

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 10, 2013
Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

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

The Clerk called the roll and the Secretary determined that a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Len Harris, Chairman – Burnt Store Isles Boat Club
Tom Ireland, Vice Chairman - South Gulf Cove Yacht Club
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary –U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 87 Englewood
Susan Bareither - U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor
Captain Ron Blago – Member at Large
George Bobko – Port Charlotte Yacht Club
Sarah Buck – Punta Gorda Sailing Club
Captain Jay Buckley – Member at Large
Jake Dye – Isles Yacht Club
Chuck Gertner – Pirate Harbor Yacht Club
Richard Hoagland - Harbour Heights 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
Raymond Rose – Peace River Squadron, Inc
Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99 Rotonda
Captain Scott Schermerhorn – Member at Large

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Richard Hoagland - Harbour Heights Yacht Club
William Kumm – Punta Gorda Boat Club
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

MEMBERS ABSENT

NONE

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STAFF

Charles Mopps, Community Development – Engineering
Andy Stevens – Community Services
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, BCC Liaison
Pamela Alexander, Clerical Liaison – Community Development
Roger DeBruler – Community Services

GUESTS

William Hoffman – applicant for Member-at-Large position
Capt. Ralph Allen – applicant for Member-at-Large position

Chairman's Comments

The following reminders were noted by Chairman Harris:

1. REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE: PLEASE SIGN IN. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes. A clipboard and a pen are provided on the podium for your convenience.
2. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS TO USE THE MICROPHONE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes.
3. Information from the County Attorney's Office regarding Citizen's Input and Conflicts of Interest on voting items was distributed to all members. This will be added to the books for all new members.

Changes to the Agenda

Roger DeBruler's presentation was moved to this part of the Agenda, as he has a scheduling conflict.

He has investigated approximately 33 abandoned vessels this year. Fortunately, 13 of them have been handled by their owners. Approximately 12 boats have been removed at a cost of approximately \$24,000. Several more are sitting in slips or at docks. Since this is considered private property, we will be unable to remove them without the cooperation of the owner(s).

The large sailboat has been removed from South Gulf Cove. However, there is a houseboat, and possibly two, that will be replacing it.

If the abandoned boats are in the water but touching a dock or any part of someone's property, all that can be done is request that the owners register the vessel and bring it up to a navigable condition. Unfortunately, aesthetics are not part of the criteria.

Roger also presented/discussed the following:

- a video of Matlacha Reef and the Novak Reef.
- 400 tons of concrete is to be delivered today to add to the Palm Island reef. All of the materials were donated. These will be located at two new spots near the ferry, as well as to add height to a third location in an effort to attract more fish.

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- An 80-ft., all-steel shrimp vessel may be donated to the County for another reef location. He has secured a tow company to donate their time to take the boat to the Jeff Steele Reef and sink it. The refrigeration system, the wiring, some wood and the motors will have to be removed and he is seeking a location to stage this activity. He is anticipating filling it with water to sink it. He would like to make it a tourism activity when the sinking date is scheduled.

A question was raised regarding the disposal of the failing seawalls from the City of Punta Gorda. Herman Novak will report on this at the next MAC meeting.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

NONE

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Deutsch reported that things are moving forward on the Stump Pass Management Plan.

In addition, the BCC is trying to stay on top of the Power Boat Race scheduled for April, 2014. He is cautiously optimistic but wants to maintain the integrity of the area for the Englewood residents, as well as maintaining the safety of all those attending. Public safety might be a reason to cancel. Turtle and bird nesting issues are being addressed. Permits from many agencies are needed. There is a lot of work to be done in a relatively short amount of time. Since the race date is on Palm Sunday, concessions were made to change the race times.

The Commissioner congratulated Sarah Buck for her success with the Regatta held last weekend.

Regular Business

The Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from October 3, 2013 were accepted as presented.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting from September 12, 2013 were accepted as presented.

Chairman Len Harris submitted his Goals & Objectives for the 2013-2014 fiscal year to the membership (copy attached)

Charles Mopps provided an update to the MSBU Update he submitted. (copy attached). He suggested that the item regarding easier access to the Myakka be removed as the dredging is currently underway. He also reported that there have been several very positive meetings with FDEP and WCIND. Some discussion ensued.

New Business

The Committee accepted the resignation of Member-at-Large Capt. Scott Schermerhorn and wished him well at his new position. Capt. Schermerhorn thanked the Committee for

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all he has learned during his time with the Committee. His term expires in December 2013. Applications have been received to fill this vacancy.

There are three (3) applications for the three (3) Member-at-Large positions whose terms will expire in December 2013.

- Capt. Ron Blago has submitted an application to be reappointed
- Capt. Tim Lynch declined reappointment due to work conflicts
- Capt. Scott Schermerhorn has resigned (see Item A above)
- Applications were received from the following:
 - Douglas Buuck, who is out of town and unable to attend meeting today
 - Capt. Ralph Allen
 - William Hoffman

Interviews were conducted with Capt. Allen and Mr. Hoffman. Voting took place. All three (Blago, Allen & Hoffman) were approved by unanimous vote of the Committee and their names will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for ratification at the BCC meeting on December 10, 2013.

Regarding the current members who represent specific organization and whose terms expire in December 2013:

- All have requested reappointment and have received recommendations from their respective organizations.
 - Raymond Rose – South Gulf Cove Yacht Club
 - Captain Maurice Sabourin – U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 99, Rotonda
 - Richard Hoagland - Harbour Heights Yacht Club

All six individuals should plan to attend the December 10th BCC meeting and be prepared to answer questions from the Commissioners.

Old Business

Andy Stevens provided an update on the Manatee Protection Plan. They have entered into a partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. They have completed approximately 90% their part of the agreement. However, the current Federal furlough will delay action on the permit application. Once in place, it will be a planning tool for future development and related permitting issues requirements. There is also a major educational component of this plan. At this time, the only species addressed in the manatee.

Other Business

Sarah Buck reported on the success of the Inaugural YMCA Youth Regatta held at Punta Gorda Bayfront on September 28, 2013. She provided a slide power point and introduced Cooper Whitten, one of the participants, who expressed his appreciation for the opportunity.

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Citizen Comments

NONE

Good of the Order

- Capt. Jay Buckley suggested that Betty Staugler make a presentation regarding boating traffic entering the harbor.
- The Chairman asked all members to review and confirm that the personal information currently listed is accurate.
- Reminder that Election of Officers will be held at the December meeting
- Herman Novak gave an update regarding the pump out boat at Laishley Marina. A plan is in place for the operation to commence and that information will be provided to Andy Stevens.
- Topics for joint meeting were discussed: Mooring field and Stump Pass.
- The Chairman reminded the new members that they are invited to attend all meetings and will participate officially in the January meeting.
- Sarah Buck expressed appreciation for the County's recognition of Grace Amodeo's contributions.

Next Meetings

- The Chairman reminded all that the next meetings are scheduled:
 - The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 9.30 a.m. Room B-106.
 - The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119

Adjournment

On motion by Capt. Jay Buckley, seconded by George Bobko and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on November 14, 2013

Len Harris, Chairman
Marine Advisory Committee

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