

MARINE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, May 6, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A) February 4, 2019 – Regular Meeting**
 - B) February 26, 2019 – Special Call Meeting**
- 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
 - A) Chairman**
 - B) Vice Chairman**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A) Update on the Vero Beach Rowing Club**
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
- 7. MARINA DIRECTOR’S MATTERS**
- 8. CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS**
- 9. MEMBER’S MATTERS**
 - A) Safety Issues with Vero Beach Rowing Club – Mr. Ben Trautman**
- 10. NEXT MEETING DATE**
 - A) Set Date for Next Marine Commission Meeting**
- 11. 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, February 4, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Chairman, Robert Snyder, Vice Chairman, Daniel Thomas Members: Brian Cunningham, Clinton Lanier, Alternate Member #1, Bill Johnson, and Alternate Member #2 Ben Trautman **Also Present:** Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absence: William Walker

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and the Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) November 5, 2018

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the November 5, 2018 Marine Commission minutes. Mr. Lanier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. OLD BUSINESS

A) Update on the Vero Beach Rowing Club

Mr. Snyder reported that the Vero Beach Rowing Club received approval from the City Council to start with the construction of their building. They are still a little underfunded, but they believe they will be able to raise the money.

Mr. Thomas asked if the Rowing Club is waiting for the rest of the funding before they break ground on their building. Mr. Snyder said from what he understands is that they are about \$200,000 short, but they don't anticipate any problems raising the money. They are currently waiting on the permits to clear.

B) Update on the Status of the Marina

This item was discussed under 5-A).

C) Update on the Unidentified Objects in the Water near the Marina

Mr. Snyder stated that he was out there yesterday and the posts are still there along with the boat across the river.

Mr. Cunningham reported that there is another boat located south of the 17th Street Bridge, which went aground on an island a few weeks ago and it is now floating back. It has one (1) or two (2) dinghies tendered to it, so someone is definitely living aboard the boat. He imagines they probably have a pump out issue there.

Mr. Johnson stated that he has been over near the boat a couple of times, but he has never seen anyone on board. There used to be just one (1) dinghy tendered to it, but now there are two (2).

Mr. Thomas said he is curious about the pump out issue. A couple of months ago Mr. Grabenbauer said that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and other people periodically check on these boats, so he hopes they are still doing that. He sometimes goes out on the Sheriff's boat and they continue to see the same boats all the time.

Mr. Cunningham stated that they now have working pump out facilities on both the dock and on the boat, so there should be no excuses for not having a pump out.

Mr. Jim O'Connor, City Manager, asked the Commission members if they get the weekly reports on the number of pump outs. The Commission members replied yes.

Mr. Snyder commented that he might reach out to the Coast Guard about these boats to see if there is anything they can do, or put some pressure on them.

Mr. Lanier asked if the City, County, Sheriff, or the Police have a boat and the authority to inspect these vessels. Mr. O'Connor replied that the City has a Police boat, but not the authority to enforce the maritime laws. He believes that falls under the State.

Mr. Keith Drewett, Vero Beach resident, said based on the reading he has done he believes there is an issue of probable cause. The Coast Guard can board a boat without probable cause to do an inspection, but some of the State and local agencies need probable cause. Someone needs to be keeping records of the pump outs. He said if there are no records of pump outs over a three (3) month time and people are living aboard a vessel in the back cove or the south anchorage that would be their probable cause.

Mr. Cunningham said he wonders if records are kept of the boat name or the boat owner's name at every pump out. Mr. Drewett replied that he does not know. Mr. Cunningham said he doubts it, so that would negate them from enforcing it.

Mr. Drewett said that a new Lagoon group is forming and they will have an Enforcement Subcommittee that he applied to join, so maybe that will be an avenue for information.

Mr. Trautman stated that he was a Coast Guard Law Enforcement Officer and it is correct that the Coast Guard can board these vessels if they are on a navigable channel. They can go on board and do a safety check, make sure their overflow valves are turned off, etc.

Mr. Drewett asked if anyone has enlisted the Coast Guard north of the inlet. Mr. Johnson said not the patrol boat. They usually just pass by doing about 50 mph. Mr. Trautman said that it is worth reporting to the Coast Guard.

D) Recap of the Christmas Boat Parade

Mr. Cunningham reported that Mother Nature was on their side and they had 26 boats participate. They had a great turn out, good press coverage, and it was certainly a success. He has never seen Young Park so packed and the new Cole Coppola dock gave them another viewing point. The newly repaired dock at Royal Palm Pointe was filled and Anna Valencia with The Vero Insider did a live radio show from there. He has been at other events recently and people are still making comments about the parade.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) Annual Report

Mr. Snyder stated that each member received a copy of the Annual Report. He asked if anyone had any comments on it.

Mr. Trautman said that he was looking at the number of years that the members have been on the Commission and it shows their commitment. He asked what is the process for moving people through the Commission. When a Commission members term ends can the member indicate they want to continue, or is the position advertised to the public. Mr. O'Connor replied that any vacant positions are advertised and the City Council will appoint applicants to fill those openings. However, if a member's term is up and the individual wants to continue to stay on the Board then the City Council will typically grant their request. Sometimes people move away and positions become available, so the City Council will typically move alternate members up into permanent positions when they become available.

The Senior Administrative Assistant asked the Marine Commission if they would like to make a motion to accept the annual report if there are no changes being made.

Mr. Cunningham commented that the annual report was a nice basic report, but hopefully with the new Marina Director the report for next year will be more detailed.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept the annual report and submit it to the City Council. Mr. Lanier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor stated that he would like to bring the Commission up to date on the hiring of a new Marina Manager. He reported that they have offered the position to Mr. Sean Collins, who has over 20 years experience in maritime and marine work. Mr. Collins is presently employed with the City of Naples, Florida at their docks until February 11, 2019. A couple of things that stood out and they liked was that Naples redid their facilities in 2017 and Mr. Collins was part of the entire restoration of their docks and maintaining the work afterwards. Another positive point is that Mr. Collins is working for a City, so he will come to Vero Beach knowing some of the processes that a local Government has to follow. His background is strong and they think his personality and "can do" attitude will carry through with some of the issues the City will have in the redevelopment of the Marina. They will be going to the City Council tomorrow recommending that they pay off the Marina debt. The Finance Commission already approved it and if the City Council agrees with their recommendation they will have some capital to start reinvesting in the Marina. Mr. Collins seems to be able to get the job done, so hopefully that is

what he will bring to the City. Mr. Collins will start on February 11, 2019, but his first day at the Marina will be on February 12th.

Mr. Snyder asked if Mr. Collins stated why he is leaving Naples. Mr. O'Connor explained that Mr. Collins and his wife have visited Vero Beach before, they really like the atmosphere of this area, and they are ready to leave the hassle of living in South Florida. They interviewed three (3) very good applicants and two (2) of them were very close candidates. He said Mr. Collins did a lot research on the Vero Beach Marina and he came prepared for the interview, which was outstanding. An overriding aspect of Mr. Collins was his attitude, which was positive and upbeat. He was the Dock Master and not the Harbor Master in Naples, so this will be a step up for him.

Mr. Cunningham asked if Mr. Grabenbauer's last day will be February 23, 2019. Mr. O'Connor said he believes that is correct, so he and the new Marina Director will have about 10 days to work together.

Mr. Thomas asked if there is anything planned to thank Mr. Grabenbauer for his years of service.

Mr. O'Connor replied that he was not aware of anything being planned. Typically they would have something, so if the Marine Commission would like to use the Council Chambers for a couple of hours to allow people to stop in to visit with Mr. Grabenbauer that would be fine by him.

Mr. Thomas suggested that they might be able to do it at the Marina. Mr. O'Connor replied that might not be a bad idea, since Mr. Collins will be there it would give Mr. Grabenbauer the opportunity to introduce him.

Mr. Snyder asked if the Marine Commission should do something for Mr. Grabenbauer. Mr. Trautman asked if there would be a budget for what they are talking about. Mr. O'Connor stated they could put something together and someone can give him a budget or figure. Mr. Snyder asked if there is a good time to do this. Mr. O'Connor replied that Friday, February 22nd might be a good day.

Mr. Johnson suggested having a plaque made with a retirement message and it could also include the signatures of all the Commission members. A nice plaque shouldn't cost more than about \$50.00. Mr. Thomas suggested they have the Vero Beach Marina logo etched on it as well. Mr. Cunningham said that Mr. Grabenbauer will really appreciate it. Mr. Snyder said he will get with the City Clerk's office to get the wording for the plaque and he will check on the price. He said once the paper is prepared with the wording the Commission members can stop by the City Clerk's office and sign it. He will pick it up and take it to have it made.

Mr. Drewett explained that he made a couple of Power Point presentations to the City Council, which is the beginning of a strategic and operating plan for the Marina. It is the only plan on the table right now and it is a map of how to move forward. If the Marine Commission members have any questions they can contact him. He stated that there will be a motion before the City Council tomorrow to retire the debt with the Marina for the south complex and the dry stack building. The Finance Commission unanimously passed a motion in favor of that. He is not sure

if the Marine Commission would be interested in entertaining a motion, but it would show their support and he believes it would be helpful.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to retire the Marina debt. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor reported that the City has also been interviewing some engineering firms that will help them set out a master plan for the capital projects that will be needed for the Marina in anticipation of the debt being paid off. Mr. Monte Falls, Engineering Director, is heading it up and they have done some preliminary work and narrowed down what the focus will be if they bring a proposal to the City Council to award a contract. He is hoping that when Mr. Collins comes on board he will provide the support to move it forward.

Mr. Trautman stated that the weekly updates they receive are great and they provide a lot of information. He asked if there is a project management calendar where they can see what the deadlines or expectations are for some of the smaller projects. Mr. O'Connor replied that they do not have that right now, but that is an area they would hope to shore up as they move forward.

Mr. Cunningham stated that with a new Harbor Master coming in this would be the time to implement it, so it is done right from the start. There should be a timeline that is reported on at the Marine Commission meetings on a quarterly basis, or forwarded to the City Council so it can be commented on.

Mr. Trautman said he believes it would be the project manager that would list the projects, post what is taking place, and when items have been completed.

Mr. Cunningham asked who would put this tracking in to play and keep them updated. Mr. O'Connor replied that the Marina Manager will be the one to set out the timetable and the schedule for what projects are taking place. He is hoping that the Marine Commission will hold a Special Call meeting with Mr. Collins after he has been here for a couple of weeks, so they can discuss their expectations.

The Commission members set a Special Call meeting for Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers to meet with Mr. Collins.

6. MARINA DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

A) Update on the Marina Repairs

Mr. Lanier reported that Mr. Grabenbauer sent him a text message to let the Commission know that he is running the office this morning, so he cannot make it to the meeting. He stated that the restroom project is almost finished and he will be sending out an update.

Mr. Trautman reported that he has been in touch with Mr. Arthur Economy, Vero Beach resident. He said that Mr. Economy wants to start some sort of a file for the Commission and the public on what projects have been done at the Marina. He visited the Planning office and they have a huge file of projects dating back to the 1970's. He was hoping the Mr. Economy would be at the meeting today, so they could find out what exactly he is looking for. Based on Mr.

Economy's e-mail it sounds like he wants some sort of timeline on how the Marina has grown over the years. He thought he could put something together and present it to the Marine Commission at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Cunningham said Mr. Grabenbauer would be the best person to put something like that together. Mr. Trautman replied that he reached out to Mr. Grabenbauer and he gave him a bullet list of items, but no details.

Mr. Cunningham asked if there has been any more discussion about the parking issues in the east parking lot. How are they going to police people leaving their trailers and campers there.

Mr. O'Connor said the Police Department can issue citations, but they need to be made aware of what vehicles or trailers are authorized to be there.

Mr. Cunningham said he does not believe there has ever been any type of check in procedures for people who want to leave their vehicle or trailer there while they go out on their boat. Mr. O'Connor stated this is something that will create structure. There will be some pushback by the public, because people who use the Marina on a regular basis have been used to that flexibility. He said that when Naples redid their facilities they set up new rules and regulations and they are well enforced. Mr. Cunningham agrees that there might be some push back, but other people will feel like there is finally some sort of structure, which is a good thing.

Mr. Snyder said the community should understand that there will be some changes with a new Maria Director. Everything being done by the City Council and the Marine Commission is so that they can improve the Marina.

Mr. Thomas said Mr. Collins needs to be informed that the Marina parking lot is shared with the Yacht Club. Mr. O'Connor replied that Mr. Collins has been informed about that parking relationship. He said Mr. Grabenbauer always had an open line of communication with the Yacht Club and he hopes that will continue with Mr. Collins. Mr. Drewett said that the Yacht Club will extend the same privileges to the new Marina Director as they had with Mr. Grabenbauer.

Mr. Cunningham suggested that they create a collective list of questions or recommendations to discuss with Mr. Collins at the Special Call meeting. They can submit them to the City Clerk's office to be placed on the agenda. Mr. O'Connor said that is an excellent suggestion. Mr. Collins will be going through a transition with a new City Manager, so the Marine Commission might be his sounding board for a while.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

None

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mr. Thomas stated that he visited the Royal Palm Pointe docks and they look really good. He asked if they plan on installing rails along the final part. Mr. O'Connor reported that new

railings were put up and there is a gate you have to go through to get to the end, but they left the final part open so boats can pull up to the dock.

Mr. Cunningham reported that areas of the St. Lucie River in Saint Lucie County have been shut down due to algae blooms and bacteria. They feel like the bacteria is from raw sewage or excessive pump outs.

Mr. O'Connor said he will give them the latest report on the beaches. He informed the Commission that there is only one (1) beach with a storm water discharge and that is at Sexton Plaza. Humiston Beach has an overflow discharge, but that would require them getting more than 11 inches of rain. South Beach does not have a discharge. He spoke with the Health Department a couple of times about the bacteria levels. He was informed that from time to time there will be bacteria in the Ocean and sometimes it will be high. Over the last seven (7) years since he has been here, this is the first time they had to close the beaches. There was a discharge at Sexton Plaza that day when they took the samples, but the levels were lower at Sexton than at South Beach, which does not have a discharge. They don't know where the bacteria comes from, but they just need to be aware of it.

Mr. Lanier asked if there are any recent reports on the water quality of the river. Mr. O'Connor replied that he has not seen any recently. He said a water quality test was done after the sewage leak and the report showed that the water was better now than before the spill. Mr. Lanier asked if any water testing has been done where the Youth Sailing Foundation sails. Mr. O'Connor replied no, because they do not have any discharge coming from that facility.

Mr. Johnson explained that he introduced a young man to Mr. Grabenbauer who completed his Eagle Scout project. The project he chose was to rebuild some of the Kayak racks at the Marina. He raised the money to purchase the supplies and he completed the work. Mr. Snyder asked which racks were they, because there are racks on the north and south ends of the property. Mr. Johnson replied that he did the ones on the north side. There were eight (8) to 10 racks and they are all full. He spent 150 man-hours getting them done and they turned out great. There are many other projects that can be accomplished by these young men and there is no cost to the City.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Set Date for Next Marine Commission Meeting

The next tentative regular Marine Commission meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the City Hall, Council Chambers.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Marine Commission meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

/rh

SPECIAL CALL MARINE COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Chairman, Robert Snyder, Vice Chairman, Daniel Thomas Members: Brian Cunningham, Clinton Lanier, William Walker, Alternate Member #1, Bill Johnson, and Alternate Member #2 Ben Trautman **Also Present:** Marina Director, Sean Collins and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Snyder stated that the purpose of this meeting is to introduce the Marine Commission to Mr. Sean Collins, Marina Director, and fill him in on things that have taken place over the past few years. He said the Marine Commission is here to help him in any way they can.

Mr. Thomas stated that there is a lot of history amongst the Marine Commission members. Most of them have been boating here for many years, so they can provide him with the history on what has happened in the past.

Mr. Walker suggested that Mr. Collins introduce himself and give them some information on his background.

Mr. Collins stated that he came here from the City of Naples, Florida where he worked at the City dock. Prior to that, he worked for a commercial boat salvage company with both Sea Tow and Tow Boat US. Before that he was the Dock Master for Rybovich Marina in West Palm Beach. Prior to that he worked for Loggerhead Marina, which is now Suntex Marina, and before that he was in New Jersey running high-speed commuter ferries. He was also a member of the Coastguard, so he has years of experience on the water.

A) Registering All Vehicles, Trailers, and Bikes Left on the Marina Property

Mr. Snyder said that an issue they have had for a while is people leaving vehicles, trailers, and bikes on the property. They would like to see these items registered, or have some type of documentation stating where they are located at the Marina and who they belong to.

Mr. Cunningham stated that a lot of these subjects were previously discussed with Mr. Tim Grabenbauer and they have been ongoing discussions. There are vehicles, trailers, and bikes that are being left, so they would like a way to monitor what is on the City Marina property. They would like to know who it belongs to, how long it is going to be there, and when it will be leaving. The kayaks also fall under this same category. Some of them look like they have not moved in a long time, so he wonders if they still have owners.

Mr. Collins explained that he has started drafting a form for the vehicles, trailers, kayaks, etc., which will coincide with new boats coming into the Marina. If they arrive with any accessory items like kayaks and bikes the quantity, make, model, color, etc. will be listed on their reservation information. He will issue plastic tags with serial numbers on them that will be zip tied to their items, which will correlate with their reservation to keep track of each owner's items.

B) Registering Kayaks and Storing them on Assigned Racks

This was discussed along with item 3-A).

C) Do Kayaks Owners Pay Rent

Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Collins if he knows how current the rent is on the kayak spaces. Mr. Collins replied that he does not know right now, but he is starting to go through some files and boxes at the Marina to try to identify that.

D) Can Any Unclaimed Bikes and Kayaks be Trashed or Recycled

Mr. Cunningham asked if someone abandons an old rusty boat trailer or bicycle is there any way to get it off the property. Mr. Collins replied that they will first try to identify who they belong to or ownership, but he has a plan for that going forward to keep it from happening.

E) Tracking Boat Pump Outs by Vessel Number or Owner

Mr. Snyder stated that one issue that bothers him is the number of boats in the River that are lived on and they never move. He would like to know if they are getting pumped out properly. He asked if there is a way they can track the pump outs with the boat and at the dock by the owner or the vessel. Mr. Collins said that currently when boats come to the dock for a pump out they are just marking it down, but not a boat number or anything. When they use the pump out boat they do list the vessel name, other pertinent information, and how much was pumped out.

Mr. Walker stated that Mr. Grabenbauer was supposedly putting a system into place that would track who was getting a pump out when they came in for fuel. Mr. Collins said that he saw some old records on that, but nothing current on the dock pump outs. This is something they will be putting together.

Mr. Cunningham said that they used to have a City Police boat, but now the County patrols the area by a variety of uniformed officers and volunteers. He asked if there was any way they could monitor the boats in the moorings using law enforcement. Mr. Collins said they would have to get with those agencies and the City Attorney to see if that would be possible.

Mr. Thomas stated that there are new organizations in town that are concerned about the water quality in the Lagoon. They have been questioning what the City is doing about the boats that have been sitting there for several months and if pump outs are being tracked. He told Mr. Collins that these groups will probably be in touch with him. He explained that he is the Training Sergeant for the Marine Volunteers with the Sheriff's office. They have approximately 14 men who volunteer and their job is to provide education. The volunteers do not have any law

enforcement duties, but they could be the eyes and ears for things around the Marina since they are on the water every day and go by the Marina and into the dinghy dock. These men are always looking for jobs to do, so if the Marina needs their assistance they are available.

Mr. Walker asked if they have a mooring field at the Naples Marina. Mr. Collins replied yes. They have 12 mooring balls that are divided into two areas. One (1) field is north of the Naples Yacht Club docks and the other one (1) is on the south side. It is strictly transient docking with a maximum of four (4) days. All vessels wanting to stay had to come to the fuel dock first to be pumped out. If they had a Y valve then a tag with a serial number was attached to it and that number was listed on their registration form.

Mr. Walker stated that there are areas outside of the City mooring field where people anchor, but he is not sure if they have any control over them. He asked if Naples had this same issue.

Mr. Collins stated that in Naples there is a small mooring area near the City boat ramp that attracts some less than desirable boats, because it was free anchorage. When he left there were a couple of boats that had people staying on them, but it was not part of the Marinas scope of work to watch after them. Even when the local Police were notified they would push it off onto the Sheriff and the Sheriff would turn it over to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation, so it was always a revolving circle and no one wanted to be responsible for them.

Mr. Thomas explained that the other organization he is involved with is the Power Squadron and one (1) thing they do is offer free vessel safety checks. He said he would like Mr. Collins to push or promote that service. They check the Y valves to make sure they are fastened correctly.

F) Dry Stack Building and Hurricanes

Mr. Thomas stated that a while back they talked about refurbishing the dry stack building and how much it would cost. Mr. Collins replied that it would not be feasible to refurbish the current building. The doors have been missing for years and the doorframes are rusting and rotting away. He said that building is about 50 years old.

G) Plans to Ensure Sea Worthiness of the Vessels at the Moorings, the Dry Storage, in Slips, and on the Kayak Storage Racks

Mr. Trautman said that there have been some concerns about the long-term tenants and the sea worthiness of their vessels. He asked Mr. Collins if the City had to move any of these boats would that be possible. Mr. Collins replied that there are a couple of boats at the Marina that are questionable, so he will be contacting the owners. Some boats have some loose gear on top that needs to be secured, because they do not want the lagoon littered with items if we get some strong winds.

Mr. Trautman said that he knows that different Marinas have different strategies to try to prevent boats from staying idle for too long. Some have rules stipulating that a vessel must leave the dock for a minimum of 24 hours at least once a year. Mr. Collins said that after working in both private and public Marinas he suggests they get with the City Attorney to see where their boundaries are.

H) What Plans are in Place to Upgrade the Facilities and Grounds

Mr. Collins stated that there is a lot of work to be done and they have started that process by having Coastal Tech do an Engineering Survey with ultimately a Master Plan in mind. They will do a walkthrough of the whole facility to determine what upgrades they need, what are considered emergency repairs, and weigh their options within the budget. They will need to decide if they should make repairs or shut down sections and rebuild certain docks or the entire place as a whole.

Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Collins if he has met with the Engineering firm yet. Mr. Collins replied yes. They had a meeting with them last week.

Mr. Trautman said as they select their contractor and the jobs are progressing he would like to see the contractor provide them with a report or spreadsheet showing the anticipated deadlines and where they are on the progress of the projects. He finds this information very helpful.

Mr. Walker asked Mr. Collins if Mr. Grabenbauer went over the weekly report he used to put out listing any major happenings, the progress of work being done, etc. Mr. Collins replied that he did not see it, but they discussed it.

Mr. Cunningham said that perhaps the Power Squadron could check on the sea worthiness of vessels in the moorings as part of their inspections. It would be a good opportunity to see if their valves are properly close, if there are barnacles growing on the boat, or the bilge pump is running. Mr. Thomas said the only problem is that an inspection needs to be requested by the owner. Mr. Collins replied that he could send out notices and have a signup sheet at the Marina for those who are interested in participating. The Power Squadron could come out on a certain day or days and they can do the safety checks for everyone who signed up.

I) Expansion of the Dinghy Dock and additional Slips in the Adjacent Lagoon

Mr. Snyder said the Marine Commission previously discussed upgrades on the dinghy docks and the little dock in the Lagoon that is in pretty bad shape. Mr. Trautman mentioned that the E dock in the Lagoon is half under water. Mr. Collins reported that Wilco Marine Construction has been at the Marina for the past several days and has completed most of the work on those docks.

J) Expansion and/or Renovation of the Captain's Lounge and Building

This item was not discussed.

K) Introduction to the Vero Beach Power Squadron

Mr. Thomas reported that the Power Squadron has been here for about 55 years and they thrive on doing community service. Vessel safety checks and education are only a couple things they do, but during their history they have accomplished some very nice projects. They have about 250 members and they are always looking for ways to improve the community, which can involve manual labor.

L) Introduction to the Indian River County Sheriff's Marine Unit

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

M) Possibility of adding Electricity to the Picnic Shelters

Mr. Thomas stated that once a year the Marine Commission holds a meeting at a picnic pavilion at the Marina, so they can tour the property. The meetings need to be recorded using a tape recorder, but there is no power at the pavilion and they have to run a very long extension cord to the pavilion. He thinks by adding electric to the pavilions they could be put to better use by the community.

N) Is there an Adequate Number of City Marina Employees

Mr. Snyder asked Mr. Collins how he felt about the number of Marina employees. Mr. Collins replied that the staff is a little light. There is currently one (1) vacant part time position that he received some applications for, so he will be doing some interviews soon. In the future he will need a couple more employees. He does not know yet if he will need temporary employees just to get things cleaned up, or if he will need to create permanent positions.

Mr. Johnson reported that a member of the Boy Scouts recently finished a project of refurbishing and rebuilding the kayak racks at the Marina. The scout came up with the project, raised the money, and the scouts provided all the labor. This young man just achieved the rank of Eagle Scout by completing this project. The Boy Scouts are a good group to turn to for help with projects.

Mr. Walker asked Mr. Collins if he met the tenant that lives in the apartment above the boaters lounge. Mr. Collins replied not yet.

Mr. Cunningham asked if everyone at the Marina is trained to work the forklift. Mr. Collins replied that there are three (3) people, including himself that can operate it. It is a very old lift and the parts are hard to come by. He was told that the last time the brakes were replaced they had to have parts made. Replacing the forklift is high on his list.

Mr. Thomas asked Mr. Collins if he thinks he will get the money he needs to make it a really nice Marina. Mr. Collins stated that having the debt paid off on the dry storage building makes a big difference. There will be a little money this year to get a new forklift and some other housekeeping items.

O) What can the Marine Commission do to help with the Transition and Future Projects

Mr. Snyder told Mr. Collins that the Marine Commission is here to help him and to let them know if he needs anything. Mr. Collins said that he appreciates that.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Greg Page, Vero Beach resident, said that he has been here less than a year and he knows Mr. Collins from the Naples Marina. He is happy that items he has been discussing with people are finally being addressed. He came here and lived on his boat at the Marina for about five (5) years until he bought a home. He knows that some of the boaters have pets and sometimes they can be noisy. Another issue is the private dinghies and sea-doo watercrafts that go flying

through. He understands that there is a Police or Sheriffs boat at Riverside, but he is not sure if it is being used. Mr. Thomas replied that there is a patrol boat that can be dispatched at a moments notice, but it is very rarely used. One boat is the Sheriffs boat and the other one (1) is the fire rescue boat. The firefighters are in the building and are ready to go when called. The Sheriffs boat will take a little longer to dispatch, but they do have several well-trained deputies that can be there rather quickly.

Mr. Page asked how can people contact the Sheriff to report issues. Mr. Thomas stated that there is a non-emergency number for the Sheriff's office, but the Sheriff's office prefers people to call 911, because their dispatchers are trained to handle all the calls and they can get them in touch with the correct people.

Mr. Page asked if the Sheriff patrols up and down the intercostal area. Mr. Snyder replied yes. He has seen the Sheriff's boat in the Lagoon and around the boat ramps.

Mr. Snyder suggested that if anyone sees a boat speeding, try to get a number off the vessel or a description, so the Sheriff can track down the right boat. Mr. Collins said he has caught a couple of boats speeding through and he met up with them at the dingy docks and he asked them to slow down.

Mr. Page asked if there is a newsletter that can be sent out informing the Public that Mr. Collins is the new Marina Director, what work is being done, etc. With this transition going on people would like to know what changes are being made. He asked Mr. Collins if he ever published anything like that with his past jobs. Mr. Collins said he has never published anything, but he has a draft copy of what Mr. Grabenbauer was sending out.

Mr. Page said he has done a lot of research on the planning and the financials of what is taking place at the Marina. He is comparing this information with the wonderful transformation of the Naples Marina. It took about a year of planning and about eight (8) months of construction. Naples took out a note of about \$7,000,000 to reconstruct all the docks, the buildings, etc. and their note payment is about \$320,000 a year. As the Vero Beach Marina is looked at he would like to see a broader scope of what the Marina could look like in seven (7) or eight (8) years instead of just doing incidental repairs. Naples is a great example of a long-term project and it was a big success. He said the Vero Beach Regional Airport also has a long-term plan and it is on the City website. It includes a long-term plan for future development. As a resident he would like to see a long-term Vision Plan for the Marina, so they have a target. He already researched some consultants who can do this type of planning and he provided those names to the City Manager.

Mr. Collins said in the long term he envisions floating docks all around, expanding the existing docks, and maybe expanding their submerged land lease. so they can accommodate larger boats. Over the years boats have gotten bigger and even in the dry storage building the maximum length is 22 feet.

Mrs. Phyllis Frey, Vero Beach Resident, welcomed Mr. Collins and thanked the Marine Commission members for their long-term dedication. She has been involved with many City issues since 2012. She and her husband have had three (3) boats at the Marina over the years, so she has a vested interest. She is happy how the financials have worked out and she thanked Mr. Keith Drewett for all of the work he did on the financial plan. She knows that the Marina needs

help and that it will get it. She believes they can strike a balance here because we live in a Park setting and that is what makes Vero Beach unique. She hopes they can make it a state of the art Marina with good marketing.

Mr. Arthur Economy, Vero Beach resident, stated that he is part of an Ad Hoc Committee that was formed to consult with the Marine Commission and they are here to help answer any questions. There are a lot of projects and ideas for the Marina, so they need to start now to work on a long-term plan and vision to allow for the projects to come together more cohesively. A Vision Plan will help identify the problems that the Marina faces right now. He believes this is the most important phase and it will develop a foundation for moving forward. A Vision Plan should address the maximum dock capacity, location of future structures, infrastructure, supported parking, traffic issues, the existing parking agreement with the Yacht Club, ecological needs of the lagoon, etc. The Marina should not only flourish, but it should go beyond their expectations. He has started contacting Florida Power & Light, Ocean Research & Conservation Association, Inc. (ORCA), the Dog Park, and the community. By reaching out to these groups they will get the best ideas to achieve a beautiful Marina that is boater and environmentally friendly.

5. MARINA DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Collins stated that he is really happy to be here and is looking forward to getting to know the Commission members.

Mr. Monte Falls, Public Works and Engineering Director, said that he is glad that Mr. Collins is here. He explained that the Coastal Tech proposal will be brought to the Marine Commission for their review before it is taken to the City Council. He believes the next couple of years are going to be very exciting. With the debt being paid off for the Marina it should allow them to be on the path that the Marine Commission and public wants.

6. MARINE COMMISSION MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Walker stated that each of the Marine Commission members received a copy of a booklet he put together from all of his information since 2015 (on file in the City Clerk's office). The history and details go way back. Each member can review the booklet and it will be discussed at the next regular Marine Commission meeting. He will sit down with Mr. Collins when it is convenient for him to give him some the history of what they have done.

Mr. Walker gave a brief outline of what the Marine Commission has done and discussed on the three (3) City owned properties. There is a request for proposals pertaining to these properties, but he is not sure what the deadline is. Mr. Falls stated that he did not know that date either, but part of the proposal process will involve getting input from the public.

Mr. Walker said that the City will hire a Professional Planning Company and they will be able embellish on what input the public has already given.

Mrs. Frey asked if the booklet Mr. Walker is referring to is on line. Mr. Walker replied no. He said the Commission members just received it and have not had the chance to review it yet. They will discuss it at their May meeting.

Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Walker for the information he put together. He said he remains frustrated, because over the past five (5) years they have been involved with extensive meetings with a huge number of people from the community giving their input on what they would like to see done with the property. All that information has kind of gone underground and now it is resurfacing again. He would like to request that they go back and look at all the information from before, because they had a lot of good suggestions from the public.

Mr. Falls said that he will make sure that the Planning Director gets the past information, so he can give those documents to the selected consultant to be reviewed prior to the public input portion.

Mr. Walker stated that he gave a copy of his booklet to Mr. Jim O'Connor, City Manager, so maybe he will hand it over to him.

Mr. Economy asked if Coastal Tech is currently conducting a study for the City. Mr. Falls replied that the City Council asked them to get a proposal from a Coastal Engineer and Coastal Tech was already selected and preapproved, so that they would have professionals on standby. Coastal Tech is in the process of putting a proposal together. They met with Coast Tech again after Mr. Collins arrived, so he could give his input. Coastal Tech is making the final revisions before they bring it back to the City. It will be presented to the Marine Commission for review before it goes to the City Council. He explained that it is an overall look at the Marina and an evaluation of what capital improvements should be done and in what order.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Call Marine Commission meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

/rh