

MINUTES
SOUTH GULF COVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SGCAC)
Wednesday, January 09, 2008
Growth Management Conference Rm. B-207 – 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandy Slater, *Chairperson*
Kendall Leach
April Chattinger

STAFF

Jie Shao, *Staff Liaison*
Gayle Moore, Recorder

MEMBERS EXCUSED

GUESTS

Karen Ireland
John McGuire

I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chair Slater called the January 9, 2008 meeting of the SGCAC to order at 9: 05 a.m. as in the Growth Management Conference Room B-207 and it was noted a quorum was present.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Slater requested a review and correction of meeting minutes for October 24, 2007. A small number of corrections were proposed, at the conclusion of which a motion was made by *Mr. Leach* and seconded by *Ms. Chattinger* to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2007 meeting as amended.

III. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Slater requested a moment of silence for Committee member *Ken Nelson*, who passed away in November 2007. *Mr. Leach* noted that he had invited Mr. Nelson to join the Committee and in looking back over the minutes of the meetings he attended, it is evident that he was becoming very interested and knowledgeable about the Community Plan; he will be sorely missed.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

Public Safety/Health, Pedestrian/Bikeways, FireWise Community, Cove Connection

Ms. Chattinger made her report to the group, beginning with the subject of possible grants for FireWise Communities; it turns out that grant monies are not as widely available as thought.

Ms. Chattinger's next report concerned Bikeways, Cove Connection and the Harvest Festival, which was a well-received event that brought in approximately \$1,200.00. She noted that a checking account had been created to help keep track of expenditures for this group. She discussed the challenge of finding volunteers who would commit to being Committee Chairs for the various sub-committees. *Ms. Chattinger* also described the plan to start up an eBay sales store (both buying and selling) as another fund-raising option, as well as other concepts the group had discussed for fund-raising. The last option discussed, a monthly brunch at the Pavilion, would require insurance, so that is still being researched.

Ms. Chattinger raised the subject of the Penny Tax, which was discussed at a recent MSBU meeting, as an option suggested by Director of Public Works Tom O'Kane for funding pathways. **Guest Karen Price** noted that the group would have to solicit the County Commissioners in order to be put on a list to benefit from funds available from the proposed renewal of that tax.

Finally, **Ms. Chattinger** noted that Cove Connector would be moving ahead on forming their own 501 (c) 3; she pointed out that this is a lengthy process that will cost money to accomplish. They are creating a new one in preference to using the existing CCT organization in order to have a dedicated group working on it. Further discussion ensued, including the impact on this group being covered under the Homeowners Association insurance, or having the funds to provide their own.

Zoning and FLUM; Stormwater Report

Mr. Leach noted that there was nothing new to report on the Zoning/FLUM matters; it is still a matter of the Deed Restrictions needing to be changed so that they conform to current County Zoning and FLUM. He noted the interaction between the Community Plan and the County's Comprehensive Plan; further discussion ensued about the process for changing the Comp Plan and the possible need to update the Community Plan to take such changes into account.

Mr. Leach also briefly discussed matters pertaining to future road widening in the South Gulf Cove area; **Chair Slater** noted an upcoming meeting with Public Works regarding the interaction of the proposed entranceway signs and future potential road-widening needs.

On the subject of Stormwater, **Mr. Leach** observed that previous meetings had established that there is no county-wide "stormwater plan" and further discussion ensued on this subject as it relates specifically to South Gulf Cove. **Guest Karen Ireland** clarified that the HOA is not, itself, pursuing the matter but is supporting the effort of additional lots.

Parks, Park Master Plan, Entranceways, Land Acquisition, Funding Resources

Chair Slater reported on the latest project update memo received from Parks and Rec Director Laura Kleiss-Hoeft, handing out copies of the memo to committee members. Discussion ensued on this material.

Planner Jie Shao joined the meeting at 9:58 a.m. She addressed the issue of timely posting of meeting minute transcriptions on the County website; **Recording Secretary Gayle Moore** stated she would undertake further contact with the webmaster to ensure the minutes would be posted. **Ms. Shao** left the meeting again.

Chair Slater then led discussion of the progress at the individual parks, including the Boat Ramp Park and the Linear Park. **Guest John McGuire** contributed information regarding the necessity of insurance when volunteers work on these projects, noting the recent death of a citizen volunteer working on cleaning traffic medians in Port Charlotte. Further discussion ensued on the various park issues including the schedule for clearing vegetation and the future disposition for the leftover shell.

Chair Slater next spoke about land acquisition, specifically her last year's action to advise Real Estate Services to cancel the effort, noting that Parks & Rec Director Laura Kleiss Hoeft had requested the group to continue to pursue the four properties at McAllister Park. After further discussion, a motion was made by **Chair Slater** and seconded by **April Chattinger** that the SGCAC continue to pursue acquisition or trade of the four private properties at

McAllister Park and the three properties at Fruitport Park and the single property for the Learning Garden parking. Upon discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Next to be discussed was the proposed 2008/2009 budget for Parks and Rec. **Chair Slater** spoke to the details of the budget, referring to her handouts to the group. This discussion continued for several minutes, including information about budgeting for the entranceways; the sign design and brochure were also discussed, as well as partnering with Department of Public Works rather than with Parks & Rec. **Chair Slater** proposed a motion: If the necessary funds can be acquired through the MSBU, then approve the original larger signs that the Committee had already approved or else go with the smaller "Rotonda-style" signs. Discussion ensued on this topic.

Mr. Leach stated that his feeling about approving the original, more expensive sign design was dependent of the promised contribution from Lennar which now seems unlikely, as well as the ability to raise funds from the community. He expressed concerned about the viability of the more expensive signs. **Ms. Chattinger** had questions about the history of the project, and sought clarification that a "yes" vote only meant that Chair Slater would continue to try to assemble the funding. **Mr. Leach** suggested that because MSBU funds come from all property owners within South Gulf Cove, the matter should be brought before the HOA membership, and said that he could not support the motion today. Further discussion ensued on the subject of community resistance to the more expensive signs, alternative sign designs and estimated costs; four smaller signs for approximately \$80,000.00 (\$20,000.00 apiece) or a larger sign for something less than \$200,000.00. **Ms. Chattinger** stated she was in favor of having a more impressive sign but agreed with Mr. Leach that the matter should go before the HOA. It was agreed that the matter be presented to the HOA.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

The Master Park Plan having already been discussed, the group considered the matter of Committee vacancies. **Ms. Chattinger** stated that a Mr. Max Radcliffe was a potential candidate and would come to the next meeting. There was further discussion on how to increase interest among community members.

Community Plan Review

Chair Slater stated that she was not able to get her information into the spreadsheet format, and then discussed her results, asking that they be added to the table for her. **Ms. Shao** mentioned the proposed project for the Fullenkamp land north of South Gulf Cove; further discussion ensued about this property, including a presentation by Mr. Leach concerning the proposal for new locks from the waterways into Charlotte Harbor. Some history of the lawsuits over this land was provided by **Guest Karen Price**. The discussion returned to the items on the spreadsheet, with **Chair Slater** continuing her remark; she agreed to provide Ms. Shao with an electronic version of her information to facilitate adding it to the spreadsheet. **Mr. Leach** noted that since the group had concluded that there is no Stormwater Plan, the status of that item should be changed from "under way" to "not started"; he said that he would follow through on that. **Mr. Leach** was requested to also provide his information to Ms. Shao electronically so that it could be added to the spreadsheet. The discussion on these items continued, including **Ms. Chattinger's** comments on her progress with the Public Health and Safety matters. In conclusion, the members stated they would like early access to the minutes in order to track the various assignments; it was agreed that the audio file of the minutes would be made available in

advance of the transcription, which was likely to be delayed. **Ms. Shao** asked that everything be delivered to her by Jan. 18 so that she could have the updated spreadsheet prepared for their review in advance of the next meeting on Jan. 23rd, and the members agreed.

Town Hall Meeting

There was extensive discussion about the timing and whether the effort was worth it, in the face of declining attendance over the past couple of meetings. **Mr. Leach** stated that he felt the curiosity factor that drove early attendance had diminished; he felt that the question should be put to the HOA membership to determine the level of interest. **Guest John McGuire** noted that in practice there was not much opportunity for input after all the presentations and suggested the group consider restructuring the nature of the meeting, e.g. making it more informal so that attendees would be more likely to volunteer comments. **Guest Karen Ireland** suggested that the presentation be broken up into several segments, made at a HOA meeting instead. **Guest Karen Price** noted the necessity of reminding people that all homeowners can attend, not just members. **Chair Slater** stated she would canvass the HOA members; a mailing was discussed, but in view of the cost, an alternative suggestion was made to put all information on the website, which the members agreed was the better idea.

Chair Slater reminded members that the Committee still needed to create their brief for the Commissioners regarding the sunseting of the Committee in 2008; the spreadsheet would become a "report card" to present to the Commissioners by May 2008. Discussion on the process continued.

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

VII. **STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

VIII. **MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

IX. **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the **South Gulf Cove Advisory Committee** is **Wednesday, January 23, 2008** from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon in the **Growth Management Conference Room (B-207)**.

At 12:03 p.m. **Chair Slater** stated: There being no further business to come before this committee, I declare the meeting adjourned.