



1015 Cultural Park Blvd.
Cape Coral, FL 33990

AGENDA

Waterway Advisory Board

February 2, 2023	1:00 PM	Council Chambers
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1. Call to Order

A. Recording Secretary Dixon

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call:

A. Austin, Cruz, Daubenberger, Humphrey, R. Jones, Lombardo, Pim,
and Alternates Dawson and L. Jones

4. Citizen Input Time

A maximum of 30 minutes is set for input of citizens on matters
concerning the Waterway Advisory Board; 3 minutes per individual.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Meeting Minutes - November 17, 2022

6. Business

- A. New Members Introduction
- B. Appointment of Temporary Chair
- C. Progress of Canal Clean-up (Salt & Freshwater)
- D. Status of Boat Ramp Access (Salt & Freshwater)
- E. Chiquita Lock Status
- F. Replacement of City Owner Marine Navigational Aids

7. Staff Updates

8. Member Comments

A. Next Meeting Agenda Topics Discussion

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

A. Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

10. Adjourn

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Florida Statutes 286.26, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk whose office is located at City Hall, 1015 Cultural Park Boulevard, Florida; telephone number is 1-239-574-0411, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting for assistance. If hearing impaired, telephone the Florida Relay Service Numbers, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8700 (v) for assistance.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board/Commission/Committee with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

Item Number: 5.A.
Meeting Date: 2/2/2023
Item Type: Approval of Minutes

AGENDA REQUEST FORM
CITY OF CAPE CORAL



TITLE:

Meeting Minutes - November 17, 2022

SUMMARY:

Meeting Minutes attached for review and approval

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Shana Dixon
Recording Secretary
City Clerk's Office
1-239-574-0415

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
□ 1. Meeting Minutes - November 17, 2022	Backup Material

**MINUTES OF THE WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FOR THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

Council Chambers

1:00 P.M.

Chair Collier called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Chair Collier, Members Austin, Cruz, Daubenberger, Humphrey, Jones, Pim, and Alternate Magruder were present.

Discussion held regarding current vacancy on the Waterway Advisory Board.

ALSO PRESENT: Maya Robert, Public Works Environmental Resources Manager
Richard Gainley, Parks and Recreation Harbormaster
Terry Schweitzer, Public Works Solid Waste Manager

Citizen Input Time

Steven Rodriguez, SDPA (Storm Drain Protection Act), appeared to provide background on the SDPA which is a nutrient, prevention, and reduction non-profit organization that installs and maintains filters within storm drains with the mission to preserve waterways and save plant and animal life. He requested that the Board consider adopting this program and encouraged them to reach out to him or Dr. Robert for further information. He provided the website: www.StormDrainProtectionAct.org

Discussion held regarding City Staff that Mr. Rodriguez could prospectively contact to further discuss the SDPA.

Approval Of Minutes

Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2022

Member Humphrey moved, seconded by Member Pim, to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2022, as presented. Voice Poll: All “ayes.” Motion carried.

Business

Approval of 2023 Meeting Schedule

Member Cruz moved, seconded by Vice Chair Jones, to approve the 2023 Meeting Schedule, as presented. Voice Poll: All “ayes.” Motion carried.

Staff Updates

None at this point.

Member Comments

None at this point.

Impacts of Hurricane Ian on Cape Coral Waterways Brought Forward by Member Humphrey

Chair Collier introduced Solid Waste Manager Terry Schweitzer.

Member Humphrey thanked Chair Collier for including this requested topic on the Agenda. He discussed the following:

- Impact of organic material
- Impact of inorganic material
- What are we looking at as far as destruction of our navigation aids?
- Displayed photos of the above three categories
- "Some Impacts of Ian on CC Waterway" – 23 slides
- What needs to be done?
- Establish, if it is not already done, a central database that can be easily accessed for hazardous waterway debris
- Survey waterways in Southeast and Southwest as has been done in North Spreader
- Establish Staff Division who would be responsible for follow up and database update
- Directions, if possible, to our canal owners if they see something floating and it's big, try to secure it
- Critical to get the navigation aids surveys going
- What kind of drift the bottom contour has suffered in terms of where those navigation aids should even be placed?

Manager Schweitzer discussed the following:

- Debris cleanup in the canal
- Tracking – our contractor maintains a database with 311 requests
- Residents have been good with tying things up to their docks and securing them
- Debris cleanup – Staff does not establish a database for navigation hazards, not under his purview, would be good to have a contact
- Helpful to know where the cutup palm trees are located in the waterways
- Canal cleanup process – started on November 7th
- Prior to that our contractor did an aerial survey of the canal system using a helicopter and the National Weather Service's Hurricane Ian imagery
- Estimate – about 200K cubic yards of debris in canals as compared to 1.8M on roads
- Most calls - trees, porta potties, and garbage totes
- Any boats reported were turned over to the FWC

- Jet skis were removed
- Started with six crews
- Focused on getting used to the process for safety and coordination
- Seven Islands area was first
- Navigation hazards need to be reported in order to get it on the debris database
- Started with land-based debris removal
- Open up lots and boat ramps
- Will be getting barges
- Some canals have been done already
- Vegetation going to one of the vegetation sites and gets ground up, shipped out to Burnt Store Recycling for compost
- C&D – ROW – to landfill for collection
- Anything in canal that is not vegetation is considered C&D such as tarps, lanai and pool cage screens, sheeting
- As of 11/16/22, 33 loads have been hauled out of the canals
- Working on permitting from the Army Corps of Engineers which runs out on 4/28/23
- Will apply for extensions
- Contractors believe they will not need more time
- More information will be posted on the website
- Monitoring firm, Tetra Tech, builds the database to put it on the website
- Using the same process as land-based debris by the 12 emergency zones
- Crews – started with six, after holidays will increase to 10 or 12
- Certifying more equipment next week
- FEMA Guidelines – eligibility requirements – will be using side scanned sonar to look for material underwater
- Will get information – two feet below the average draft not a navigation hazard in their mind and not eligible to be removed under FEMA Guidelines
- Tree removal - slow dangerous process
- More surveys – after Thanksgiving – will be using a drone to start doing more surveys in the saltwater canals to find hazards
- Will not have a database open to the public, only for tracking purposes to be more efficient, expect to be done by end of April

Member Humphrey left at 1:30 p.m. and returned at 1:34 p.m.

Alternate Member Magruder asked about the current controlling depth used for canals.

Manager Schweitzer explained they go by what is the average depth for that style of boat and was not an exact science. He will provide more information at a later date.

Alternate Member Magruder noted a standard might be needed for the published depth in all the canals.

Chair Collier inquired if there was some idea how many pounds or tons of shingles and

screening are in the canal system in the Cape Coral area.

Manager Schweitzer did not have the answer since there was some that would sink to the bottom that will never be recovered.

Discussion held regarding:

- Handpicking items by divers
- Use excavators on barges with claws to grab floating palm trees
- Barges have small cranes
- All by contractors and subcontractors, some who worked here during Irma
- FEMA help, extension for the 100% was 60 days from the day of the event
- Filing application for an amendment to get our 60 days from the date we received notification from our emergency permit from the Army Corps of Engineers
- Drops down to 75/25 where FEMA will still pay 75% of the cleanup costs for the next 30 days, and the State and Cape Coral split the 25%, then drops down to 50% after that with a split of 25/25
- Get out as much as quickly as we could on the cost recovery side
- Dockage that is not repairable, process that the City is taking to examine some of these docks that are in shambles and will probably get worse
- If dock has broken loose and is free floating – has become debris
- If dock is still attached, still part of the property
- Recommended 311 calls
- Any plans for volunteer buoying some of these items
- Manatees – Army Corps of Engineers permit – have to stop operations for at least 30 minutes for manatees to leave the area

Manager Schweitzer offered to provide updates at future meetings.

Member Pim questioned if they were starting in the North. Are they focused on one area and moving to another? Are those crews working all around the City?

Manager Schweitzer stated they would be working all around the City but mostly in the Seven Islands area, then will spread up more North, South, saltwater, and move inland. He would provide the FEMA Guidelines policy to the Board.

Discussion held regarding Manager Schweitzer's position and responsibilities in the City.

Discussion held regarding:

- South Spreader concerns – barges
- Six crews possibly expanding to possibly 15
- State tracking vessels in Spreader – 43 vessels reported, decaled, scheduled for removal, only 4 of 43 were found
- Chiquita Lock issues – debris and current
- Width of barges

- Communications – City to citizens
- Request for Staff to check situation by Chiquita Lock with boats stuck
- Drone to identify debris on the saltwater canals after Thanksgiving
- National Weather Service imagery
- Contractor used helicopter flyover
- CCPD Volunteer Unit helps with the surveys, cannot see from the air
- 311 is a good way to report what can be seen
- Every canal will be surveyed by a barge on all 406 miles of canals
- Suggestion for transducer on front end of barge

Chair Collier informed Manager Schweitzer that he may hear from some of the Board Members for follow up questions.

Manager Schweitzer provided his email: tschweitzer@capecoral.gov

Staff Updates

Chair Collier stated Maya Robert and Richard Gainley were present.

Harbormaster Gainley provided an update on the Lock. There is an electrical issue on the LCEC side that is preventing us from doing anything moving forward. More information could be obtained from the Public Works Director. He did not foresee it coming online any time soon. He discussed providing the tide table. He explained what the State was doing about boat removal and boat owners' responsibilities.

Chair Collier asked when the Yacht Club ramp might be available to the citizens.

Harbormaster Gainley stated the Public Works Director is in charge of that process, and he will reach out to him for a response. The FWC and the Marine Police do not want recreational boaters on the water because of all the debris. If you do go out, be prudent and careful. Rosen Park is open to the public 24 hours per day, nicest ramp in the City. Burnt Store ramp is open as well. The Coast Guard at Horton Park Boat Ramp is supposed to be out by the end of November.

Member Austin commented about the tides. There was a posted diagram on the Chiquita Lock which stopped on 9/28.

Harbormaster Gainley stated the sensors were still down.

Member Austin questioned if there was a way to post some opening times on a daily basis for boaters. He mentioned how the Lock is a major arterial waterway for a lot of boaters. He opined that LCEC and the City should be able to check out what's wrong with the electrical components.

Harbormaster Gainley stated City Staff electricians went out to try and power it up, but LCEC

told them no. He deferred obtaining this information from Public Works. He discussed the estimated tide table.

Discussion held regarding:

- Tide table charts
- Suggestion for Board to discuss this issue further
- LCEC – nothing urgent – months before any action
- Haggerty contractor – power to Rosen Park – huge issue
- Going through Chiquita Lock at boater's risk – no power
- Suggestion to post information on website about Lock

Public Works Environmental Resources Manager Robert discussed the following:

- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will likely announce their intentions tomorrow
- Current Lake schedule operations, they can release up to 4,000 cfs out of S-79
- As of now, they are still releasing zero cfs from the Lake
- Still getting basin runoff from drainage
- Red Tide Bloom occurring now – concern about potential added nutrients
- Also concerned for next year potential Blue Green Algae Blooms on the Lake
- 2018 big Algae Bloom
- USACE trying to get Lake level down as soon as possible
- April/May – toxins are present in higher concentrations
- Monitoring - have done requests to the USACE
- We have to plan for harmful algal blooms next summer
- Water quality is bad
- Debris removal and seawall repairs/inspections, rising cases of flesh-eating bacteria
- Concerns that may delay debris removal

Discussion held regarding:

- Impact of palm trees in canals – possibility of increase in bloom, adding nutrients
- Some remnants of green algae bloom – Rubicon
- Water still very brown – low visibility
- Cold fronts will calm things down
- White foam on canals lingered as boats pass by – slowing down algae growth
- FDEP extension

Chair Collier asked if there were any incidents of algae rising to the surface from Cape Coral canal water.

Manager Robert responded:

- Two reports on the system for the Rubicon Canal
- Probably remnants from the bloom this summer
- No large accumulation

Chair Collier observed it last week in the Britannia Lake floating to the surface.

Manager Robert responded she will look at it.

Chair Collier stated it was south of Cape Coral Parkway, west of Pelican Boulevard, east of Skyline Boulevard, north of El Dorado Parkway.

Manager Robert was not aware of it and requested more information of the exact location.

Chair Collier – 5215 Skyline Boulevard.

Member Comments

Member Pim – can our dredges be deployed to do underwater cleanup? It did not seem to be part of waste disposal plan yet. Where are the dredges right now?

Member Daubenberger – last time he saw the dredge, the saltwater dredge was working in the North Spreader; the other dredge was in for maintenance; they had only one dredge crew running two dredges; when one gets done, they bring it in, clean it up, the other one goes out to another section. They are having a hard time, got with Public Works yesterday to have the weirs put back in the North Cape, no one wants to get in the water due to the flesh-eating bacteria. Until the water clears up to where people are feeling safe, there will be no work in the water. No work being done on the bubble curtains now, want to keep the divers safe.

Vice Chair Jones – requested that information from Steven Rodriguez of the SDPA (Storm Drain Protection Act) regarding the Stormwater Management be presented to the Waterway Advisory Board at a future meeting.

Chair Collier asked Manager Robert to make that happen when the presentation becomes available.

Manager Robert asked for clarification on what presentation they requested. Did Mr. Jones want Mr. Rodriguez to come here to do a formal presentation? Or would you like to receive the document that he mentioned?

Vice Chair Jones requested the formal presentation that Mr. Rodriguez noted he was working on with Staff.

Manager Robert responded in the affirmative.

Discussion held regarding contacting Hugo Delgado to get a demo set up and observe it in a couple of different basins.

Member Humphrey – what is the technology that gives a drone the ability to find debris that

is the same temperature as the sea water?

Manager Robert stated she could not speak of what the contractor is going to use. What she heard from the Solid Waste Manager is that there will be drone surveys that will give a higher resolution of what is lying under the surface, then they will complement it with the side scanned sonar which will be done on the water. There is very advanced drone technology used by the military using different wavelengths.

Discussion held regarding:

- Barge with a side scanned sonar would have to scan the complete canal

Recording Secretary Dixon clarified for consideration for the next meeting agenda for the presentation with Mr. Rodriguez and Dr. Robert, are we looking to have that on the agenda for January?

Chair Collier responded it was subject to their getting it together.

Recording Secretary Dixon noted it would be a point of reference for follow up.

Member Humphrey suggested an agenda item for the next meeting - looking at the accuracy of the location of debris in the canals, getting a more scientific explanation of how they are able to do that.

Chair Collier stated he would consider that agenda item and would try to refine the request. He noted Manager Schweitzer may be requested to attend.

Member Humphrey – Sensed disconnect between homeowners and the debris recovery efforts, not sure if everyone was aware of what their part is and what they should be doing. Need better communication of actual recovery efforts.

Member Austin – asked the Board to consider some ideas. It seems there are a number of major issues that should go to Council for their immediate review based on the fact that we are in a disaster area, and we are trying to recover as quickly as we can, but we are not getting the message out to the public. He discussed the South Spreader; Lock not operational causing a huge problem. He suggested drafting something to present to Council for them to look at the next meeting. He requested feedback from the Board about doing some type of resolution about what we heard today and what we think needs to be done.

Member Daubenberger – Ran City's dredging division for 15 years; explained that canals are drainage ditches and lower priority than taking care of the community with loss of their homes and jobs.

Vice Chair Jones – canal system was stormwater management from the Lock to the old boat lift; dropped off navigational charts; life safety first, then property; waterways are not going to get the priority; Board can push the cleanup effort and for better information to push some

type of plan with Council.

Member Pim – communication and recommendation for resolution; recalled a memo done in May that may have been delivered in July; last Board meeting of the year; supported putting a short memo together to Council; giving Chair authority to do that since next meeting won't be until January.

Chair Collier explained the process of sending a memo to Council.

Discussion held regarding:

- Effectiveness of sending a memo again
- Best route – work directly with Staff or a Member goes to a Council meeting and presents a certain topic there

Member Cruz – Very little information about what is going on although Staff has been out there inspecting the canal systems and partially removed some Australian pines. Staff has been surveying the damaged markers and coordinating removal of what they can remove.

Chair Collier – volunteered to contact Ms. Mickey about the gaps that he felt were happening. Several news stories on picking up canal debris – not being seen by people if not watching the right channel. Possibly they should broadcast it to another channel or get it on Facebook. Agreed to getting it open would be helpful. Not going to be the priority of the City so as long that Lock is open and available for drainage. Been through the Lock with significant current and boaters need to be alert. If the Board was agreeable, he would undertake that duty.

Discussion held regarding:

- Suggestion for Town Hall Meeting where people could ask questions
- Ability to submit online questions

Member Austin – Give public knowledge of what the City is doing. Recommend the City do more with communications about the waterways.

Discussion held regarding the public who do not watch what is going on with the waterways.

Chair Collier noted that there was no barrier to any member of the Board contacting the various City Councilmembers directly. He offered his commitment.

Member Pim – noted on Facebook that Communications started an email newsletter; it may not always have topics about the waterways, but it could be suggested to the groups you are visiting to get on that email newsletter and connect with the City on Facebook.

Recording Secretary Dixon offered to the Board if it would be helpful to send Staff contact information that has been discussed today.

Chair Collier asked her to do so.

Recording Secretary Dixon responded in the affirmative. Currently Councilmember Long is the WAB's current liaison, but that could change at tomorrow's regular Council meeting since member selection for various boards is on the agenda. The current WAB Coordinator is Maureen Buice which would also be included in her email.

Member Humphrey commented on canals – drainage ditch or beautiful waterway; WAB members are water supermen's top priority is water.

Chair Collier commented:

- Some appointments expire in January
- There will be an ad coming out regarding vacancies that you have to reapply
- Don't take reappointment for granted, there can be several applicants for one position, deadline will be December 23rd
- Everyone is affected except Members Daubenberger, Humphrey, and Jones
- Mentioned his involvement with a conservation project, not only in Lee County, but also in Southern Louisiana, time constraints will prohibit him from continuing in this position
- Consider becoming a Chairperson for this Board

Date And Time of Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the Waterway Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 220A.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Submitted by,

Shana Dixon
Recording Secretary

Transcribed by Barbara Kerr 12/19/22