

Little Gasparilla Island Advisory Committee Meeting
June 12, 2009
Cedar Pointe Park
1 p.m.
(Corrected 8/17/09)

- Call to Order and Roll Call

Bob Hill called the meeting to order and noted that the members present were Barry Hurt, Carey Beychok, Carolyn Dupree, Don Oleson and Paul Holmes. Rande Ridenour was not present and Mr. Hill stated that he hoped to have a replacement for him within the next six weeks.

- Introduction of Guests

Bob Hill introduced Missy Christie from Charlotte County Natural Resources Division.

- Minutes from Last Meeting

Mr. Hill stated that the minutes from the last meeting would be approved at the next meeting.

- New Business

Missy Christie addressed questions regarding Loggerhead turtle egg removal. Some of the problems associated with this process are: low success rates in hatchings, skewing of the sexes, interfering with natural occurrences and cancerous tumors developing in farm raised turtles at a high rate. She stated that last years numbers were up 10% from the year before. She said research has shown that most turtles nest within 100 yards of where they were laid. She spoke about the laws of 2005 and the amendment of 2007 regarding no lights on the gulf except on steps and rails, etc. and said Little Gasparilla Island was doing very well. Missy mentioned that coyotes, armadillos, etc. did a lot of damage to the nests.

Discussion was held regarding invasive plant and tree species and how we would like to formulate a plan to get rid of them. Missy stated that there were several grants available through various entities that we could look into.

Missy spoke about the water quality monitoring that took place in Charlotte Harbor once a month. She said there were 16 sites throughout the area and the data was available on their website. She also said you could check the CHNEP and CHEC websites.

- Old Business

Zoning Ordinance - Bob Hill reported that our request to have the Zoning Overlay looked at ahead of time was denied. He reported that the Advisory Committee did vote to pass

the Overlay and spoke about the Single Family Residential zoning. He stated that it won't take effect until the Comprehensive Plan is approved next year as Charlotte County wanted to go forward with everything at the same time.

Bob Hill reported that Code Enforcement will sit tight on infractions such as the golf cart shop. Barry Hurt asked if we would be notified if someone asks for a use not allowed by the Overlay during the period between now and when the Comprehensive Plan is approved. Roxann Read with Charlotte County said the Advisory Board would be notified.

Missy Christie asked about wording regarding the lighting in the zoning draft and it was said that the wording pertained more to nuisance to neighbors, signage, etc. Bob Hill said we would look into whether or not wording regarding the Coastal Lighting Ordinance was necessary.

Tri Board Progress - Bob Hill gave an overview of the Wednesday Tri board meeting and said four different ideas were discussed as possibilities to be used on an island wide survey that would be sent regarding Fire/EMS.

1. Do nothing - rely on county for EMS/Fire
2. Unmanned on-island Fire/EMS station relying on county
3. On-island Fire/EMS Department, Independent or Dependent options were discussed
4. Supplementary Service by voluntary contributions. It was noted by Midge O'Hara that the LGIFR voted against this option due to liability.

Barry Hurt spoke about the proposed survey to all islanders and said the information was being condensed and double checked before the survey would be sent as to what services one wanted and how much one wanted to pay. He noted these were just proposals only at this time. Paul Holmes noted that the survey needed to go out in August and Bob Hill agreed. Bob Hill said Charlotte County would mail the survey out and it would be run through their legal department. Roxann Read with Charlotte County said the county would look in to mailing and tallying the surveys. It was noted that the Advisory Board would like to have the recommendation to the county by November.

Midge O'Hara said the LGIFR was open to what all islanders wanted but they were pursuing their application on a fire district and sending a letter out to registered voters to see what they wanted regarding Fire/EMS services. Bob Hill noted that he'd like to see the letter before it was sent and Barry Hurt discussed the issue of two different surveys being sent. Bob Hill noted that LGIFR should have Charlotte County mail and tally the registered voter's letters. Barry Hurt noted the Advisory Board was charged with the task of advising the county as to what all taxpayers desired not only registered voters. He said that was the objective of an island wide survey. He stated that the Tri Board was formed to work together.

Midge O'Hara spoke about the Independent fire district as having home rule as to decisions. Bob Hill spoke about a Dependent fire district being the same except the County Commission could elect or appoint the district board and that the county reviews the budget of the district. He thought it quicker to get in place as well. He said it was being looked into whether or not a Dependent fire district could use non-union workers as to avoid paying union scale wages. Millage vs. assessments was discussed with these options.

Bob Hill announced that at this time there were no scheduled meetings in July but there was a possibility of doing so if needed. Mr. Hill will keep us informed as to any added meeting dates. The next meeting scheduled currently is August 14th at Cedar Pointe Park at 1 p.m. He said there might be a possibility of relocating this meeting but notice would be give at a later date if need be.

Barry Hurt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Carey Beychok gave the 2nd. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Carey Beychok