

Northwest Port Charlotte Waterway Advisory Committee Meeting
February 23, 2012
3:00 p.m.

Attendees: Renee Larson, Richard Hopkins, Stanley Bliss

County Staff: Judith Nothdurft, Sandra Wright, Matthew Logan, Robert Halfhill

Guests: Larry Whitford, Bill Mango, Jim Pawaretos, Ted Rich , Park Pilikian

Absent: Jack Fawsett (excused), Joseph Fabini (excused),
Ron Larrivee (excused)

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

The minutes from the meeting held on December 12, 2011 and the meeting cancelation for January 18, 2012 were approved as written. The minutes from the meeting on February 8, 2012, were approved with a request from Mr. Hopkins to add a note that he requested a picture of the canals proposed in the dredging project needed for his door to door solicitation.

Public Input:

- Mr. Widford commended the Committee on the prompt action taken to get the surveys out. He stated that the dredging project would be paid for over 10 years and asked if the dredging plan proposed how long the residents would be able to benefit from the dredge. Mr. Logan responded with the normal benefit would be 3-5 years before a maintenance dredge would be required. The time is determined by the amount of sediment that backs up into the canals. He stated that once the full dredge is done, maintenance dredges are much easier to deal with. Mr. Widford commented on the math used to calculate the increase. His numbers don't match up. It was explained that there are currently funds in reserve that will be used in addition to the increase that is being requested. He also asked if there are any additional funds from the GDC payoff available. Ms. Nothdurft stated that currently \$53,150 is being held in the account from GDC. She will research to see if there are any additional properties owned by the County to be sold and report her findings back to the Committee.
- Mr. Pawaretos inquired about the amount that would be assessed if there are multiple owners to a single lot. Ms. Larson advised the citizens to look at their tax bill, if paying \$50 now a property owner will pay \$100 if the project passes.
- Ms. Mead expressed a concern about the extra money for the Apollo Waterway. Ms. Larson explained that the dredge project is for the mouths of the canals only. It will not include going up into the canals. She stated that three years ago the mouths of the canals were dredged to three feet due to the restrictions at that time. Currently they may be able to dredge to five feet and may be able to dredge further into the river. The Committee is waiting for the results from the response to the Request for Additional Information.

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- Mr. Pilikian thanked everybody that worked to get the letters out. He stated that he wished the letter stated more of the benefits of moving forward with this project. He feels this will increase property values in the area not only to the water front properties but others as well. He feels the quality of the first dredge was misrepresented and is thankful that a five foot dredge was applied for this time.
- Mr. Rich expressed appreciation for the letter but stated he felt it was terribly flawed. He stated a concern that people owning multiple properties and only receiving one letter would not have their votes counted multiple times. He feels every lot should be allowed a vote. He stated that prior dredges weren't allowed to go into the river so markers were put up to identify the channel. It was only a short time before those markers were no longer valid due to the shift in the sand. He also stated that people not maintaining the proper speed also cause the silt to fill in at a faster rate.
- Mr. Halfhill explained the voting process. If a person owns more than one lot, they received one letter. This was to save on postage. When their vote is returned, it will be counted as many times as they own lots. The tax rolls are used to identify the owners of multiple lots.
- Mr. Mango questioned the property values increasing. He stated Mr. Fawsett previously said this project will only benefit the residents on the waterway, however, the non-waterway residents will benefit by the way of increased property values. He asked how the number came to be. It was determined by the Engineering Department and the actual work to be done. The Citizens were advised to call the office with questions, when the staff can access the information that is not readily available at the meeting.
- There was discussion as to assessments being spent outside of the area. Ms. Larson explained that the funds collected within the MSBU stay in the MSBU. The only way funds assessed get spent outside of the MSBU is if the funds are for a general construction project.
- There was discussion regarding the signage in the canals. The manatee signs do not have the ordinance on them. Legal signs must have the ordinance number printed on them. Mr. Logan stated that the Sign and Marking Department is researching and correcting the signs.

Old Business:

- Dredging Outreach – Mr. Halfhill stated that he received a compliment from Commissioner Deutsch and recommended that Ms. Larson give a status update of her meeting with the County Administrator to the Committee. Ms. Larson stated that her meeting with Mr. Sandroek was very short, he is happy with the outreach, and was very pleased with the actions taken by the Committee. Mr. Sandroek will decide in

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March if he is going to present the rate increase request to the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Halfhill is attempting to make it as late in March as possible to allow for more time to tally votes. Letters are being received in Public Works. Once the tally is started, the Committee will be able to see if any area was missed by the door to door volunteers. Ms. Larson volunteered to help tally the votes from the survey.

- Ms. Larson stated that March 3rd is Community Cleanup day and she will be there to encourage residents to return the survey if they haven't already done so
- Ms. Larson requested complete lists of streets with addresses of the houses that were approached by the door to door volunteers. Mr. Hopkins requested a copy of his list so that he could give his list to Ms. Larson.
- Mr. Hopkins requested a tidal chart for the area. Mr. Logan will get that information and bring it to the next meeting.
- Ms. Larson requested a copy of the permit application. Mr. Logan advised that it is very lengthy and that he would scan it and have it put online. Ms. Larson stated that she will forward a copy of the Request For Additional Information to all of the Committee members when it is available, then stated that it is much more readable online.
- Ms. Larson reminded the Committee that the Community League Meeting is approaching. She advised that all of the Committee members can be there however, only one can speak.

The Committee wants to wait to schedule the next meeting, however, if the permit comes back, they will want to schedule a meeting immediately.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.