

**MARINE COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Thursday, October 6, 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, Alternate Member, Robert Snyder, and Alternate Member, John Chianis; City Attorney, John Turner; and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Chartier

**Excused Absence:** Clinton Lanier

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) July 25, 2022**

**Mr. Drewett made a motion to approve the July 25, 2022 Marine Commission minutes. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**A) Vessel Enforcement Update – Mr. Keith Drewett**

Mr. Drewett said the two (2) exposed anchorage areas near Riverside Café and Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Island were cleared out by Hurricane Ian, but they are starting to fill up again and that will accelerate as the season approaches. The little sailboat with the blue stripe went aground again in the mangroves, and one (1) sailboat that was left in the anchorage has a torn sail. He explained that the Police Department has their new boat and they are very pleased with it, so once they become fully staffed they will see more police patrols on the water.

Mr. Johnson reported that there was a sailboat south of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge on the west side, which had been there for about a year. It was there just before the hurricane, but it was gone afterwards. He stated that he went over to that area and noticed something sticking out of the water, so he does not know if the boat sank, or if something else is under the surface of the water. It is hard to see, but it looks like about the same outline as that boat.

Mr. Drewett said perhaps it moved somewhere else, but that is not in City waters. He asked Mr. Johnson to provide a picture of the item and the location to the City Clerk's office and he will get it forwarded to the correct agency.

**B) Anchoring Limitation Areas – Mr. Keith Drewett**

Mr. Drewett asked Mr. Turner for an update on the anchoring limitation area project with the County.

Mr. Turner reported that the County is supposed to provide a copy of their revised map to the City Manager, Monte Falls. They have had meetings with the County and they have gone well.

Mr. Drewett asked that the revised map be shared with the Marine Commission.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Trautman said a map was provided to the Commission members showing the waterways that are in the City limits.

Mr. Snyder reported that he provided them with the maps, so when they are talking about different areas they have a visual. He said north of island 35 some work is being done and he was told it was under the direction of the County. He asked if anyone knows what is taking place.

Mr. Drewett answered based on what he understands is that the County is doing a major restoration project on two (2) or three (3) of the islands. Their plan is to restore them to their natural state and remove the invasive species. He said he believes they are also planning on building a pedestrian foot bridge between two (2) of the islands. This is going to be a \$2 or \$3 million project.

Mr. Trautman said he has noticed the County and other places are clearing out the invasive species.

Mr. Snyder said around the Wabasso Bridge they removed the Australian Pines and replaced them with Palm Trees and other native species.

Mr. Chianis asked who in Vero Beach looks after hurricane preparedness and all the planning.

Mr. Turner explained that when they go into a Declaration of Emergency, as they did with Hurricane Ian, the City Manager is designee and he operates under the guidelines of the State Statute and the signed order declaring a State of Emergency.

Mr. Chianis said he is interested in what happens prior to that when a hurricane is approaching.

Mr. Turner explained that the County's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and the local Emergency Operation Director are in contact with the National Weather Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He said that there were hundreds of electrical trucks, tree trimming services, fuel tankers, equipment trucks, hauling trucks, etc., from all over the Country and they were staged at the Punta Gorda, Florida Airport and ready to go into action as soon as the storm passed.

Mr. Johnson explained that the County puts out a free hurricane preparedness booklet with all the information and details anyone would need. There is also a citizens group that enacts themselves every time there is a hurricane.

Mr. Trautman asked Mr. Chianis if he is wanting to know if there is a Commission or group that helps the City come up with ideas and plans for preparations.

Mr. Chianis answered yes, that is more of what he is asking about.

Mr. Trautman said he has not seen anything like that with the City, but the County might have more of what he is looking for.

Mr. Drewett stated that there is a County website where they can get updates from and it can send out notifications to your email address.

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

Mr. Collins stated that they are looking to have another successful season. They had normal wear and tear with the hurricane and just a few boards that popped up, but those have already been fixed.

Mr. Drewett asked for an update on the Marina rebuild project.

Mr. Collins reported that they were issued the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) grant for part II of Phase I, which was a little less than what they asked for. They are revising it to present it to City Council in the near future so they formally accept it. Everything hinges on the upcoming referendum, but they are still pushing ahead.

Mr. Drewett asked if he has any thoughts about a timetable.

Mr. Collins replied that he is not going to comment on that right now not knowing what is going to happen with the referendum. The Judge set a hearing date at the end of the month, so there is no sense speculating.

Mr. Trautman asked if there was any damage at the Marina other than fallen tree branches.

Mr. Collins said they had some cleats pulled and some boat lines separated, but they were superficial items that were able to be repaired with supplies they had on hand. He explained there was a small tornado or whipper wind that went through Wednesday morning and hit the boats in the mooring field and knocked them around, but it only lasted 30 to 60 seconds.

Mr. Trautman asked Mr. Collins if he was able to fill the part time position at the Marina.

Mr. Collins replied that he interviewed an individual yesterday and Human Resources was notified to move forward with the hiring process.

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

None

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

None

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

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

The next Marine Commission meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the City Hall, Council Chambers.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Today's Marine Commission meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

/rc