

**MARINE COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Monday, July 25, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida**

**AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A) April 11, 2022**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 4. OLD BUSINESS**
  - A) Vessel Enforcement Update – Mr. Keith Drewett**
  - B) Anchoring Limitation Areas – Mr. Keith Drewett**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
- 6. MARINA DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**
- 7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**
  - A) Comments from City Council at May 17, 2022 Meeting**
- 8. MEMBER'S MATTERS**
- 9. NEXT MEETING DATE**
  - A) Set the Date for the Next Marine Commission Meeting**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

This is a Public Meeting. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by the Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, they 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 to be based. Anyone who needs a special accommodation for this meeting may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 978-4920 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

**MARINE COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Monday, April 11, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida**

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Ben Trautman; Vice Chairman, Keith Drewett; Members: Brian Cunningham, Bill Johnson, Clinton Lanier, Alternate Member, Robert Snyder, and Alternate Member, John Chianis **Also Present:** Marina Director, Sean Collins; Assistant City Attorney, Jenny Flanigan; and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Chartier

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Trautman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) January 10, 2022**

**Mr. Drewett made a motion to approve the January 10, 2022 Marine Commission minutes. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Trautman said he would like to request that they change the agenda so they can discuss Chairman's Matters prior to Public Comment. He asked if there were any objections from the Commission members. There were no objections.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This item was discussed after item 7-A).

Mr. Trautman asked the audience to keep their comments to three (3) minutes, keep their discussion civil and on topic.

Mr. Leonard Markir, Vero Beach resident, said he appreciates what the Marine Commission is doing. He thinks there has been a misconception on the issue with City Marina and the Marina expansion. Most people he has spoken with are not against the Marina upgrade and rebuild. They recognize that it is in the best interest of the City to have the Marina up to date and safe. The problem most people have is with is the Marina expansion. They are not against the Marina, but more of the size and scale of the Marina for a City of this size. He asked if the Marine Commission has seen a list of related costs for the small, medium, and deluxe dry storage building projects. If so, where can he find that information.

Mr. Trautman asked Mr. Collins if they have a price or cost list for any of the proposed Master Plan designs.

Mr. Sean Collins, Marina Director, replied that some of the costs are in, but due to the state of the economy over the past year it is a moving target and constantly being updated.

Mr. Markir said he was not asking for construction costs, but figures from Coastal Tech when they submitted their plans for the small, medium, and large plans. He asked if they provided

the Commission with any architectural estimated costs and have there been any meetings to get public input.

Mr. Collins replied that they have not shown any figures to the Marine Commission at any prior meeting. He said they have received some public input at the Marine Commission meetings, but there is a public workshop on May 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers to discuss this topic.

Ms. Jenny Flanigan, Assistant City Attorney, said in order to keep things orderly she would ask to restrict public comments at this time to items that do not pertain to any of the agenda items.

Mr. Trautman asked if there are any other subjects that the public wants to comment on. There were no other public comments at this time.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A) Review Draft Welcome Letter for Anchored Vessels – Mr. Clinton Lanier**

Mr. Lanier stated that his task was to draft a letter that could be handed out to vessel owners in this area. He read the drafted letter (attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Trautman explained that the intent of drafting a letter was to make contact with the boat owner and to make them aware they have been recognized.

Mr. Cunningham asked if the boaters would get this letter by making contact with them at the fuel dock or for pump outs at the City Marina.

Mr. Lanier replied there could be a number of ways, but that is probably the primary method of contact. He said he often patrols the anchorage area and introduces himself on a friendly basis. He asks how they are doing and if they can be of help. It is generally well received, so handing out copies of this letter to them he thinks would be fine.

Mr. Trautman said he likes this idea and appreciates him engaging with the boaters. He likes where he is going with the letter and he would like to see it go further with support from the community.

Mr. Johnson said he does not listen to the VHS radio much, but recently he heard a woman doing a 15 to 20 minute broadcast and she is very talented. He asked Mr. Collins if he knows anything about it and how long has she has been doing that broadcast.

Mr. Collins replied yes, it is the Cruisers Net. It has been done by various people over the years and they discuss the local weather, events going on in town, specials at local restaurants, etc.

Mr. Johnson said she has a great voice and this letter would be a great public service announcement to include in that morning broadcast if it gets approved. He is not sure if this broadcast is aired once a week or more often.

Mr. Collins said it is pretty regular especially in season. He would say they are on air about six (6) months out of the year.

Mr. Cunningham agreed that it would be a great way to get the message out. The program is at 8:15 a.m. on channel 69.

Mr. Trautman said these are all proactive ideas.

Mr. Cunningham said he believes this letter needs to be distributed in a more official capacity so that there is a better chance of it being read and filled out.

Mr. Collins stated the first way to get the word out is with this letter as it goes from a draft form to something more official. When it is in season they can add it to the Cruiser Net and when people contact the Marina asking about areas to anchor they can hand out the letter. He is on board with this.

Mr. Snyder said he agrees with Mr. Cunningham that they need more of an official way to announce this, because if everyone is handing out these letters and boaters are being approached several times they might consider it harassment.

At this time, Mr. Trautman asked for public comment.

Mr. Markir said the outreach to the transient community is very important. He said there are a couple of anchoring areas here that people use. He suggested that they post a brief abstract of that letter on signs where boats anchor so they know who to contact if they are going to be leaving their boat for a period of time.

Lady (no name given) said I am the voice of the morning broadcast on Cruiser Net. She said if she is given a copy of the letter she can add it to her program.

Ms. P.J. Billing said she would like to compliment them on the letter. She said for a long time she has been a proponent of trying to get boaters together to self-police themselves. She would be very happy to work with the Commission on anything that brings the boaters together and gives them pride of taking care of each other, the community, and the Marina.

Mr. Skip Gundlach, stated that he was the instigator of the morning Cruiser Net and he has been involved with Cruiser Nets all over the County and in the Bahamas. He said he gathers the weather reports every morning. He agrees that if those who are anchored could have some visibility of who to contact, that would be helpful.

Mr. Lanier said those people who are involved in Cruiser Net are fantastic. He lived aboard a cruising sailboat in the Bahamas for six (6) years and their morning broadcast was exceptionally useful. He felt that it brought the cruiser community together.

Mr. Trautman stated that they have a draft letter drawn up, so what is their next step.

Ms. Flanigan explained that if it is something that will require City resources it would have to go to City Council for their approval. The Marine Commission can make a motion and take a vote on a recommendation to send it to City Council. She informed the Commission that the

letter cannot come from the City's Police Department and they cannot use any of the Police Department's resources to look up any information on a vessel.

Ms. Flanigan said they might have to draw up some the logistical issues, such as how it will be delivered by the City.

Mr. Drewett asked if this is approved by City Council, would Mr. Collins be willing to hand out this letter.

Mr. Collins replied yes, he would be fine making contact with the vessels and leaving a letter in a zip lock bag clipped to the boat if it is unoccupied.

Mr. Drewett explained that per City Code, the Harbor Master is limited to actions within the Marina except in the case of a vessel in distress. He does not think that Mr. Collins can go outside of the Marina and put letter on vessels. He said most of the time boats will come in for fuel and a pump out before they go anchor, so that will probably get most of the transient population.

Mr. Collins stated that they constantly have new people coming by asking where they can anchor, so that would be the perfect time to ask for some contact information.

Mr. Cunningham asked once the letter is approved can it be included in the Cruiser Net script.

Mr. Collins replied yes it can.

**Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the letter be sent to City Council for consideration. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

#### **B) Vessel Enforcement Update – Mr. Keith Drewett**

Mr. Drewett explained that the City of Vero Beach water area is quite small, but there are three (3) jurisdictions that patrol here to some extent. They are the Vero Beach Police Department, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and the Indian River County Sheriff's Office. For the past couple of years their Commission has pushed for an increase in more consistent and continued patrolling, which has been somewhat successful. He announced about a month ago there were six (6) derelict vessels that were removed. He explained that the County Administration coordinates getting a contract to have a barge remove the vessels and they do a great job. The FWC is pretty clear on their rules pertaining to derelict vessels.

Mr. Cunningham asked how many vessels are still on the FWC's list that need to be removed.

Mr. Drewett stated there are probably some vessels some people might consider derelict, but they do not meet the FWC's criteria. Currently there are no vessels on their list for removal.

Mrs. Joy Collins, City Resident, congratulated the Marine Commission for removing those six (6) vessels. It was a huge accomplishment, because it is not regulated by the City or the County, but by the State and there are a lot of hoops to get through.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

## A) Anchoring Vessels and At Risk Vessels – Mr. Keith Drewett

Mr. Drewett explained that the FWC has a list of five (5) criteria for determining if a vessel is derelict, which was attached to the agenda and is titled *Derelict, Abandoned & At Risk Vessels*. This is the legal criteria they use to determine if a vessel is derelict and can be removed. This is funded by \$12 million dollars and there is no cost to the City or the County. Some of the vessels in City waters are recognized by FWC but don't meet all five (5) of the criteria, so the FWC made a change to Ordinance 327.4108 to add a new section titled *Anchoring of vessels in anchoring limitation areas*, which was also attached to the agenda. It does not restrict recreational or transient boats from anchoring for several days, but it establishes the maximum days a vessel can anchor as 45 days. This is a completely new tool for the City, the County, and the FWC. If the City decides to move forward with this, it will enable them to be much more effective on these in between vessels and prevent them from becoming derelict. If vessels meet this new criteria they are still floating, so they can simply be towed away by a contractor and sent for processing. This might be a recommendation from the Marine Commission as the next step for City Council to look at.

Mr. Trautman clarified that it is 45 consecutive days of being anchored. By simply moving the boat it would reset the clock for another 45 days.

Mr. Drewett replied that it has to be moved at least one (1) mile. The legislation is in place, but it is still in rule making, which will precisely set out how they will enforce it. He explained that only the County can apply for it, so the City will have to coordinate with the County about them taking the lead.

Mr. Cunningham asked if the County is receptive.

Mr. Drewett replied that they have listened to them, but they have not received any feedback and it is still being discussed by staff.

Mr. Cunningham asked who starts the 45-day clock.

Mr. Drewett explained that it can be set by agencies logging the vessel, the use of body camera footage, by testimony of a witness, etc.

Mr. Trautman stated that they do not have a City Police boat patrolling yet.

Mr. Drewett stated that they just got the engines for the new Police boat, so once they get fully staffed they should be able to have more consistent patrols.

Ms. Billing asked them to clarify the 45 days and does it apply to unoccupied or occupied vessels. She asked if this is proposed but not approved yet.

Mr. Drewett replied that it applies to any vessel. It has been approved by the Legislature and it was signed by the Governor on July 1, 2021. The FWC is rulemaking at this time.

Mr. Drewett asked if the Marine Commission wants to take action on this.

Mr. Gundlach said unfortunately this is an attempt to address derelict vessels. People who come to this area might sometimes exceed the 45 days. Some people will stay on their boat for months at a time without causing any hazard to transportation, health, or other issues. He spent 15 years living on his boat, so this is a very unwelcomed measure.

Mr. Collins stated that since they are looking at proceeding with the welcome letter, and FWC is still rule making, he would suggest they start with the letter to see how that goes first and then see what the rest of the State does.

Ms. Flanigan explained that the anchoring limitation areas cannot be more than 10 percent of their Counties navigable waterways, so 90 percent would not be limited if it is adopted.

Mr. Trautman said he believes it is a little premature to move forward with this since they don't have a crew for the Police patrol boat yet. His opinion is that they can assess this again at their next meeting.

Mr. Drewett said this might catch some people who live on their boats, but unless they have this in place they will have derelict vessels to deal with. At their last meeting they saw pictures of derelict vessels and most of them are still there. He said even if the Ordinance is there, it doesn't mean they have to implement it.

Mr. Johnson said he agrees that if there is an opportunity to implement this, even if it is just for derelict vessels he would be in favor. It will still take a while to get this into place, so if they don't have it when they are ready, they are not getting anywhere. He said he is in favor of moving this forward.

Ms. Flanigan said they should make a motion advising City Council that the Marine Commission is in favor of implementing an anchoring limitation area and to prepare a memo to the County per Florida Statue 327.4108.

**Mr. Trautman made a motion recommending that City Council engage with the County to establish an anchoring limitation area per Florida Statues 327.4108. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

## **6. MARINA DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**

### **A) Update on Design Plans for the South Complex**

Mr. Collins said here have been some comments made about keeping the size of the Marina to the size of the City. He explained that the three (3) main docks at the Marina have been in place for over 100 years. In old photos you cannot see any roads or homes in the area. The only expansion the Marina did was to add 14 to 16 spots in the Lagoon. He explained that the Marina did a modest extension of the fuel dock in the 1970's, which added six (6) slips. The City grew around the Marina and the Marina has not grown with the City, so they needed to catch up with the demand. He continued by showing a video presentation of an artist's rendering prepared by an Architect of what they think the dry storage building will look like.

Mr. Drewett asked what are the dimensions of the proposed building.

Mr. Collins replied that it is a little over 200 feet long by about 115 feet wide and a vertical height of 35 feet.

Mr. Drewett asked what does the current building measure.

Mr. Collins replied that is about 80 feet by 75 feet.

Mr. Trautman asked if they will be getting rid of the old insurance building.

Mr. Collins replied yes. They tried to lease out that building almost two (2) years ago. The only interest they received were from people who wanted to purchase the property, but the City purchased it with grant money and there are restrictions that the business has to be marine related.

Mr. Trautman asked with the proposed larger building, what will be the increase in the number of boats that it can accommodate and how much will the revenue increase.

Mr. Collins explained that it will be designed with three (3) 30 foot bays. Each bay will hold three (3) boats wide and three (3) to four (4) boats high, which equates to about 140 boats. They want to permit it for 160 boats just in case at times they do not have a lot of larger boats they will be able to add another beam to provide another level to a couple of the bays.

Mr. Trautman asked what is the current capacity.

Mr. Collins replied that right now they store 52 vessels, but it is permitted for 98. The revenue this past year was just over \$200,000 and they are predicting their revenue to be \$840,000 annually with the new building. He added that between the new dry storage building and the existing associated floating docks they could easily see over \$1 million in revenue.

Mr. Cunningham asked how many boats are on the waiting list for the dry stack building.

Mr. Collins replied that they have 22 boats on the list for the existing building that are 22 feet or less. He said for the entire Marina, there are 254 applications for dockage and dry storage. About a third of them are for vessels under 30 feet, so that would fill up the new dry storage building and the Lagoon if that area is built with slips of that size.

Mr. Cunningham stated that his Marine business has 45 slips and they are sold out to capacity on a daily basis. When people call looking for a slip he refers them to the City Marina or to Fort Pierce. He said it seems that everyone on the Treasure Coast is sold out for dry storage and in the water.

Mr. Collins replied that it goes beyond the Treasure Coast. The Marine industry in Florida is a \$65 billion dollar business.

Mr. Drewett stated that in March, Florida broke a record of having over one (1) million registered vessels.

Mr. Collins explained that 6% of the revenue generated at the Marina goes back into the City's General Fund. They are self-supporting the rest of the community, so just imagine what kind

of projects that the money can be used for. In the meantime they have to pay off the loan, but after that he believes the Marina will be a cash cow for the City.

Mr. Drewett asked if the office space that adjoins the current dry storage build will still be rented.

Mr. Collins replied that is still yet to be determined.

Mr. Drewett asked if there will still be restrooms in the new building.

Mr. Collins replied yes.

Mr. Trautman asked what is the workshop about.

Mr. Collins explained that it is a public workshop with City Council for the south complex as part of the approval process. It will be on May 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Trautman asked Mr. Falls if there is a lot of flexibility in the Master Plan.

Mr. Monte Falls, City Manager, explained that the Master Plan is the same as what the Marine Commission recommended to City Council and they endorsed the ultimate plan. That plan showed the addition of the docks in the boat basin, the rebuilding of the Marina with the three (3) docks from where the Dock Master's office is, the reconstruction of the dry storage building and the floating docks associated with the building, and some docks adjacent to the Dog Park area. It is in the same form as when the Marine Commission saw it. What has changed is that City Council authorized them to move forward with the larger storage building. He said at the May 5<sup>th</sup> workshop City Council will hear from the public and then City Council will decide on the size of the building. He said anything could change up until City Council awards a contract for construction.

Mr. Trautman asked if their decision will affect the docks.

Mr. Falls explained that Phase I is the dry storage building because of the poor condition of the existing building. Depending on what comes out of the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Phase II could be the docks at the Dock Master's building, or it could be docks in the Lagoon. The final stage, if they get to it would be docks on the south end near the Dog Park.

Mr. Trautman asked how does this work with the Three Corners project.

Mr. Falls stated that they are completely independent. The Three Corners plan is going to referendum on the November ballot. If approved, a Request for Proposal (RFP) would go out.

Mr. Trautman asked if the Marine Commission should be providing any more advice on this, or leave it as they previously recommended.

Mr. Falls said they are an Advisory Commission so if they have an opinion on anything he is sure that City Council would welcome that.

Mr. Drewett stated that he would like to see more details and the impact of the larger building, so he would defer providing any more advice until after the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Collins stated if the building gets downsized too much it will be a numbers game. The more boats they can accommodate the more affordable it will be. The same goes for the layout of the slips.

Mr. Cunningham stated with only being able to accommodate up to 30-foot boats in the dry storage the City will still be falling short in comparison to the surrounding area.

Mr. Collins stated that he agrees. They looked at a design to accommodate larger boats but there would only be racks on one (1) side and the building would be much longer. It is a narrow piece of property and they are trying to maximize the use, but still fit it in the area.

Mr. Cunningham said if they are going to be on the smaller side of the storage facilities it is important to have as many rentable racks as possible for their financial feasibility.

Mr. Gundlach read a prepared statement concerning the Marina expansion (attached to the original minutes.) He stated that he has been a client of the Marina since Christmas 2013.

Mrs. Leslie Tilley, stated that she has lives on Rio Vista Boulevard in the house closest to the dingy docks for over 32 years. She said that was a great three (3) dimensional presentation, but she would like to see the view going down Date Palm Road and turning onto Rio Vista Boulevard and then turning around and coming back towards the building to see what that would look like. She said if the building is built as shown it would be a wall people will have to look at when coming down the road. The building looks nice but she thinks it could be reduced in size. She is also concerned that the dry storage building is now first when what is needed and promised for a long time are improvements to the Marina for safety issues. People love the City Marina and want to see enhancements, but they don't want the expansion.

Mr. David Dyer, Vero Beach resident, said he has been a long-time boater. He congratulated the Marine Commission and the City Council on their long term plan for the Marina. He believes that a quality community deserves a quality Marina especially one (1) that is so water oriented as Vero Beach. The current Marina is not only unattractive, it is unsafe. The vision they have is worthy of support and he hopes they continue with making it an asset the community needs.

Mr. Collins stated that there have been some comments about the amount of noise from a larger building, but the current building has been without doors for many years.

Mr. Markir asked if they are trying to expand the Marina and accommodate larger boats in order to make the Marina a destination area and is this the right location for this size of Marina.

Mr. Collins replied yes it is.

Mrs. Karen Marcil, Vero Beach resident, said she has lived next to the Lagoon since 1988 and over the years there have been many movements to expand the Marina, but every time it has been met with extreme opposition by the neighborhood. This time she agrees that it needs to be upgraded and improved and it has been way to long, but this time there was not any public

input because of COVID. There were emails sent, but now that everything is opened back up they need to get with the public to hear their comments and let them voice their opinions. They need to know if the correct studies have been done, how will it affect the Lagoon and traffic, and the neighborhood. That building is an industrial building and it is in a residential neighborhood not an industrial park. There are plenty of places they can build a dry storage building and people will go there. They need to proceed with the original Phase I and fix the Marina.

Mr. Trautman clarified that the Marina Master Plan was approved in 2019, which was before COVID.

At 11:13 a.m. the Commission took a 5-minute break.

Mrs. Lori Farrell, Vero Beach resident, stated that her family moved to Vero Beach in 2014 and they owned a boat and had a slip at the Marina. They moved overseas for a couple of years and came back in 2020 during COVID. They bought a new boat and they were on the waiting list for a slip for a few months. They are in favor of the improvements and they are okay with a medium size building, but not the large size. When traveling down Rio Vista Boulevard people will see a large solid wall of an industrial looking building. They would like the uniqueness of the neighborhood to be considered when they decide the size of the building.

Mr. John Millward, Vero Beach resident, stated that he lives here because when he cruised up and down the coast he found this to be a lovely place, so he retired here. He is all for improving the Marina so that it is safe and functional, but he certainly does not want this boat storage facility. He said why don't they build it at the Three Corners property, because it is much too large, not functional, and it does not meet the demand to accommodate larger boats.

Captain Steve (last name not audible) said he and his wife have been coming to Vero Beach since 2005 and they were live-aboard cruisers up until three (3) years ago and now they are full time residents. He is all about Vero Beach growing and the Marina growing with it. He would like to know what percentage of Indian River County residents use the dry storage building for their boats. The Marina is run down and not very safe, so he is excited about the Marina expansion and it is a wise thing to do.

Mr. Garry Froonjian, Central Beach resident, said he was not around for a couple of years because of COVID. He said if he were to put together a plan like this that would have been the perfect time to do it without any diversity or rebuttal, because people were not leaving their homes and attending meetings. He read a prepared statement about the health of the Lagoon and adding more boats will add more pollution to this area. He asked what studies were conducted to ensure that the expansion will not have a negative effect on the Lagoon.

Mr. Tem Fontaine, Coastal Technology, replied that there were a host of different studies done. They started with the Manatee Protection Plan, which was developed in the early 2000's. It identifies this site as an ideal location for the Marina expansion due to the lack of natural resources. There is no oyster habitat and no sea grasses in the Marina footprint. The existing water depths in the Marina are good and there is very good flushing. They did a numerical model of this area and they did a dye test to track the currents, so this is an ideal location for this expansion.

Mr. Michael Giannotti, said he has been a Central Beach resident for 11 years. He is also a boat owner and has been on the waiting list for a full time slip for seven (7) years and he finally got one (1). He said of the plans that were laid out for a small, medium, and large, he is in favor of the larger scale plan. Even the largest plan will not make it like the Fort Pierce City Marina. It is not going to draw thousands of people and it will still be a quiet community. The new storage building is going to generate more than enough revenue to pay for itself. The Marine expansion will be very beneficial for the City of Vero Beach and they need to consider those 250 applicants that are on the waiting list for a dock or dry storage.

Mr. Beristain, (first name inaudible and spelling might not be correct) said he is one (1) of those people who came here by boat and bought property, because Vero Beach is a beautiful jewel. He complimented Mr. Collins on his professionalism and on his presentation. He said he believes the Marina expansion is needed, it is well over do, and it will compliment the community.

Mrs. Collins stated that she attended all of the Master Plan meetings, which were well before COVID and there was a tremendous amount of public input. She said every single person who purchased a home in Central Beach knew there was a Marina there and it has been there since the 1920's. If people go back and research history they will find that everything about Florida began with the water. All of the mail delivery, food supplies, etc. all came by water and to date, boating is still the largest industry in Florida. They need to look at everyone and there are a lot of people on the waiting lists. She said her income during her entire adult life has been because of the marine industry. Boat sales have been astronomical because of the pandemic. People want that freedom and a safe place to keep their boat. She said someone mentioned the Yacht Club, but where has the outcry been about their 650 members and the traffic generated by them.

Ms. Florence Ann Roberts, thanked the Marine Commission members for volunteering their service and it is appreciated. She said Mr. Collins has done a wonderful job over the past few years making the Marina a safer place and getting things done since the debt was paid off. She thinks that sometimes the public does not realize the broader effect of what dollars mean to the City's finances. She understands that the Marina is run as an Enterprise Fund and they need to remember that 6% of the money generated by the Marina will go back to the City.

Mr. Jerry Anchors, Vero Beach resident, stated that he does not believe that enough environmental studies have been done. He has been in touch with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and they are not aware of what is going on at the Marina. He does not feel that giving back 6% on this investment is enough. He is not opposed to improving the Marina or enlarging the storage building if they need to. He feels they need to look at the figures and the cost to rent spaces a little closer if they do not build the largest building.

Mr. Paul Landry, said he has lived here for 16 years at Riverside Gardens, which overlooks the Moorings. They have enjoyed the views from there and it is peaceful. He said if they look at the expansion of the boat storage building and the scale of what is being proposed they are looking at a mammoth structure and it is outrageous. They cannot say in any way that it fits in a residential neighborhood, because it is commercial and industrial.

Mr. Drewett stated that he believes that the Marina is zoned commercial.

Mr. Falls replied that it is Marina zoning, which allows for marine and industrial uses.

Mrs. Ross Allen said besides the building she is really concerned about the health of the Lagoon. The Lagoon is in terrible shape and the manatees and the sea grasses are dying. They do not have any flushing and adding more boats will not be good. She does not know how many people in Central Beach will use this building and it is not going to improve their lives. It will change the quality of the Central Beach neighborhood forever. There must be a more appropriate place for this type and size of building. They do not want Vero Beach to look like all the other towns and that is why people come here. They have a very unique town and they need to preserve it. She is also terribly concerned about putting docks in the basin. They need to make sure the proper studies have been done so that they are sure there will be no environmental issues to the town, the water, the community, and for future generations.

Ms. Billing stated that she is adamantly opposed to the anchoring limits on the waters for public use. She asked what will be the cost increase to boaters and how do they keep it affordable. She believes that improvements to the Marina should come first and she supports the building of a large Marina on the Three Corners property. She read a few statements from people who support the improvements and that the Marina is an asset. It is time to invest in the Marina infrastructure and the quality of life for the boaters.

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

This item was discussed after item 2.

### **A) Commission Ethics and Conflict of Interest – Mr. Ben Trautman and Ms. Jenny Flanigan**

Mr. Trautman said they would like to go over the Commission member's expectations on ethics and conflict of interest.

Ms. Jenny Flanigan, Assistant City Attorney, explained that at their Organizational meeting they discussed the Sunshine Law and how it applies to Advisory Board members. This presentation is a continuation of that discussion and she will cover the ethics portion in more detail. She continued by giving the Public Officers Code of Ethics Power Point presentation (attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Trautman said this was discussed because it was brought to their attention that several of the Marine Commission members have engaged with City Officials at various levels on subjects that their Commission deals with. There is a gray area on how exactly the Commission members can proceed and advocate for things they believe in, but potentially there is a line they could cross that could make it difficult for the Commission to do their work at their meetings. He would like to ask the Commission members that if they are involved with any outside engagement with the City that is in anyway contrary to what they are discussing and taking action on at their meetings to disclose they are doing that so the Commission can take that into consideration. They should excuse themselves from the discussion if possible when talking about that particular subject.

## **8. MEMBER'S MATTERS**

None

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**A) Set the Date for the Next Marine Commission Meeting**

Ms. Flanigan confirmed that the Special Call City Council meeting is on May 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The next Marine Commission meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday July 25, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Marine Commission adjourned today's meeting at 11:54 a.m.

/rc