



## Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance Minutes February 16, 2017

9:00am President; John Welsh called the meeting to order. Present: 3 Officers, 8 Directors and 6 Advisors.

A reminder of the memorial service for Jay Buckley is Tuesday February 21, 2017 11:00am at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church Punta Gorda.

**Minutes:** The January 19, 2017 minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Membership invoices for were issued this morning. The 2016 audit was completed and found to be complete and to the auditors satisfaction. Members can request to view a signed statement from the auditors. There are no CDs or savings account for PGBA.

**Weather Station:** Ron Jones, Project Manager

Ron gave an update of the project and despite his medical problems with a torn muscle in the left arm, has tested the software and configuration. The custom antennas are in. The weather station should be up and working by the end of March.

**Officer Kennedy:** Punta Gorda Marine Officer

The sunken sailboat in the harbor offshore from the Punta Gorda Boat Club has been removed and is in dry dock. There are problems with not all anchored boats are using anchor lights at night. There is an increase in boat and equipment theft in Punta Gorda Isles and Burnt Store Isles, residents are encouraged to keep items locked and remove electronics if possible. A reminder of a new At Risk Law regarding anchored vessels. You can not leave your vessel unattended for more than 3 days.

**Maritime Committee:** Ann Taylor

The committee hare working on two objectives, to support conservation of Charlotte Harbor and provide information signs along Harbor Walk. They are partnering with the Audubon Society and Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Oyster Habitat for awareness and education. They plan to reach out to WFC for preparation of signs regarding fishing. The committee also supports Coastal Cleanup. The number 2 focus is attracting boats to the anchorage in Charlotte Harbor at Punta Gorda. Welcome packets are available and handed out by the local marinas. There are no showers or laundry facilities at the anchorage, only at the marinas.

**Gilchrist Park Activity Center:** John Welsh

John encouraged all members to ask everyone in every club to complete the surveys regarding the Gilchrist Park Activity Center and encourage maritime use. There have been 900 responses this far. Many of these responses are asking for non maritime activities, such as country dancing, meeting rooms, beaches, and pickle ball. The survey concludes the end of March. A report will go to the city in October 2017. Jack MacDonald suggested we encourage boaters by having showers, restrooms, laundry facilities, dinghy dock because the boaters are coming now. Suggestions were to partnering with the Maritime Committee to present a vision of promoting boating to the city. A motion was made by Jack MacDonald and second by chuck Milburg to form a joint committee with the maritime committee to work on a vision and master plan with short and long term goals for the boating community of the city of Punta Gorda. The vote was all ayes and no naves. The committee volunteers were:

Chuck Millburg  
Jack MacDonald  
John Welsh

Ann Taylor will inform The Maritime Committee at their meeting on Monday.

**Bylaws Committee:** Jack MacDonald

Committee met and Boater Alliance was incorporated in 2009. Annual reports are up to date. Jack has been in touch with Tallahassee, and a copy of the articles of incorporation should be sent next week. This committee is not about changing the bylaws, it is about cleaning up the wording and making the meaning clear.

**2017 Goals For PGBA:**

1. Get more members involved
2. Promote the development of a dinghy dock and breakwater at Gilchrist Park Activity Center area
3. Become more informed of boater/marine legislation

**Action:** John Welsh will contact Hans Wilson to review any legislation currently regarding boater/marine.

Mary Dorey/Chuck Millburg will contact CHNEP to discuss presentation update on area marine programs and question if we can partner and make informed plan of possible dinghy dock and breakwater.

John stated strongly that this organization cannot be viable unless all the members make a commitment to get involved with the Alliance and take back to their clubs and organizations issues that require their attention. Plus get the word out that the Alliance is there to help with boating and waterfront issues in our community. We need each member to contribute to achieve our 2017 goals and future goals noted here today. M

**Old Business:** Cathy Miller public works states Burnt Store Isles dredging is starting soon and the permitting phase of Alligator Creek Cut is in progress. The Waterfront Owners Guide has been updated with current information for new homeowners and this will be added to our website soon.

**Next Meeting:** March 16, 2017, 9am in the PGICA meeting room.

**Meeting Adjourned 10:15 am.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Dorey  
Secretary PGBA