

**Little Gasparilla Island Advisory Board Meeting  
March 14, 2008  
Cedar Point**

**In Attendance**

Bob Hill  
Carolyn Dupree  
Ken Bonds  
Phyllis Nesmith  
Rande Ridenour  
Jie Shao – Growth Management

**Absent**

Bill Dallas  
Barry Hurt

Meeting was called to order.

Bob Hill recognized that there was a quorum.

Phyllis Nesmith discussed changes needed in the minutes from the March 3 meeting. Approval of the minutes was postponed until necessary changes could be made.

Bob Hill recognized the large number of LGI residents attending this meeting.

Bob indicated that this meeting was set to discuss the change in wording of the existing MSBU from paying for channel markers to identify current issues from the Community Plan. Tara Musselman was suppose to be at this meeting with the new wording for the MSBU after having a discussion with the County Attorney. She did not contact Bob Hill or Jie Shao to notify them that she would not be attending this meeting.

Bob indicated that he would contact Ms. Musselman on Monday.

Bob explained that Tara Musselman had suggested a \$20 MSBU assessment. Monies obtained from the MSBU could be used to pay the County Attorney to look into establishing a CRA.

Mike Anderson, an island resident, indicated he does not want a CRA. He thinks we can do everything that needs to be done ourselves. He does not want to give any monies to the County.

Steve Farmer indicated that life saving is very important to the island and that is something we cannot handle ourselves. He also indicated that he checked into several statements made by Ms. Mussleman at the last meeting and found them to be untrue.

Bob Hill stated that Charlotte County is not going to do anything for us. The only way to get some of our monies back is through a CRA.

Yvonne Bonds, another resident from the island, read an article from the “Sun” newspaper regarding the problems Charlotte County is having with MSBU’s. She stated that she did not think it would be prudent for our community to go into a MSBU at this time. Ms. Bonds asked Bob where he is getting his information and who gave him the idea that LGI met the definition of “blighted”? She indicated that

she did not feel this was appropriate for LGI and asked what benefit(s) would LGI receive if it were designated as blighted.

Bob Hill explained that this is a way to have access to our tax dollars. He explained that we have had workshops, meetings, etc. and that these subjects have been discussed over and over again. LGI's Community Plan has been adopted and the Board is trying to establish a way to pay for the projects listed in the Community Plan.

Bob indicated that without Tara Musselman's attendance, there would be no motion for accepting new wording of the current MSBU and that we might not be able to get anything done for the fiscal year 2008.

Phyllis Nesmith stated that she has been sending out summaries of the LGI Advisory Board Meetings to residents of Hideaway Condo.

Bob Hill indicated that a vote on an MSBU would be the decision of the LGI Board, not an island-wide vote. The Board has always had open meetings and residents are always welcome to attend. Bob also indicated that a CRA is another possibility. Since Tara Musselman was not in attendance, there would be no vote today.

Jane Frost asked if the Board could move on the zoning issue without the MSBU or creation of a CRA?

Bob indicated that the Board could move on the zoning issue, but was not sure about the establishment of an Independent Fire District. An MSBU was a means to an end – trying to fund our case to establish a CRA.

Bob explained that he had been against an earlier attempt to establish an Independent Taxing Authority based on information given to him by our then State Representative Jerry Paul. At that time the attitude of the House of Representatives was to get rid of the existing Independent Taxing Districts not creating new ones.

Gene Surdam stated that Palm Island has a MSTU for the Fire Dept. LGI was asked if they wanted to participate when the MSTU was being established. LGI said no. The monies from the MSTU were used to build the Fire Department and the volunteers are furnished with equipment based on their needs.

Bob Hill asked Steve Farmer to explain the proper way to go about establishing a Special District. Steve indicated that it takes approximately 1 ½ years to get a bill for the requested Special District in front of the Legislature/Senate. In the mean time we need to make current MSBU for use on Fire Dept.

Bob Hill asked if Steve was suggesting that we set up an independent MSBU or add Fire Dept. to new wording of existing MSBU.

Steve Farmer indicated that a MSBU for the Fire Dept could not be co-mingled with other projects per a conversation he had with Tara Musselman.

Gene Surdam indicated we should use the existing MSBU to cover us now while we wait to become an Independent Fire District.

Bob Hill suggested that a MSTU would be more favorable as taxes are levied on value of each property. Bob had discussed situation with Dean Beckstead who indicated that a MSTU was used for Palm Island Fire Dept.

Steve Farmer was going to check with County Attorney to ensure that a MSBU could be used to fund A fire department.

Bob Hill indicated that the Board had earlier asked the County Commission to table without prejudice a petition from Mike Alexander to vacate a road (road goes from King Street to Marsh Street) until after LGI Community Plan was approved. The petition was approved by Zoning. The Commission tabled the issue.

Bob asked if the Board had any objection to him writing a letter to the Commission indicating the Board's approval.

Rande Ridenour stated that none of the neighbors close to the road were opposed to the petition and there really were no negatives.

The Board indicated they had no problem with Bob writing a letter of approval from the Board.

Bob Hill asked the Board Members if they had anything for the good of the order.

Ken Bonds stated that everything in the Community Plan had been discussed time and time again. He suggested that if LGI residents have a problem they should come to the meetings or write the Board. He indicated that though numerous years of working on the Plan there were never more than 3 to 4 residents in attendance.

Bob Hill indicated that if we could have some of the meeting at the church, the Board would do some meetings on the island.

Rande Ridenour explained that some meetings had been held at the County Office Building in Murdock so that we had the benefit of various county employees attend our meetings.

Bob Hill indicated our next steps were to work on the zoning and identify commercial activities that the residents wish to have on the island.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting date to be determined.