

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 10, 2011

Chairman Len Harris called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Len Harris, Chairman – Burnt Store Isles Boat Club
Captain Ron Blago, – Member at Large
George Bobko – Port Charlotte Yacht Club
Captain Jay Buckley – City of Punta Gorda
Ken Dieffenbach - Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
William Dixon – Punta Gorda Sailing Club
Douglas Donovan - U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor
John Homer Fleming – Member at Large
Charles Gertner, Pirate Harbor Yacht Club
Tom Hamilton – Isles Yacht Club
Tom Ireland, South Gulf Cove Yacht Club
William Kumm – Punta Gorda Boat Club
Captain Tim Lynch – Palm Island Marina, Member-at-Large
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary – Englewood U.S.C.G.A.
Mike Quinn – Punta Gorda Sports Fishing Club
Raymond Rose – Peace River Squadron, Inc.
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Cody Vaughn-Birch – Member at Large
Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda

MEMBERS ABSENT

Capt. Scott Schermerhorn – Member at Large
Mel Staudmyer – Harbour Heights Yacht Club

STAFF

Roger DeBruler, Jr. – Community Services, Parks & Natural Resources
Dianne Quilty – Fiscal Services
Andy Stevens – Community Services
Pam Alexander – Administrative Assistant II

GUESTS

Herman Novak – New Representative from the City of Punta Gorda
Jake Dye – New Representative from Isles Yacht Club
Bert Jones - Nominee for Member-At-Large position
Jo Mogel, FFWC Boating Advisory Council
Randy Broderson – City of Punta Gorda
Grace Amodeo – Manchester Advisory Committee
Lieutenant Jim Kirdy – Punta Gorda Police Department
Volunteer Deputy Coordinator Tom McAlear – Punta Gorda Police Department

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012

Chairman: On motion by Captain Ron Blago, seconded by Jay Buckley and carried unanimously, Len Harris was selected as Chairman. Term of Office will begin January 1, 2012.

Vice Chairman: On motion by Bill Dixon, seconded by William Kumm and carried unanimously, Raymond Rose was selected as Vice Chairman. Term of Office will begin January 1, 2012.

Secretary: On motion by Captain Tim Lynch, seconded by Doug Donovan and carried unanimously, Gerry Meckenberg was selected as Secretary. Term of Office will begin January 1, 2012.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Starr thanked all for their participation at the recent Joint Meeting. He felt that it was a productive meeting and good ideas were presented. Coordination with other Departments is going to be important as we move forward and complimented the members for their funding recommendations for the benefit of the voters. He reminded the members that their recommendations to fill the expiring terms should be delivered to his office by next Thursday so that they are on the BCC agenda for their December meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. On motion by Chuck Gertner seconded by Mike Quinn and carried unanimously, the Minutes of Last Regular Meeting on October 13, 2011 were approved as presented.

- B. On motion by Jay Buckley, seconded by Tom Hamilton and carried unanimously, the Minutes of both the October 6, 2011 and November 3, 2011 Pre-Agenda Meetings were approved as presented.

- C. Andy Stevens read Tara Musselman's Update into the record (copy attached). Commissioner Starr asked if permits are in place to dredge for all waterways in Charlotte County. Commissioner Starr stated that if a waterway is permitted and needs dredging, he would like to move forward with having it done.

Bill Dixon expressed his appreciation to Tara for having her report ready early.

Andy Stevens to provide a .pdf file of the regional waterway study to all members next week.

- D. Andy Stevens provided an update on the status of the Boca Grande Trestle. Currently, Public Works staff has been picking up debris for approximately a year. Last Friday, the WCIND Board allocated \$25,000 in regional district-wide money to assist in the emergency removal of debris. They also hired Coastal Engineering hired to do a preliminary evaluation of the structural integrity of the trestle. There are currently no plans to remove entire trestle. Captain Blago asked if we could get the funding back that MAC approved. Andy advised that this funding was for the fishing pier so the funds could not be retrieved. Regarding evaluation of the fishing piers, the competitive bid process is to begin soon. Report and photographs will be sent to MAC before the December meeting. Reasonable efforts are being utilized to keep trespassers off, but they are not always successful. The WCIND Executive Director met with DEP representatives in Tallahassee. DEP appeared to be receptive to possible permit exemptions for removal the trestle. Funding sources may be from the State funds and WCIND District funds. It was confirmed that the County still has approximately \$150,000 in WCIND – CIF funds which could possibly be utilized to assist in these actions.

NEW BUSINESS

Len Harris provided an update from the Joint Meeting held on November 2, 2011. He believes the audience failed to understand his presentation. He confirmed that the information which he presented was accurate. Captain Blago expressed that all use the waterways and the non-motorized vessels need to determine what they want to do. Tom Hamilton owns kayaks and appreciates what is currently provided but felt that those at the meeting were a vocal minority. Chuck Gertner stated that he felt that many of the speakers were business owners who are making money by utilizing public access areas and don't want to pay. Jay Buckley felt that not enough emphasis was placed on costs of investigation/recovery. Grace Amodeo stated that a similar battle is being fought on waterways with the MSBUs. Those that have boats but don't live on the water don't want to have to pay for dredging costs. Len Harris reported that the kayakers at the meeting stated that they "don't want anything". Commissioner Starr advised caution when discussing funding kayak/canoe related items and be vigilant if future revenue sources are suggested. Mike Quinn believes that property taxes should cover all issues in the County, including kayaks and rescue efforts. MAC should only recommend where funding should be spent.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Membership: (copies of all related documents are attached)

Terms Expiring:

Pirate Harbor Yacht Club wishes to retain Charles Gertner

South Gulf Cove Yacht Club wishes to retain Tom Ireland

Punta Gorda Boat Club wishes to retain William H. Kumm

Punta Gorda Sport Fishing Club wishes to retain Mike Quinn

On motion by Tom Hamilton, seconded by Bill Dixon and carried unanimously, all recommendations were approved as submitted.

Isles Yacht Club's Selection to replace Tom Hamilton is Jake Dye, who addressed the Committee. Len Harris recommended approval.

On motion by Raymond Rose, seconded by Mike Quinn and carried unanimously, the recommendation for Mr. Dye to replace Mr. Hamilton was approved.

The Selection from the City of Punta Gorda to replace Jay Buckley is Herman Novak. Mr. Novak addressed the group. Captain Blago commented that Jay Buckley has been a good representative from City.

On motion by Bill Dixon, seconded by George Bobko and carried unanimously, the recommendation for Mr. Novak to replace Mr. Buckley was approved

Chairman Harris invited all to attend the December meeting.

B. Selection of Member-At-Large to fill the position currently held by John Homer Fleming. Before interviewing the applicants there was a discussion on balloting in order to comply with Sunshine laws.

The Clerk reported that William Kliment withdrew his application for this position via e-mail.

Grace Amodeo addressed the Committee and provided additional information other than that on her resume. She answered questions from the Committee

John Homer Fleming addressed the Committee and answered questions.

Bert Jones did not attend the meeting and the Clerk had received no communication from him prior to the meeting.

The Clerk tallied the written ballots and Gerald Meckenberg announced that John Homer Fleming had received a majority of the votes.

C. Funding Requests:

Lieutenant Jim Kirdy of the Punta Gorda Police Department presented the request for funding for an underwater metal detector. He provided details of his background and a packet of information regarding the Department's procedures. He explained how this will provide additional public safety. He gave an example

of a gun which was found under the I-75 Bridge. It took approximately 3 days to locate with side-scan sonar and would probably have been found in about a half day with the underwater metal detector. Len Harris expressed his concerns that funding for this item may not fall under the qualifications for funding. Garland Wilson confirmed that there are no other funding sources at this time. Tom Hamilton stated that he feels that a vote to approve this item is approval for one for Charlotte County. Len Harris stated that the MAC will not fund maintenance of this item in the future.

On motion by Captain Ron Blago, seconded by Jay Buckley and carried unanimously, the request for \$667 funding was approved.

D. Andy Stevens provided an update on the location of the Portable Docks following the International Handicapped Sailing Regatta. He stated that he had met with Brian Gleason, who provided the following information on the relocation sites for the floating docks: Port Charlotte Beach and the El Jobean Fishing Pier. Andy stated they are hoping to acquire the gangways for the kayak launch. 200 feet are anticipated to be located at Laishley and Gilchrist Parks.

Jay Buckley advised that negotiations are ongoing between the City and the Punta Gorda Boat Club regarding the basin behind the Club being made available for public use for boating events. If the negotiations are approved, some docks may be used there. USFW/FDEP and City of Punta Gorda have approved the docks for the regatta. If the docks are on County property, they will be County responsibility. The Regatta owns the docks now but after the January event, they will give the docks to the City and to Charlotte County. Len asked if the wave wind action studies were investigated as agreed at the last meeting. Randy Broderson from the City of Punta Gorda reported that the boat basin is not in the aquatic preserve. He stated that the City is working with DEP to move forward with dredging this basin and the inlet as well. The Committee requests an update when ready to place them. Andy advised that he is following the permitting process as the County will probably have to follow the same procedures.

Mr. Broderson confirmed that the regatta will be held totally at Laishley Park. In addition, he reported that the Bayfront Center Project is moving along smoothly, with a scheduled completion date in early January. Jay Buckley stated that the project is ahead of schedule.

- E. Andy Stevens provided a Manatee Committee Update. Some elements have been put together. There are ongoing meetings with other agencies. He will have a better update for the next meeting.
- F. On behalf of Roger Warner, Andy Stevens provided an update on the Construction of the Cattle Dock Boat Ramp project. Copy of e-mail is attached as part of these minutes.

G. On behalf of Roger Warner, Andy Stevens provided an update on the Bay Heights Project. A copy of the e-mail is attached as part of these minutes.

Tom Ireland commented that it is too bad that the Cattle Dock Point project is fully funded. He feels that it is too expensive for what we are getting. There were other questions regarding the status of access road. George Bobko wants information for project.

Andy will invite Mr. Warner to December 7th meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Homer Fleming initiated a discussion on the current status of the Riviera Marina. Junk boats are still on site and no one was onsite. Len Harris advised that MAC will get a report from DEP at the May or June 2012 meeting. A civil suit has been filed.

Chairman Harris advised that he would be out of town for the December meetings. Vice Chairman Bill Dixon will preside. Mr. Dixon stated that he would like to cancel Pre-agenda for December. The Clerk will communicate with the County Attorney's Office to assure that this will be acceptable based on last year's By-Law changes.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Harris reminded all that the next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Tom Hamilton, seconded by Garland Wilson and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on December 8, 2011

Len Harris, Chairman
Marine Advisory Committee