

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 12, 2012

9:30 a.m.

Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room #119
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Chairman Len Harris called the meeting to order at 9:30 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
Raymond Rose, Vice Chairman – Peace River Squadron, Inc.
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary –U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 87 Englewood
Captain Ron Blago – Member at Large
George Bobko – Port Charlotte Yacht Club
Ken Dieffenbach – Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
Jake Dye – Isles Yacht Club
Charles Gertner – Pirate Harbor Yacht Club
Tom Ireland – South Gulf Cove Yacht Club
William Kumm – Punta Gorda Boat Club
Captain Tim Lynch – Member-at-Large
Herman Novak – City of Punta Gorda
Mike Quinn – Punta Gorda Sports Fishing Club
Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda
Capt. Scott Schermerhorn – Member at Large
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

VACANCIES

Harbour Heights Yacht Club

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Douglas Donovan - U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor
John Homer Fleming – Member at Large

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cody Vaughn-Birch – Member at Large

STAFF

Tara Musselman, Community Development
Diane Quilty, Fiscal Services
Andy Stevens, Community Services

GUESTS

Randy Broderson, City of Punta Gorda
Ron Ludvig, Peace River Sail & Power Squadron

Chairman Harris reminded all to speak into microphone and to sign in. This will assist the Clerk with the Minutes and the attendance records.

Chairman Harris reported that the Harbour Heights Yacht Club has recommended Dick Hoagland as a replacement for Mel Staudmyer. Mr. Hoagland had a conflict today but will be at the May meeting for interview and approval.

Changes to the Agenda

NONE

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Starr expressed his appreciation for the Committee does.

Regular Business

On motion by Chuck Gertner, seconded by Mike Quinn, and carried unanimously, the Minutes of Pre-Agenda meeting on April 5, 2012 were approved as submitted.

On motion by George Bobko, seconded by Tom Ireland, and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 8, 2012 were approved as submitted.

Tara Musselman read her MSBU Update into the record (See attached) and fielded questions. Discussion topics included possible alternatives to assist the filling in of Stump Pass; status of Riviera Marina lawsuit (DEP); slow speed signs at Gasparilla Marina; accurate charting for the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor for boaters new to Charlotte County. It was suggested that Dennis Murphy, with the City of Punta Gorda, may have depth information as it relates to the mooring fields. It was reported that the funding for all waterways, even though there are no active projects, is still in the budget and administrative costs are being charged.

Chairman Harris reported that at the pre-agenda meeting, Andy Stevens stated that it has been determined that at least an additional 100 feet of the Boca Grande Trestle will need to be removed. Due to the construction and location, it will be a more expensive project. WCIND will fund Phase II. Following that, the entire trestle will be reviewed for possible future demolition. Commissioner Starr stated that the swing bridge is included and may potentially be sold as scrap.

Andy Stevens arrived at approximately 10:00 a.m. He updated the report provided by Chairman Harris advising that the Contractor was very knowledgeable and all were pleased with their performance. He stated that WCIND will be utilizing approximately \$75,000 to \$100,000 from Reserves. There was additional discussion regarding the status and potential removal of the swing bridge.

Mr. Stevens provided an update on the status of the Manatee Protection Plan. There is information

New Business

Chairman Harris discussed the attendance record of Member-at-Large, Cody Vaughan-Birch. He has missed 6 meetings this fiscal year – one excused and five unexcused. Based upon the language in the Resolution, members must attend 70% of the meetings. Failure to comply will result in the Chair notifying the Committee at a regular meeting that the individual is no longer a member of the Committee and forwarding a formal notice to the Board of County Commissioners to advertise for a replacement. Discussion ensued. It is recommended that the approval of a replacement will encompass the remainder of Mr. Vaughan-Birch's tenure (approximately three months) and the normal three year term.

Chairman Harris advised that, as a result of the close votes at the previous meeting all votes with dissenting member will be conducted by polling the members. The Clerk will maintain a record of the votes.

Review Funding Applications

The Peace River Sail and Power Squadron (PRSPS) did not have a representative at the March meeting and this item was continued.

- a. **Peace River Sail & Power Squadron (PRSPS) – To Reduce The Coast Of Materials For Students Thereby Hopefully Increasing The Number Of County Residents That Attend Safe Boating Courses And Seminars - \$3,000**

Ron Ludvig, Education Officer, provided information regarding this request.

On motion by Mike Quinn, seconded by Garland Wilson, and carried unanimously, this request was APPROVED in the amount of **\$3000.**

- b. The application submitted by the Tourism Department was withdrawn prior to the meeting. No action is necessary at this time.

Old Business

There has been some “push back” from the Sheriff's Department regarding the recommended rejection of the funding requests. Commissioner Starr stated that he will support the MAC recommendations at the upcoming meeting where all requests will be presented for approval by the BCC. The total Sheriff's budget is approximately \$56-57 million, including the jail and the courts.

10:10 a.m. – Commissioner Starr left the meeting

Other Business

NONE

Citizen Comments

Member George Bobko asked if the new Harbor Walks (Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor) would be pet friendly. Randy Broderson, from the City, advised that at the present time Laishley Park is pet friendly and Gilchrist Park is not. An ordinance change will be necessary to allow pets in other areas.

Good of the Order

NONE

Next Meeting

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 9.30 a.m. the Building Construction Services Conference Room.
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119.

Adjournment

On motion by Jake Dye, seconded by Tom Ireland, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on May 10, 2012

Len Harris, Chairman
Marine Advisory Committee