



MINUTES

CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 11, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Charlotte County Administration Center

18500 Murdock Circle Room B-106

Port Charlotte, FL 33948

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Ireland called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Upon the roll being called it was determined a quorum was present.

3. Chairman's Comments

A. 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.

B. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS STATE THEIR NAME AND ORGANIZATION and TO USE THE MICROPHONE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes.

C. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS, STAFF AND VISITORS TO PLEASE SILENCE THEIR CELL PHONES.

4. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None offered.

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from December 7, 2023.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from December 14, 2023.
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

C. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and City of Punta Gorda Police Dept. – Marine Updates

Lt. Williams, CCSO, said we do have an update the Action Craft which was ordered last year. We finally should have it within the next month or so. I just spoke to them this past week and it's all set up and rigged and the motor that Mercury sent them has a bad part, bad throttle position sensor. So once that comes in

the brand-new motor gets fixed. Then we can get up there and test it and pretty excited about that. As far as derelicts the common trend we've been seeing on a lot of our derelicts that are coming in the last couple of weeks. Has actually been ones that are tied up to seawalls and different private property without permission. So, somebody just randomly shows up and ties off to somebody's seawall, ties off to their dock, goes into a canal. We had one down off Alligator Creek that we rectified. We started a derelict investigation yesterday after chatting with the park, so it's tied off to a county seawall. That's been kind of the trend we've been seeing. The only other real derelict updates we have are there is a thirty-four-foot Sea Ray over in Alligator Bay near Louis Creek. They actually identified the owner and that is going to be part of Hurricane Idalia removal process. There is a boat in Allapatchee Park area that's also determined that it's going to be part of the Idalia removal process. So, we are working with FWC on those and then we identified one more vessel up in Chadwick Cove area that's gonna qualify for the VTIP program. Which is the turn in program that FWC started recently. We have had some success with that and being able to get owners identified and turning their vessel into that prior to it going derelict. So, hopefully as that gains new traction to be able to combat some of those derelicts through that turn it program. Before we have to go through the derelict process.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch any particular incidents with that mini storm we had Tuesday night at all?

Lt. Williams no we actually had nothing, and both discuss.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I got an email yesterday, from someone up in South Gulf Cove and they were raising some concerns. I guess, I see one or two, but I haven't been up there in the last year or so. There's a number of vessels, I understand anchored inside the lagoon.

Chair Ireland in the lagoon.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I know where there is a couple about halfway up actually. What do we do and it's a long ride up there and someday before you're a great-great-grandfather we may even open up the end, other end of the lagoon. Is there any enforcement that we do at all at any level above boats that are anchored. Can a boat anchor there, how long can it stay there and what do we do to try and keep up with the fact that one might be dragging its anchor, maybe leaking fuel, could you address those issues for us please.

Lt. Williams so currently there is no anchoring restrictions in that area. With that there is no time frames. If they are in there they can anchor, they can stay there for an extended time. The enforcement that we are able to take is similar to any other anchorage areas. Specially with any fuel leaking or drifting issues. We definitely work and do go up in there to enforce as far as at-risk criteria. They both have a discussion.

Mr. Russell back in south gulf cove, the only within the lagoon itself not the feeders. Once you leave the lagoon you get into a feeder canal. The unrestricted anchorage is not permitted right?

Lt. Williams that's correct.

Officer Russell PGPD still short staffed, I spent two and half to three months on the road. I was back assigned to the marine unit for about two weeks and now I am back assigned to the road. The road takes priority for emergency calls. We had a meeting last night actually with the historic district, it was PGPD and FWC's PIO there. They all had good discussions on all issues, it was productive. I think we had one derelict

on that list that finally got off that list, so that's good. FWC's program is a new system for derelict's and it's still not going on their computers for some reason. We've been lucky in the last couple of storms, other than the hurricanes. We had a boat that was at the sailing club down there, it blew in that last storm up underneath Gilcrest Park fishing pier. We got a lot of calls saying new derelict, it's actually the same derelict that's in the process of getting removed. It just had drifter a couple hundred yards. We're doing our best I'm still able to when I'm working if something happens, I can jump on the boat and go. There's another office that's trained on the boat, who can jump on the boat. Our main thing right now is staffing overall. I think we're ten positions short.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch any noticeable difference in activity when the cruise ships came in. They both discuss.

Mr. McIntosh asks the boat on the lift yet? Officer Russell discusses with him.

D. FY24/25 Fiscal Reports/Grants – Mark Snow

Ms. Carol Colicchio is covering for Mark. She said Mark had received only a couple of applications for the grant and to remind everyone to get those in and Mike made a suggestion this morning that the applications are on the website for your review.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said to get a hold of Brian Gleason and have Brian do a press release on it and suggest that Hector can mention it because it has such an impact on our water related community. Hector Flores should mention it in his weekly message.

E. Derelict Vessel Report – Liz Eastes

Ms. Eastes said we have seven open cases, fourteen ready for removal, nineteen have been removed, and five will be located. I am trying to get all the case numbers on this spread sheet to make it easier to communicate with law enforcement so we can track these boats a little bit easier. She has a discussion with Chair Ireland and Mr. Darden regarding the red ones and sort by status.

Mr. Hickey I am looking down the list and I don't see the one boat that's in Alligator Creek that is a ground.

Ms. Eastes states it is Alligator Bay and they discuss about it was labeled incorrectly and is ready for removal.

F. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

Tina Powell went over her monthly report.

• **Ainger Creek Park:**

- o Park Redevelopment project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: Permit plans were submitted to the Florida Dept of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) in August. A permit was issued by the FDEP and we are still awaiting review by the USACE.

- **Allapatachee Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Anger Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Bayshore Live Oak Park:**
 - o Fishing Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; additional project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. The pier is currently closed due to unsafe conditions; regulatory agencies are requiring the project to be fully re-permitted; permits submitted to FDEP and ACOE.
- **Boca Grande Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Butterford Waterway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center:**
 - o Seawall replacement design project is being managed by Community Services; the design has scheduled field inspections to start later this month.
- **Cedar Point Environmental Park:**
 - o Pier replacement is being managed by Community Services; minor repairs were completed in July. The design team is meeting on onsite this week.
- **Centennial Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Darst Park:**
 - o Community Services is managing the boarding pier replacement and seawall replacement along with ramp scour protection; the design is at 60% and in permitting with the regulatory agencies.
 - o HURRICANE DAMAGE may affect the status of this project moving forward.
- **El Jobean Boat Ramp:** No projects at this time.
- **El Jobean Fishing Pier:** No projects at this time.
- **Englewood Beach at Chadwick Park Fishing Pier:**
 - o Community Services is managing a repair project that includes hardware replacement and repairs to the structure of the showers; work has been completed.
- **Harbour Heights Park:**
 - o Community Services is managing the seawall replacement project; permits have been approved; waiting on cost estimate and final plans.
- **Hathaway Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary Park:** No projects at this time.
- **Live Oak Point:**
 - o The erosion assessment project has been completed. The project design has been

awarded; however more damage was sustained as part of Hurricane Idalia.

- **Placida Fishing Pier:**

- o Community Services will be initiating a project next calendar year to determining the feasibility of adding additional light to the small parking lot and solar lighting to the pier.

- **Placida Park:**

- o 2014 Sales Tax project for the boat ramp expansion is being managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: A joint meeting was held with FDEP and USACE. Additional plan options were provided back to the agencies based on their requests for additional reductions in environmental impacts. The County is still awaiting permits from these agencies.

- **Port Charlotte Beach Park:**

- o 2020 Sales Tax project for the Recreation Center is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: We had a pre-application meeting with SWFWMD on 10/9/23, all went well SWFWMD made their comments regarding removal of the boardwalk and the possibility of having to involve ACOE.

Mr. Russell said what's the date of that meeting?

Ms. Powell said next Wednesday the 17th at 6pm at the Centennial Park recreation center.

Ms. Powell continues with report.

- o 2020 Sales Tax Tier 2 project for the Pool is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: Facilities has requested that Sweet Sparkman continue with Community Developments recommendation and to submit renderings showing those elevations.

- **Riverside Park:**

- o Ramp has been closed due to safety issues for motorized vessels due to safety issues cannot be address via repairs. The project is being managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: ACOE has responded we are requesting for a second time Letter of Permission which usually moves through faster, for Riverside Boat Ramp project.

- **South Gulf Cove Park:** No projects at this time.

- **Spring Lake Park:**

- o HURRICANE DAMAGE of the c/k launch boarding pier project; repairs waiting on determination from FEMA.
- o Community Services is also managing a ramp scour protection project the design is at 60% and in permitting with the regulatory agencies.

• **William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park:**

- o The trails, boardwalk, fitness equipment and signage project is being managed by Community Services; additional project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Permits have been received from SWFWMD ACOE; construction was award at the 10/24 BCC meeting, waiting on NTP from granting agency.
- o The ADA canoe/kayak launch project is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance Department and have the following: The contractor is working on pricing the current scope of the project as well as coordinating future delivery of the launch itself.
- o 2020 Sales Tax project for the Phase 3 is managed by Facilities Construction & Maintenance; project information can be found on the County's Project Status Updates webpage. Facilities provided the following: the design and CM RFP's have been submitted to purchasing.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said they are starting work on the tower.

Mr. Darden asks how long the Verizon tower is going to be.

Ms. Powell said it is scheduled to be removed within the next two weeks.

7. New Business –

Chair Ireland speaks on New Business and goes over the pre-agenda and discusses it with the members and would like better attendance.

Mr. Killion said there was an accident on the Peace River a couple weeks ago. Where the guy said he hit a sand bar and flipped over, was that true?

Chair Ireland said yes and discusses it with the members.

8. Old Business –

None offered.

9. Other Business –

Mr. McIntosh we heard lots of people are parking at city park just down from Sunseekers and walking over. Is that allowed or stopped or what?

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said we put in about one hundred and fifty parking spaces just to the west of Sunseeker. We did it very similar to the way the ones exist out at the sports park. You know where it's grass and its drainage and what happened is we had a couple of heavy rains and got a few recently. The end of November early December and the drainage didn't operate the way it was designed to operate. We believe it's a design flaw and so we have temporarily closed that section of the park off and hopefully we're gonna come up with a remedy with in the next few months.

Chair Ireland said aren't they parking on the other side of 41?

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said yes, they can. There is some parking available, and he talks about the groundbreaking for Whiskey Creek yesterday morning which is a family restaurant. That's gonna be on the east side of the bridge over by the gas station, and then they bought a little bit extra property beyond that. So, you're going to be able to walk from Whiskey Joe's all the way. You're looking at about a mile because you are going to be able to go under the 41-bridge walk all through Sunseeker which is probably at least a third of a mile. He goes over the emails received when it opened and hasn't not seen any problems with parking or traffic. There will be a traffic light there and my guess is sometime the end of the year, it's paid for and ordered by Sunseeker. Talks about the comments regarding the food, pricing, and having the CCSO deputies parked with the flashing lights, which I don't think is needed. Talks about only two thirds of the rooms are finished and available. I understand they are all booked, there is a variation in the price if you want to get a room now which is about \$280 a night and discusses with the members. He also informs that we did not give them anything to the do project, we did cooperate with the boardwalk view, and we got them to open up that waterfront which was all private. So, citizens have accessibility to it, because if you remember between the golf course and the marina and the restaurant. That was all private property and now it's open for the community.

Mr. McIntosh said short answer is people are allowed and they discuss.

Chair Ireland now that we have Jim Darden, we have an inside to all the reasons why things are going up.

Mr. McIntosh asks Commissioner any insight on the marina is it still going there.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said I have my own personal opinion on that. I would think that their chances of the State and the Core of Army Engineers and the bureaucratic process allowing for any significant dredging in that area is probably between zero and minus three. A discussion takes place.

Mr. Hickey speaks on the State and Federal Agencies what's going on with the dredging permit for Alligator Creek? Any update?

Mr. Logan is on my list to talk about.

Chair Ireland said did I skip you, Matt?

G. MSBU Update – Matt Logan

Mr. Logan said it's alright, discussion with Mr. Hickey and Mr. McIntosh regarding the dredging, Army Core of Engineers permit and Commissioner Deutsch joins in. Goes over Buena Vista and said Zach and I are planning on to put that thru the system to get it up to purchasing and out to bid next week. We will see some work going on that. We do have the grant that was received from WCIND as grant funding, and we have FEMA funding coming in. So, Sunrise will definitely be taken care of, there were some additional impacts out on Elkcam that FEMA will be covering. So, there should be some cost sharing on that project. Northwest Port Charlotte last month we did finish the navigational trimming, we are in the process right now of dredging the interior, that project took us two years to get started. It was bid out right before Ian hit, we had some problems getting the contractor here. He is about 6-8% complete. He is doing a very good job. He finished up on Angersol and finished up on Apollo, so that project is underway. The last thing I wanted to bring up is the navigational debris clean up that started immediately after Ian. It has taken us this long to see substantial progress. We obviously had our contractor on board, the contract expired, and he did not want to renew. The state came in and did some good work for us and then unfortunately had

to pull out before the project was completed. We now have our contractor who is working on the freshwater and primary, they are making great headway there. We are going through the process of reapplying to get FEMA funding to finish up the navigational debris removal. We are finally getting to the point where we are going to resume those operations. The contractor is going to start removing equipment down or immobilizing additional equipment to take care of the navigational side. Hopefully in the upcoming months I will be able to tell you that we are making great progress and finally getting the navigational channels clear.

Mr. Russell said I haven't been out since the last meeting but marker #1 at the Elkcam Waterway, has it been replaced?

Mr. Logan says I believe yesterday we had James Richardson in a meeting for the Edgewater North meeting and I believe he told me it was. I can confirm and get back to you, both discuss.

7. New and Other Business –
Discussed earlier.

8. Citizens Comments –
None offered.

9. Good of the Order –


Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch I need somebody to do my boat bottom, I can't get a hold of the person that did it last. So if you got a number and number and want to give it to me or text it or let me know.

10. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the **E. Jay Carlson Large Conference Room at 18400 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL.**
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in **Room B-106 2 story building at 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL.**
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H. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.
Minutes Approved



Tom Ireland, Chair