



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION	
MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC., and LISA FOSTER,	Case No.:
Petitioners,	
v.	
CITY OF MARCO ISLAND, and MARCO RIVER MARINA, INC.,	
Respondents.	

To the Marco Island Community,

We want to share an important update about our efforts to rebuild and improve our marina following the devastating hurricane damage we have experienced since 2022.

On September 10, the Marco Island City Council approved our rebuilding and renovation plans, marking the conclusion of a four-year planning process. After years of preparation and numerous public hearings, we were excited to move forward with a proposed \$7 million investment in Marco Island's only full-service marina.

Unfortunately, that progress now faces another obstacle. The Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) and Lisa Foster have jointly filed a lawsuit against Marco River Marina Inc (d/b/a Rose Marina) and the City of Marco Island seeking to overturn our recent approvals (primarily landscaping and dumpster locations, 20 ground level boat storage racks, and a 7'6" riparian setback adjustment on one of our inner basin docks). This legal challenge could substantially delay the project and potentially jeopardize our plans.

What this project means for Marco Island

Our rebuilding plans include a coastal-casual, 200-seat waterfront restaurant to replace Jack's Lookout, which was lost during Hurricane Ian; new floating docks around the restaurant; new and refurbished parking areas; roadway and crosswalk improvements; upgraded stormwater systems; 20 outdoor boat storage racks; and 80 new trees.

These improvements represent a significant commitment to the marina's future and to the community we serve. They also matter to the local fishing charters awaiting the completion of additional boat slips.

The Rose family's connection to Marco Island goes back to 1955, when Bill Rose first came to the island. Our commitment remains rooted in Bill's vision of making Rose Marina one of the finest marinas on the Gulf Coast. We are boaters, we are Islanders, and we want to continue investing in this community.

Why we are concerned about MICA's direction

We respect MICA's longstanding role in maintaining Residents' Beach, its parking facilities, and enforcing deed restrictions. We also recognize that reasonable people can disagree about development proposals.

However, we believe MICA's current leadership is taking the organization in a troubling direction. Seeking to overturn the City's approval of our rebuilding plans raises serious questions about its priorities, its use of membership funds, and the extent to which its decisions reflect the wishes of its members.

In the past, Rose Marina and MICA have worked through disagreements without litigation. That history makes the current approach especially disappointing. Recent changes involving MICA's longtime executive director and legal counsel have added to our concerns about the loss of institutional knowledge and established community relationships.

Our concern extends beyond this one project. When disagreements over an approved proposal lead to costly litigation, the consequences can reach local businesses, their employees, customers, and taxpayers.

MICA members deserve answers

We believe MICA members deserve a clear understanding of why this lawsuit was authorized, whether it falls within the scope of MICA's mission and purpose, the anticipated costs involved, and how those costs will be funded.

Is MICA using dues and beach pass revenue to fund litigation against Rose Marina and the City? What is the anticipated cost? And does the membership support this use of the organization's resources?

These are fair questions. Decisions with consequences of this magnitude deserve transparency and meaningful member input.

Rose Marina intends to vigorously defend its approved plans. However, the time and expense required to respond to this lawsuit will divert resources from the rebuilding work we have spent years preparing to undertake.

Thank you—and how you can help

Throughout the approval process, this community showed up for us. You attended hearings, sent emails, and voiced your support. Your participation made a difference, and we are deeply grateful!

We also thank the City departments that guided us through the process, along with the Planning Board and City Council members who reviewed our petitions and approved the project.

We are disappointed to ask for your support again when we had hoped to be sharing the next steps in our rebuilding. But we believe the community—and MICA's membership in particular—should understand what is happening and what is at stake.

Please join us in asking the MICA Board of Directors to withdraw this lawsuit by scanning this QR code.



As Marco Island voters head to the polls to elect three City Council members, we strongly encourage Marco Island voters to research which candidates have a proven track record of understanding the City's quasi-judicial zoning approval process and which candidates respect the property rights of Marco Island landowners, both commercial and residential.

Today MICA is targeting Rose Marina with a costly legal battle, tomorrow it could be your property.

Rose Marina is seeking to rebuild after devastating storms, improve our property, and continue serving Marco Island for generations to come. We remain committed to that goal, and we appreciate everyone who stands with us.

Sincerely,
The Owners and Employees of Rose Marina