

# News

HeraldTribune.com

[Home](#) [Sarasota](#) [Venice](#) [Manatee](#) [E. Manatee](#) [Charlotte](#) [North Port](#) [Englewood](#)

Friday, June 20

SEARCH

Past 1

- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

## Punta Gorda moves ahead on marina project

BY MICHAEL A. SCARCELLA

[print](#)    [reply](#)  
[e-mail](#)    [subscribe](#)

### NEWS

- [State](#)
- [Nation](#)
- [World](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [SNN Channel-6](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Hurricane](#)
- [In Depth](#)
- [OPINION](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [FEATURES](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Ticket](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Cuisine](#)

PUNTA GORDA -- After more than a year of public discussion, marked by frustration at times as the talks appeared stalled, city officials took a tangible step Wednesday to begin the initial stages of the Laishley Park marina project.

The seven-member Community Redevelopment Agency, in a 6-1 vote, approved a development study drafted by Applied Technology & Management, the city's consultant on the project.

The vote directed city staff to get construction drawings for the project, which includes more boat slips, a widened boat ramp and more parking.

"I think it's finally a sense of, 'C'mon, it's time to stop talking. Let's bite the bullet and do it,'" CRA Commissioner Thomas Poole said.

In April last year the city bought back property at Laishley Park, near the base of the U.S. 41 bridge over the Peace River, after a developer was unable for more than a decade to get anything started.

Later that year, the marina basin was dredged in preparation for the larger development project. The removal of spoil from the dredging has taken longer than anticipated, so the city extended the deadline from June 21 until October.

The city has estimated building the marina will cost \$2.3 million, said David Hennis, the city community development director. Hennis called the CRA's vote the most "aggressive step forward" to date on the marina project.

Said Commissioner John Land,: "You hear the comments; people have been waiting 14 years to see something happen there."

The discussion Wednesday touched on the location of a proposed community sailing center at the marina. Bill Dixon, representing the Charlotte Harbor Community Sailing Center, said a spot near the marina's inlet, removed from the boat ramp, would work.



Err  
Flc

Ce  
Ac  
Ac  
Th  
Ne

Ce  
Co  
Co  
Wi

Ce  
Re  
Co  
Wi

A



Cl  
be

Lo  
St

[Health](#)

[Comics/Games](#)

[Style](#)

[Magazine](#)

[SERVICES](#)

[Calendars](#)

[Special Events](#)

[Archives](#)

[Public Records](#)

[Jobs with Us](#)

[Infoline](#)

[InfoMart](#)

[Advertise with Us](#)

[Customer Service](#)

[Clubs Finder](#)

[Press Pass](#)

[Business Finder](#)

[E-mail Services](#)

[Contact Us](#)

CRA Commissioner Robert Strang, however, said he was worried about mixing powerboat traffic with sailboats. Strang voted against the development study Wednesday because of that concern.

The sailing center would provide educational classes, on-the-water training and, among other things, sailboat races.

Last modified: June 19. 2003 12:00AM

TOP STORIES FROM TODAY

- [Feds need to get after spammers](#)
- [Weekend's outlook looks generally good](#)
- [Smith wins top prize in shark tourney](#)
- [Home viewers now firmly behind the DVD 8-ball](#)
- [Summertime shindig to raise funds for sanctuary](#)
- [Legislators need to first ask themselves a basic, fundamental question](#)
- [Winners of 'The Play's The Thing' are announced](#)
- [Winners of 'The Play's The Thing' are announced](#)
- [Cruises bring in dollars for children, Charlotte Symphony](#)
- [In the race for what's new, the old is in danger of getting left behind](#)

COMING SOON

SATURDAY

**Steep greens**

The new Venetian Golf and River Club tests your putter — and wallet. Saturday in *Play!*

**NO CLOSING COSTS**

Choose a section

heraldtribune.com

*Serving the Herald-Tribune newspaper and SNN Channel 6*  
© Sarasota Herald-Tribune. All rights reserved.