

TEAM Punta Gorda's Maritime Development Committee

Status Report as of October 21, 2008

Chronology and summary of recent Maritime Development Committee (MDC) events and activities:

1. Mike Wilson and Bill Pantsari presented the Waterfront Development Master Plan to the Punta Gorda City Council on September 3, 2008. Based on the presentation the City Council instructed Howard Kunik and city staff to include funds for the recommended HarborWalk in the spending plan for the recently reenacted one cent sales tax revenue.
2. In early October the City Council approved funding of \$100,000 for development of a waterfront design plan and city staff is currently preparing a request for proposal (RFP) that will be issued and used as the basis for obtaining proposals and selecting a design firm.
3. There are additional Indications that the Mayor, City Council, and staff are vigorously pursuing the HarborWalk. An e-mail from the Mayor and accompanying City Manager's "Weekly Highlights Report" communicated the following:
 - Please check out the impressive status reports on the new parking garage, Laishley open air markets and interactive fountain, fire station #2, the Harborwalk, etc., etc.
 - Council held its first review of proposed priorities and schedules for projects to be funded by the recently-passed Infrastructure Sales Surtax (ISS). It was generally agreed that replacement/reconstruction of our public works "campus" and completion of our pedestrian/bicycling "Ring around the City" were amongst the top priorities. The former would be constructed on land in the new Airport industrial park obtained in the proposed land swap for our Charley-destroyed public works property on Henry St., site of a future mixed use development. The latter "Ring" will consist of the more than 15 miles of interconnected pedestrian/bicycling paths of our Harborwalk, Linear Park and Rails to Trails routing.
 - City Council reviewed the Infrastructure Sales Surtax (ISS) project timeframes and recommended staff develop estimates for speeding up construction of the Harborwalk enhancements at the Best Western and eastern portion (Hospital to Martin Luther King Boulevard), Linear Park and Rails to Trails. In this manner, the City will complete the core of a "Ring around the City" pedestrian/bikeway system. An earlier timeframe for construction will be dependent on the ability of the City to borrow sufficient funds at a reasonable interest rate to be paid back with ISS proceeds.
4. Nancy Prafke wrote column about the Waterfront Development initiative that was published in the Charlotte Sun on September 27. To access this column, Go to TEAM NEWS, TEAM COLUMNS, and click on "TEAM Punta Gorda aims to restore waterfront."
5. Meetings/Presentations To Date:
 - City Revitalization Committee – October 20
 - A brief presentation was made to the RC and was well-received. The RC asked to be involved in the design phase. After the meeting the Chairperson sent this message: "Thank you for attending the Revitalization Committee meeting this morning and sharing TEAM's waterfront vision. It is all very exciting! Because of organizations such as TEAM Punta Gorda, I believe Punta Gorda has a great future to look forward too. We are also looking forward to your continued input at our upcoming meetings."
 - Sheraton Four Points team and owner Joe Suriol – October 9
 - The Waterfront Development Plan was well received. The Sheraton team supports consistency. There was discussion about the walkway under the Rt. 41 Bridge which has already been poured. It slopes down from Laishley to provide sufficient height under the

bridge. Based on discussion with Mr. Suriol and interaction with the City, we determined how the Sheraton team must handle the part of the walkway where it slopes up and interconnects with his harbor walk. The City reported that all work on the Harborwalk will be ADA compliant and that the yet to be built portion under the bridge will include a 5% slope up to Mr. Suriol's property. Mr. Suriol will need to continue the walk at the 5% slope until it matches the grade of his seawall.

- Punta Gorda Sailing Club – October 8
 - The group asked about having dinghy docks off Gilchrist Park because sailors like to anchor out and don't want to pay someone to bring their dinghy in. Someone raised concerns about TEAM Punta Gorda "giving up on the Citizens' Master Plan" so we need to ensure that we communicate that the Waterfront Master Plan is complementary to the CMP and it picks up where the CMP stopped.
 - Exotic Pools by Janeen (Janeen Weiler) – September 24
 - Janeen discussed the Laishley Park Interactive Fountain design and indicated that it would fit well within the HarborWalk design scheme. She indicated that there was still opportunity for her to select materials that would complement our design recommendations.
 - Meeting with Vernon Peebles – September 23
 - Nancy Prafke met with Mr. Peebles who has extraordinary knowledge of Punta Gorda's history. He provided useful information and directed us to old photos, some of which have been incorporated into the latest version of the presentation.
 - Punta Gorda Concerned Citizens Committee - September 15
 - The Concerned Citizens warmly received the brief presentation of the Master Plan and indicated that they could and would be useful advocates for its implementation.
6. Other planned presentations
- Charlotte Harbor Power Squadron (CH Yacht Club) – October 28
 - TEAM PG Annual Meeting - Event Center – November 5
 - BSI Boat Club – November 12
 - PGIslanders (PGICA) – December 4

Agenda for next meeting of Maritime Development Committee – Thursday, Nov. 13, 11:30a to 1p

- Status report
- Future role of Maritime Development Committee
- Action items
 - Additional presentations and communication activities
 - Meet with Downtown Merchants Association
 - Committee involvement in HarborWalk/Waterfront design and subsequent steps
 - Liaison role: Groups that intersect the Waterfront (e.g., Rails-to-Trails, Linear Park, etc.)
 - Push for ribbon cutting and promote in various ways such as brochures with dashed lines
 - Meet with various activity committees and encourage greater incorporation of HarborWalk (e.g., Block Party, art and craft fairs, Halloween party, fishing tournaments, etc.)
 - Other