the lock was the biggest problem and he reported breaches on the bank when the canal level rises. The solution would be for Public Works to stay on top of the situation. **Chair Blago** encouraged **Mr. Bossey** to speak further with **Tara Musselman** and **Tony Tonz**, and to work with the Property Association to establish common goals.

Mr. Bossey also expressed interest in the Member-at-Large vacancy.

XI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Tara Musselman added additional comments regarding the Hayward Boat Ramp.

Bill Bergman mentioned a situation that recently took place at Laishley Park and inquired who had authority over the park facility. **Chair Blago** made known that the Marine Advisory Committee has contributed funds to Laishley Park over the years and verified that it is a public facility, but the City of Punta Gorda has leased certain portions and functions of it to private businesses. He agreed a clear definition needed to be provided as to what the Management Contract is responsible for and what the City of Punta Gorda is responsible for to avoid future unfortunate incidents from taking place. Further updates from the City of Punta Gorda will be forthcoming.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next Pre-Agenda Meeting will be held on December 3, 2009, at 9:30a.m., Room B-207. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2009, at 9:30a.m., in Room B-106.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 10:48a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

/jms