

**FORT PIERCE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
CRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

CRA Regular Meeting - Wednesday, September 18, 2019 - 2:00 p.m.  
City Hall - Second Floor Conference Room, 100 North U.S. #1, Fort Pierce, Florida

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. Minutes from the August 21, 2019 meeting
4. **CHAIRMAN VIEWPOINTS**
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Water Taxi Service Presentation
  - b. Fisherman's Wharf Community Input/Survey
  - c. Recommendations to FPRA Board
    1. Fisherman's Wharf
    2. Water Taxi
    3. Panhandling
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
8. **STAFF AND COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (772) 467-3065 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**CRA Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Date:** 09/18/2019

**Re:**

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**Information**

**SUBJECT**

Minutes from the August 21, 2019 meeting

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**Attachments**

CRA Minutes August 21, 2019

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# DRAFT



## CITY OF FORT PIERCE CRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### CRA Advisory Committee Minutes

OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORT PIERCE CITY CRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, **AUGUST 21, 2019**, IN FORT PIERCE 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, 100 NORTH US HIGHWAY 1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Present: Hoyt Murphy, Jr.; Curtis Johnson; Kristina Gibbons; Plythe Freedman; Jon Neprud; Michael Brown, Jr.; Al Johnson; Lillian Jimenez; Chair Charlie Frank Matthews

Staff Present: Nicholas Mimms, City Manager  
Rebeca Guerra, Interim Planning Director  
Vennis Gilmore, Planner  
Alicia Rosenthal, Executive Assistant

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### a. Minutes from the July 17, 2019 meeting

Motion was made by Hoyt Murphy, Jr., and seconded by Jon Neprud to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2019 meeting.

AYE: Curtis Johnson, Kristina Gibbons, Plythe Freedman, Jon Neprud, Michael Brown, Jr., Al Johnson, Lillian Jimenez, Hoyt Murphy, Jr., Chair Charlie Frank Matthews

Passed

#### 4. CHAIRMAN VIEWPOINTS

Chairman Matthew's encouraged CRA members to take a ride around the CRA district and bring ideas for improvement to the meetings. The chairman asked the committee to work hard to make things happen in Fisherman's Wharf.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Determination of Committee members for travel to 10/16/19 Florida Redevelopment Association's CRA Boot Camp**

Mr. Mimms stated that four to five CRA members could attend the CRA Boot Camp at the Florida Redevelopment Association conference in October. The committee decided that Mr. Matthews and Mr. Neprud will drive with staff the same day as the boot camp and Mr. Curtis Johnson, Ms. Lillian Jimenez, Ms. Plythe Freedman and Ms. Kristina Gibbons will be going up the night before.

b. **Fisherman's Wharf - Community Input**

Mr. Mimms explained a survey is being created for community input regarding Fisherman's Wharf. He asked the committee for suggestions of questions they would like to see. Mr Neprud suggested asking citizens if they would like to see a ferry service to the Caribbean. Mr. Mimms said the survey will be sent out electronically and also be given out at pop up events throughout the community.

c. **Improvement Ideas for CRA**

Mr. Mimms asked the committee to begin thinking about identifying the process to improve the CRA since the CRA is appreciating in value. The committee discussed pursuing a land trust, infill for housing, improving the business district, and putting money into distressed neighborhoods.

Discussion ensued on how this information will be marketed to the community. The committee discussed rotating the CRA meeting locations, utilizing social media and presenting the information to the student body at Indian River State College.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dwayne Henry, resident, suggested to the CRA committee that Riverwalk be extended and he also suggested having block parties to let the community know what is going on in the city. Mr. Henry recommended having a sister city to see what has worked and to help expedite processes.

**8. STAFF AND COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Mimms said the city is still in the negotiation process with the HD King Power Plant and it is going well. Mr. Mimms stated that the entire revenue from that project will be coming to the CRA.

Mr. Murphy spoke about the Pursuit Boat expansion in St. Lucie County.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**CRA Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Date:** 09/18/2019

**Re:**

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**Information**

**SUBJECT**

Water Taxi Service Presentation

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**Attachments**

Letter from H. Smyth - Water Taxi Service

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# Causeway Cove Marina

## Hutchinson Island

601 Seaway Drive  
Fort Pierce, Florida. 34949

Mr. Nick Mimms  
C/o City of Fort Pierce  
100 N US Hwy 1  
Fort Pierce Fl. 34950

8/26/19

RE; Water Taxi Service

Dear Mr. Mimms,

Received  
SEP 10 2019  
City of Fort Pierce  
City Manager's Office

I would like to be placed on the city agenda at the earliest opportunity to discuss the possibility of a water taxi service for Ft. Pierce.

The reason I would like to discuss this matter with the city commission is because it is a viable piece of much needed transportation, a notable tourist attraction, and a reliable safety vessel during emergencies.

The private sector could operate the vessel daily, but could be assigned to assist law enforcement, emergency response, and other safety and health divisions in case of emergencies.

A private/public partnership is essentially required to begin and operate this service as the cost would be too great for the private sector to maintain expenses. However, with a private/public partnership, there are grants and public dollars available, if a municipality simply applies for those grants.

There have been many discussions regarding a water taxi service, and I feel it will take years for it to be readily used, but now is the time to embark on this adventure.

I have established a route that could be used, which of course would be adjusted from time to time to accommodate new destinations as revenue and businesses come online. The initial setup cost may look something like:

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Boat/ vessel new | \$40,000 -\$60,000 |
| 2. Captain (2)      | \$64,000 per year  |
| 3. Maintenance      | \$15,000 per year  |

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Total to start \$119,000

Some of the cost associated with the startup and monthly expenses, could be offset by each stop. Causeway Cove Marina could pay a fee, the City Marina could provide dockage, Fisherman's Wharf could pay a fee, Harbor Town could provide part of the fuel, Little Jim could pay a fee, and the Edge pay a fee and Inlet Marina pay a fee

There would also be a fee per person, of course. Not much, maybe \$5.00 a person or an annual pass. Please think about my request and realize this is a valuable project attainable for our city!

Sincerely,

***Harold H. "Buzz" Smyth***

***Causeway Cove Marina, LLC***

***Manager/Event Coordinator***

***Phone: 772-201-8230***

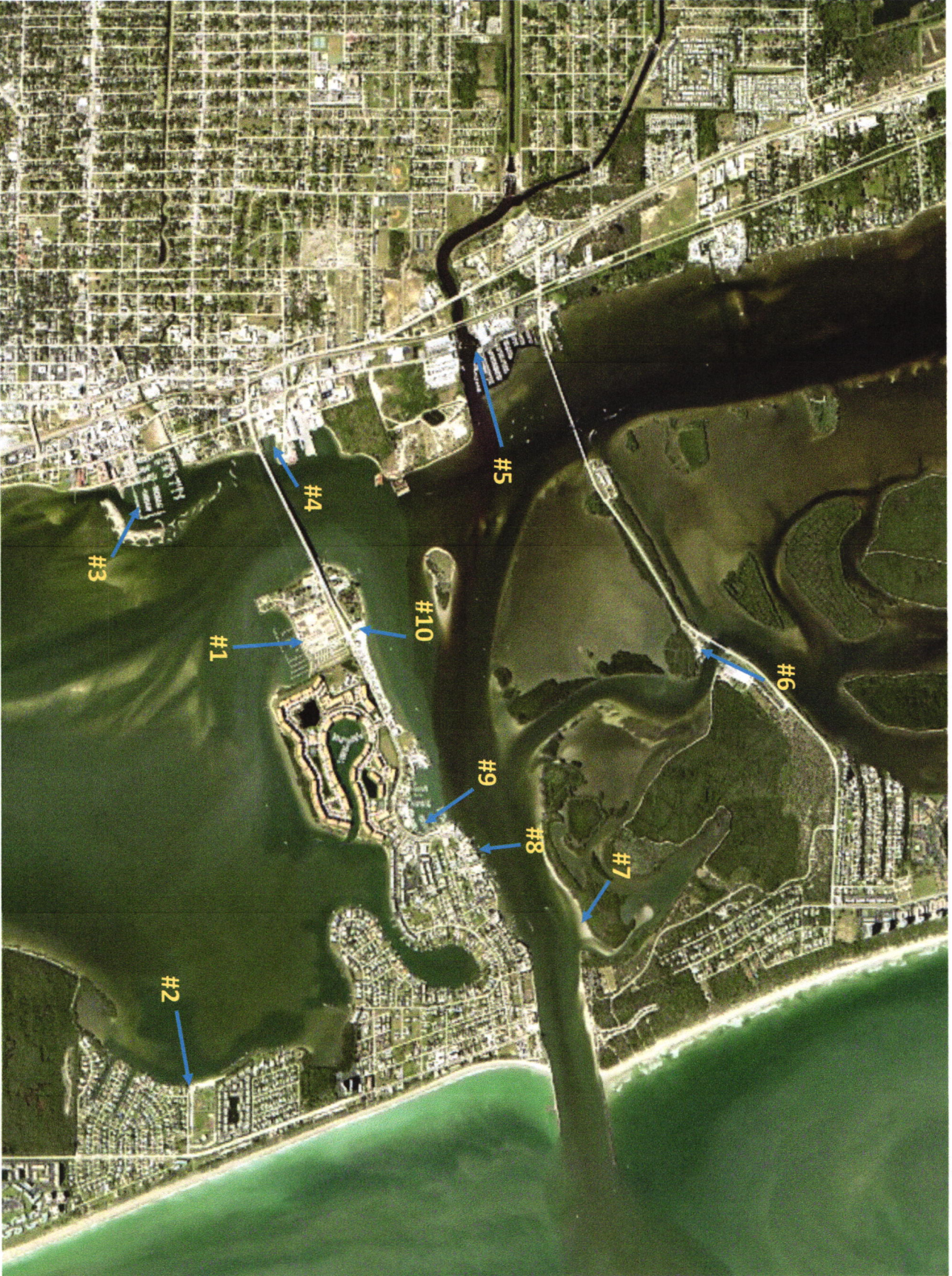
***Email: [smyth@causewaycove.com](mailto:smyth@causewaycove.com)***

***Website: [www.causewaycove.com](http://www.causewaycove.com)***

Business & Development Consultant  
Member, Tourist Development Council  
President of "Citizens for Clean Air & Water"  
State Certified Building Contractor #CBC1251321  
"Realtor" Ross Island Realty  
Commercial Pilot  
Veteran, US Navy SEABEE

C/C Chop, of Indian River Lagoon Boat Tours

# Map of Water Taxi Route





**ST. LUCIE-MARTIN REGIONAL WATERWAYS PLAN**  
**ST. LUCIE TPO PRIORITIZED PROJECTS**  
*(Adopted December 3, 2014)*

<b>RANK</b>	<b>SCORE</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE &amp; SUMMARY</b>	<b>PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE &amp; FUNDING SOURCE(S)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	Port of Fort Pierce Master Plan Implementation (phased improvements as identified in Port Master Plan)	TBD as prioritized by Master Plan Potential Funding: TPO, FDOT, Local Governments
<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	Multi-Purpose Public Dock Construction (Construction of public docks designed to accommodate water taxis and other uses as determined through Water Taxi Working Group)	\$200,000 - \$400,000 (Varies Depending on Scale) Potential Funding: TPO, FIND, FHWA
<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	Riverwalk Construction (Veteran's Park to Westmoreland Park; in conjunction with potential public/private project on Westmoreland Tract)	Range: \$1.5-2 Million Potential Funding: TPO, FIND, City of Port St. Lucie
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	Treasure Coast Loop Trail (multi-use greenway loop to facilitate non-motorized access with emphasis on waterfront destinations; further supports enhanced water sports activity base)	Phases to be Determined per Funding Availability by TPO Potential Funding: TPO, FDOT, FDEP
<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	System-Wide Dredging Program (deepen channel for Fort Pierce City Marina to 10 feet and identify other areas requiring deeper channels for megayachts, commercial vessels, etc.)	Cost estimate to be developed by Marina Potential Funding: TPO, MPO, FIND, USACE, Local Governments
<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	"Lagoon Loop" "Waterways Transit Circulator Route (to provide weekend access to beaches, waterfront centers such as downtown Fort Pierce, museums, cultural destinations, and waterfront recreational areas)	Further Analysis Necessary by Community Transit & TPO Potential Funding: TPO, FDOT
<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	Implement Water Taxi Working Group (To further evaluate potential water taxi service including station locations, routes, headways, frequencies, schedule, coordination with special event promoters and land development potential)	To Be Initiated by TPO Staff Potential Funding: TPO
<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	"Marina Last-Mile" Multi-Modal Access Improvements (development of premium multi-modal access improvements such as buffered and/or colored bicycle lanes and enhanced sidewalk improvements to facilitate access to select waterfront destinations such as Downtown Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie Riverwalk/Westmoreland Tract, and Walton Road Scenic Overlook)	Further Analysis Necessary by TPO & Local Governments to Estimate Cost Potential Funding: TPO, FDOT, Local Governments, private contributions

## Water Taxi Report

Requested by Smyth Builders

### Part 1: Grant Options

New applicant's information for grants administered by the Federal Transit Administration

#### National Government Grants:

- 1) [TIGER Discretionary Grants](#). Application for 2016 was closed in April, however applications should be prepared before January as to be ready should they decide to open another round.
- 2) [Passenger Ferry Grant Discretionary Program](#). Closed in 2015 for 2016. Contact FTA for next opening. [Jacksonville was awarded 6 million for improvements to its ferry's and slip walls.](#)

#### State of Florida Grant Options

- 1) [Fish & Wildlife Boating Initiatives](#): Boating Improvement Program. Option E. Application closed March 2016.

\*\*\*More grants would be available if Fort Pierce was an urbanized area with a population under 200,000 or if the program were geared more towards the elderly or disabled.

An Argument could be made that in times of emergencies, accidents blocking the bridge, equipment removal in times of hurricanes that the taxis/ferries could be requisitioned.

Part 2: Boat Options

- 1) Types of boats used by water taxi's and smaller ferry's.





- 2) <http://www.allmandboats.com> Makers of Custom Water Taxis
- 3) <http://www.munsonboats.com> Makers of Custom front loading boats.

4) Pictures of specially made ramps and front loaders as requested by Smyth Builders:



**CRA Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Date:** 09/18/2019

**Re:**

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**Information**

**SUBJECT**

Fisherman's Wharf Community Input/Survey

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**Attachments**

*No file(s) attached.*

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