

MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, December 12, 2013 9:30 a.m.
Charlotte County Administration Center
18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harris at 9:28 am. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll and the Secretary confirmed that there was a quorum.

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
John Homer Fleming – Member at Large
Chuck Gertner – Pirate Harbor Yacht Club
Richard Hoagland - Harbour Heights Yacht 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
Garland Wilson – Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club

MEMBERS EXCUSED

William Kumm – Punta Gorda Boat Club
Raymond Rose – Peace River Squadron, Inc

VACANCIES

Member at Large
Charlotte Coastal Conservation Association of Florida

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STAFF

Charles Mopps, Community Development – Engineering
Andy Stevens – Community Services
Pamela Alexander, Clerical Liaison – Community Development

GUESTS

William Hoffman – Member-at-Large Elect
Mary McMurray – Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves

The Chairman reminded all in attendance to sign in at the podium and for the members to utilize the microphones. These actions assist the Clerk when preparing Minutes.

Changes to the Agenda

NONE

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

NONE

Commissioner Comments

No Commissioner was in attendance at this meeting.

Regular Business

- A. The Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from December 5, 2013 were approved as presented.

- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from November 14, 2013 – Additions, Corrections or Deletions. This Item was continued to the January 9, 2014 meeting, as they were not completed prior to the meeting.

- C. Charles Mopps provided additional information regarding his MSBU Update (see attached document)

- D. Several MAC members attended the BSAC meeting, following their Pre-Agenda meeting. They included Herman Novak, Tom Ireland and George Bobko. Andy Stevens of Natural Resources also attended. They provided an update on the information that was presented at the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee meeting held on December 5th. Their discussion included, the fact that there was very little updated since the last presentation by Jerry York of the Charlotte Harbor Boat Race Committee; their permitting volunteer will be meeting with Andy Stevens for assistance in obtaining the necessary permits; the safety precaution in place for marine life in the area during the races; and, information on the subcommittee under the Boat Race Committee which is coordinated the parade and static displays..

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New Business

- A. Election of Officers for 2014 was conducted by Secretary, Gerry Meckenberg.
- Captain Ron Blago nominated Tom Ireland to fill the position of Chairman. This was approved by acclamation
 - Jake Dye nominated Herman Novak to fill the position of Vice-Chairman. This was approved by acclamation
 - Jay Buckley nominated Gerald Meckenberg to fill the position of Secretary. This was approved by acclamation.

Len Harris thanked all the officers and members who have work with him during his time as Chairman and asked that that same support be afforded to the new Chair, Tom Ireland.

Mr. Ireland, the newly elected Chairman, thanked outgoing Chairman, Len Harris, for his service and noted that he and Mr. Novak have accepted their positions only because Mr. Harris was going to remain on the Committee.

Mr. Novak offered his feelings regarding the purposes of the members, in that they represent their organizations and argue for their points of view when necessary. The other half of this responsibility is the members vote in such a manner as to ensure that the taxpayers' money is being spent properly. He then commended outgoing Chairman, Len Harris, for requiring thoroughness and completeness in grant requests.

Mr. Meckenberg also complimented Mr. Harris for his excellent job in requiring accountability and keeping the team (MAC and County staff) coordinated.

Mr. Harris was greeted with a round of applause from all in attendance.

B. On a motion by Herman Novak, seconded by Tom Ireland and carried unanimously, the 2014 Meeting Schedule was approved as presented. Chairman Harris reminded all present that a quorum should be present at the Joint Meeting on February 5th and any future Joint Meetings that may be scheduled.

Old Business

A. Mary McMurray, Environmental Specialist from the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves, provided a Power Point update on the research and monitoring efforts since her last presentation in 2009. She listed the preservers that are under her responsibility and provided information on the types of monitoring that are utilized. She commented that their efforts were recently outlined in the Fall issue of Guy Harvey Magazine, which included a photograph of Captain Ralph Allen, new member of MAC. Discussion ensued.

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B. Herman Novak provided an update on the draft brochure for the pump-out boat in the City of Punta Gorda in conjunction with Charlotte County. He reported that there has been an on-going exchange of information between David Hilston of the City and Andy Stevens in this regard. Andy complimented the City staff for going above and beyond on this project and that from a permitting perspective, they are well in compliance.

Officer John Kennedy, City of Punta Gorda, provided information regarding his inspections of the boats in the harbor. He coordinates with both Laishley and Fisherman's Village for compliance of pump outs at their locations. Some pump outs have been done with the new boat.

Andy Stevens formally thanked Captain Lynch for his participation on the MAC, as this is his last meeting. All agreed with a round of applause.

Other Business

NONE

Citizen Comments

NONE

Good of the Order

A. Sarah Buck and Garland Wilson commented on the handicapped sailors currently utilizing the Harbor. There was additional discussion regarding Marilyn Whitten, who is the new program coordinator for the YMCA, which will be expanding to include adult and youth sailing and eventually adding handicapped sailing as well. Scholarships will be available and volunteers are needed.

B. Susan Bareither reported that U.S.C.G.A. Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor was awarded the 2013 Best Flotilla by District 7, in part because of their boat inspections (more than 450) and public education program (which included a family education event)

C. Len Harris wished all a Merry Christmas and thanked everyone once again.

Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, January 2, 2014 at 9.30 a.m. Room B-106.
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Alexander
Administrative Assistant II

Minutes Approved on January 9, 2013

Tom Ireland, Chairman
Marine Advisory Committee

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