

**Little Gasparilla Island Advisory Board Meeting
October 10, 2008
Cedar Point**

In Attendance

Bob Hill
Bill Dallas
Barry Hurt
Ken Bonds
Jie Shao – Growth Management

Absent

Carolyn Dupree
Rande Ridenour

Meeting was called to order.

Bob Hill recognized that there was a quorum.

Bob Hill introduced Paul Holmes as being present but not yet approved by the Commission to sit on the Little Gasparilla Advisory Board. Paul will replace Phyllis NeSmith.

Bob Hill introduced the invited guest and thanked them for coming to the meeting. The guests were:

Tricia Duffy
Ken Dougherty
Percy Angelo

Bob Hill indicated that Tricia Duffy is a current County Commissioner. Mr. Dougherty and Ms. Angelo are currently running for County Commissioner. Robert Skidmore (also running for County Commissioner) was also invited. He had a conflict but will try to stop in on our meeting. The Board asked the guests to come to this meeting so that they could become familiar with Little Gasparilla Island. (Mr. Skidmore did come in later)

The minutes of the September meeting were distributed to the Board members. Barry Hurt asked for a correction in the minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected. There was a second and the minutes were approved as corrected by the Board.

Jie Shao, our liaison from Growth Management was introduced to those in attendance as a new American citizen.

Bob explained that the board was on schedule with the zoning ordinance until last week. There is a problem with the density that we want and the set backs that are proper. There appears to be a conflict with the ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan for the island.

The LGI Comprehensive Plan was written by consultants after going through a process of workshops and meetings with residents and county officials. The consultants came up with a list of concerns, goals and opportunities from the residents and developed the plan accordingly. It is the job of the LGI Advisory Board to implement this plan.

Bob introduced Nicole Dozier, Charlotte County Zoning official who is working with Jie Shao and will make modifications to the 2009 Comprehensive Plan so that there is not a conflict between the Plan and the ordinance. Currently there is an exception allowed in the ordinance for Residential Multi-family Units.

Bob Hill indicated that the newly formed sub-committee, the Commercial Use Committee, would present a draft of commercial uses for the island at our November meeting.

Steve Farmer introduced Mike Anderson who explained the current procedure for fire and medical on the island. The backup for LGI is currently Englewood Fire Department. Mike Anderson explained the current procedure and demonstrated the use of an AED. He indicated that classes are going to be offered on the island so that volunteers can be certified on CPR and the use of the AED. There is no charge for the classes and each class takes approximately one hour.

Steve Farmer explained that the residents on LGI had contributed \$22,000 to the volunteer department this year. Also, the radio and AED had been returned to LGI from the Englewood Fire Department.

Steve Farmer will have a feasibility study and budget to bring to a future Advisory Board meeting. He would also bring in Chief Pepper from Capitiva Island and the attorney who is assisting with the establishment of the IFD.

Midge O'Hara explained the process for establishment of an IFD and gave a history of the Fire and Safety on the island. She asked that the Board discuss and support at the next meeting.

Bob Hill explained that the Board would not rush into approvals to meet a deadline. The establishment of an IFD should be fully explored before approval should be considered.

Barry Hurt asked if there was a plan B if the IFD was not approved and what were the options of becoming part of the Port Charlotte/Englewood fire and safety services.

Bob Hill said he felt the island would have to improve roadways to meet County requirements. Mr. Farmer said that would not be necessary, that the vehicles would be able to traverse the sand roads without difficulty.

Bob Hill explained last months meeting with Jim Evett and the Code Compliance officers. The following week Mr. Evett and nine others including code compliance and the Health Department came to Little Gasparilla Island.

The Health Department officials cited five houses as uninhabitable until septic problems can be resolved. The Health Department is recommending Package Plants that can handle 5000 gallons a day and would serve 23/30 homes. The five homes currently cited are not close enough together for one package plant to work.

Bob Hill indicated that the county has ignored LGI for 40 years. Jim Evett explained that code enforcement personnel would only come in response to a complaint. They are not coming out looking to find problems.

Barry Hurt indicated that over the years, there has been very little activity from the county and he felt that some departments within the county did not like coming to LGI. He felt that after their visit last month, they are coming down on LGI with a big hammer and he resents it.

Bob Hill discussed beach renourishment for LGI. Earlier when Stump Pass was dredged the committee tried to get sand for the island. They could not pump the sand to LGI and trucking it would have cost approximately \$800,000. The State Park is not considered an area of critical concern because there are not structures that could be washed away. The LGI pass has never been dredged we would not be able to get a permit for dredging of LGI pass. The development of the Boca Grande Causeway and other actions has contributed to the LGI pass filling in.

Bob thanked the commissioners for coming and adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00, November 14th - location to be determined.

Meeting Adjourned