

**BURNT STORE ISLES
CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
JUNE 9, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Brewster, Chairman
Joseph Gil, Leslie Totten, Frank Wiechec

MEMBERS ABSENT: Charles Zajicek

OTHERS PRESENT: Randy Brodersen, Canal Maintenance Supervisor
Rick Keeney, Public Works Director
Mayor Larry Friedman
Councilmember Bill Albers

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting - Tuesday, July 14, 2009 - 1:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Meeting - May 12, 2009
 - Mr. Wiechec MOVED, Mr. Totten SECONDED approval of the May 12, 2009 minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- B. Joint Workshop - May 26, 2009
 - Mr. Totten MOVED, Mr. Gil SECONDED approval of the May 26, 2009 minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CANAL MAINTENANCE MONTHLY REPORTS

- A. Permits Authorized by City Staff for Installation of Docks, Lifts, Outpilings, etc.
 - Mr. Randy Brodersen, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, reported one permit had been issued in May 2009.
- B. Seawall Cap Replacement Schedule
 - Mr. Brodersen drew members' attention to the Seawall Cap Replacement Schedule, as delineated in the agenda material, stating approximately 513 feet of seawall cap replacement locations remained for the current fiscal year, totaling approximately \$26,500.
- C. Budget Utilization Report
 - Mr. Brodersen displayed an overhead of the Budget Utilization Report, as denoted within the agenda material, stating after receipt of an invoice this date, a balance of \$76,286 remained in the seawall replacement account.
 - Mr. Brewster commented on the amount of seawall cap replacement remaining, clarifying 513 feet out of the amount planned for the current year remained.

- Mr. Brodersen agreed, stating same referred to Marine Contracting Group's (MCG's) list of repairs.
- Mr. Brewster asked if staff planned to address the total amount of seawall cap needing to be replaced throughout the Canal Maintenance Assessment District (CMAD).
- Mr. Brodersen replied he would not be able to provide that information until final figures were available through the Geographic Information System (GIS). He mentioned City crews were just completing 180 feet of new seawall cap on Marseilles Court.
- Mr. Totten asked if that location had been included on the seawall cap replacement schedule.
- Mr. Brodersen replied it had been slated for replacement by City crews, displaying an overhead depicting that and a few other locations. He noted the list included locations in both Burnt Store Isles (BSI) and Punta Gorda Isles (PGI).
- Mr. Brewster pointed out the difficulty in determining the total amount of seawall cap which needed to be replaced, acknowledging there were multiple categories and/or levels of disrepair. He further acknowledged seawall cap replacement represented a moving target, stating he understood the seawall cap slated to be addressed this year was in very poor condition. He recalled 10,800 feet were identified in the 2007 GIS survey.
- Mr. Brodersen displayed a list of "repair only" seawall cap locations which had originally been part of a replacement list, stating it was now felt conducting repairs would add two to three years' life to a seawall; however, some locations may actually need replacement by the time crews were able to address same.
- Mr. Totten questioned the type of damage which would indicate the need for repair versus replacement.
- Mr. Brodersen replied a repair would be feasible if only a few horizontal or vertical cracks or a chip off of the bottom were observed; however, replacement would be warranted if the bottom portion of a seawall cap was completely gone or rebar was protruding, for example, as the seawall lost its integrity at that point.
- Mr. Gil questioned the difference in costs per foot between repair and replacement.
- Mr. Brodersen replied MCG's cost for replacement was approximately \$73 per foot and a fraction of same if done by City crews. He clarified costs associated with work conducted by City employees equated to "soft" versus "hard" dollars.
- Mr. Brewster reiterated he was concerned about the total amount of actual work needing to be done throughout BSI. He recalled numerous locations in various states of disrepair were depicted on the 2007 GIS survey, stating a decision was made at that time to concentrate on all high priority areas; however, he pointed out medium

priorities were evolving into high priorities as time progressed. He questioned the number of additional feet which had developed since that time beyond the original 10,800 feet identified in 2007, acknowledging roughly 3,000 feet had since been addressed. He clarified it was difficult to make a recommendation on expenditures if actual footage was not known. He asserted the Committee wished to stay “ahead of the curve” as opposed to waiting until BSI’s seawall problems were out of control as was the case in PGI.

- Mr. Brodersen commented on the above mentioned “repair only” list, stating many of those locations were identified through GIS. He clarified some locations had been re-inspected and determined to need repair as opposed to replacement. He expressed his apology for not having actual footage figures on hand, offering to provide same at the Committee’s next meeting.
- Mr. Gil clarified those locations identified in 2007 would have, by definition, been part of the 1,614 low priority locations.
- Mr. Brodersen agreed, stating he made every effort to first address high priority locations.
- Mr. Gil questioned the amount of feet represented on the overhead.
- Mr. Brodersen expressed uncertainty regarding same, stating he would need to manually calculate same on site and then conduct a comparison to the 2007 GIS survey.
- Mr. Wiechec questioned the estimated amount of time repairs would provide with respect to the life of a seawall.
- Mr. Brodersen replied anywhere from three to ten years, with the average being three to four.
- Mr. Wiechec commented favorably on same.
- Mr. Totten mentioned his seawall had been repaired approximately four years earlier, confirming it remained in good condition.
- Mr. Brewster calculated 5,000 to 6,000 linear feet of seawall cap still needing repair or replacement remained out of the originally identified 10,800 feet.
- Mr. Brodersen agreed same was a fair calculation.
- Mr. Gil opined the majority was repair.
- Mr. Rick Keeney, Public Works Director, advised staff was working diligently with Charlotte County through Mr. Dennis Murphy, Growth Management Director, to obtain updated GIS information for the Committee’s review, expressing hope a map would be available in a little more than one month. He acknowledged the locations needing repair and/or replacement were in various stages of disrepair, some being high,

medium or low priority. He advised Mr. Brodersen's intent was to focus on the worst locations during the current fiscal year. He noted consideration would be given to utilizing reserves if high priority locations remained once that particular line item of the budget was exhausted.

- Mr. Gil questioned the District's capacity if a decision was made to commit all funds.
- Mr. Keeney replied approximately \$110,000, noting he based same on conversations with the Finance Department.
- Mr. Gil clarified he was referring to capacity in terms of contractor availability.
- Mr. Keeney replied whatever was needed even if same meant hiring additional personnel.
- Mr. Gil clarified the PGI and BSI Districts shared resources, adding it seemed contractors could be kept very busy in PGI alone.
- Mr. Keeney agreed, acknowledging BSI's seawall caps were in far better condition than PGI's; however, he concurred with the Committee's wish to avoid allowing their seawall caps to deteriorate to that point.
- Mr. Wiechec opined the vast majority of BSI residents were in agreement with the Committee's position as well.
- Mr. Totten asked if the June 2009 report provided in the agenda material included the recent seawall failure.
- Mr. Brodersen replied affirmatively.

CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Operational Budget Discussion - Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/2010

- Mr. Brewster reiterated it was difficult to determine the exact amount of footage requiring seawall and/or seawall cap repair/replacement in BSI. He reminded the Committee of their recommendation for a \$20 increase in FY 2009/2010 in the annual canal maintenance assessment fee in order to maintain an emergency fund/surplus in case of catastrophic failures. He commented on the Committee's objective of \$100,000 in reserves, acknowledging same would be adequate for only a few seawalls. He stated a recommendation had been made to expend that surplus down to a more reasonable amount and to continue seawall cap work in an effort to prevent seawall failures. He questioned the amount of seawall cap which must be addressed in the very short term, pointing out the number of new locations which would come to light in the meantime was unknown. He asked members' feelings on the necessity of continuing to make a recommendation for a \$20 increase in the annual fee as had been discussed at the May 26, 2009 workshop.

- Mr. Gil responded his understanding from the workshop was there was little desire to maintain a significant reserve, adding currently available funds had not been fully committed. He opined any and all available funds should be committed to seawall/seawall cap repair/replacement.
- Mr. Wiechec asked if Mr. Gil was recommending staying with an annual fee of \$400.
- Mr. Gil opined a compelling case had not been made for an increase.
- Mr. Wiechec expressed disappointment at the lack of BSI residents at the workshop in that the people he spoke with did not seem to have any objection to an increase in the annual fee, especially one as small as \$20, providing seawalls were maintained in their current condition.
- Mr. Totten commented the District had been able to keep up with necessary maintenance through its budgeted expenditures and, in fact, was in better shape than 12 to 18 months earlier. He stated his feelings after the workshop were that maintaining a reserve for contingency purposes may not be the correct course of action to follow. He clarified he would not be opposed to recommending no increase for the next fiscal year and reevaluating same the following year.
- Mr. Brewster mentioned a \$20 increase would provide only an additional \$20,000.
- Mayor Larry Friedman opined the first priority moving forward must be regular maintenance of GIS information, specifically a definitive, prioritized list of locations. He continued it appeared the first priority cap identification could be accomplished in roughly two years if conditions did not change. He expressed his belief BSI's seawalls were in much better condition than PGI's. He asked the Committee to consider halting seawall work at this time and for the next several years, other than in those cases where a seawall had failed or was in imminent danger of doing so, but rather utilize all available funds on seawall caps. He urged the Committee to utilize their reserves on the District's high priority seawall caps, asserting there was no reason to maintain such a significant fund balance. He pointed out any massive failures would be the responsibility of City Council and the Finance Department. He concluded a \$20 increase was simply not necessary at this time.
- Mr. Brewster agreed maintenance of \$100,000 in reserves was not necessary, asking if members wished to change their original recommendation for a \$20 increase in the annual fee.
- Mr. Gil responded he believed an increase was not necessary at this time.
- Mr. Totten stated he believed the community did not have a sense of the state of their canal system and the benefits of continuing the City's maintenance of same. He urged

the City to develop some type of public awareness program with regard to actual costs associated with seawall replacement.

- Mr. Gil stated he believed a lack of understanding existed in the BSI community among its residents as evidenced by lawn maintenance, trimming along the seawalls, wakes in the perimeter canal caused by speeding boats and the destructive effects of same.
- Mr. Keeney responded the Canal Maintenance Division had published several flyers, adding staff intended to update and disseminate more information. He clarified the Committee would be asked to review same. He offered to make the canal maintenance presentation he had provided recently to this Committee to any civic organization upon request.
- Mr. Gil countered those needing to be educated typically did not attend civic association meetings.
- Mr. Gil MOVED, Mr. Wiechec SECONDED to recommend maintaining the existing \$400 annual canal maintenance assessment fee and to spend down the District's reserves to roughly a 5% level for seawall maintenance. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2010 Strategic Plan Review & Input

- Mr. Keeney announced Mayor Friedman had requested input from various stakeholders, including the City's advisory boards/committees, noting a copy of the Strategic Plan was provided in the Committee's agenda material. He explained members could submit suggestions either individually, as a committee or both. He pointed out the last page of the Strategic Plan pertained to the City's canal system.
- Mr. Gil commented the only existing sign which dealt with speed was located at the boat lock.
- Mr. Wiechec noted additional signs were located on the seawalls themselves.
- Mr. Gil agreed; however, those signs were not easily visible. He recommended consideration be given to additional, clear signage.
- Mr. Keeney responded he believed signage could be handled between the Committee and staff, stating the Strategic Plan called for broader objectives as opposed to specific tasks. He mentioned some seawall panels were being constructed with "signage" stamped in same.
- Mr. Wiechec suggested placement of a sign at the boat lock facing into the canal system encouraging slow speed and discouraging fishing in and around the boat lock.
- Mr. Keeney responded an ordinance existed prohibiting same within 100 feet, recommending members contact the Police Department whenever such violations were observed.

- Mr. Gil opined 100 feet was insufficient. He then questioned the status of the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center's (CHEC's) water testing program.
- Mr. Keeney replied he understood testing was ongoing, stating he would contact CHEC and report back to the Committee.
- Mr. Gil recalled Mr. Brodersen had asked members for suggestions on possible temporary locations for the barge, asking if a site had been found.
- Mr. Brodersen responded the barge would be pulled out of BSI very shortly and relocated to PGI due to the amount of work planned within that community.
- Mr. Totten then stated he had received many positive comments from the citizenry with regard to the City's waterfront related efforts, providing the Harborwalk as an example of same.
- Mr. Gil observed the Strategic Plan no longer had a "Waterfront" category.
- Mayor Friedman explained initiatives were sometimes grouped under a different category. He mentioned the Strategic Plan would be developed and maintained on a fiscal as opposed to calendar year basis from this point forward.
- Mr. Brewster noted the Strategic Plan provided in the agenda material indicated research had concluded a pump-out facility was not feasible at Ponce de Leon Park; however, he stated he understood consideration was being given to a pump-out boat.
- Mayor Friedman agreed, stating a presentation would be made at the Waterfront Development Advisory Committee (WDAC) Meeting on June 10, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.
- Mr. Gil concluded members could make recommendations on the Strategic Plan either individually or at the upcoming workshops.
- Mr. Brodersen then mentioned he was called to Maltese Court and Maltese Drive recently where he observed a significant amount of brown, churning water approximately two inches below the surface. He explained he contacted the Utilities Department and confirmed there had been no break in a water or wastewater line. He stated there may have been a significant inversion of water; however, he continued to research the cause of same.
- Mr. Brewster clarified water quality tests from the area would be available quickly.

MEMBER COMMENTS

- Mr. Brewster announced Mr. Wiechec had been reappointed to an additional three year term on the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 2:30 p.m.

Gary Brewster, Chairman

Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary