

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY
SOUTH GULF COVE
COMMUNITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Charlotte County Administration Center, Room B-207

Minutes
September 23, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandy Slater, Chairperson
Kendall Leach, Vice-Chair
April Chattinger, Secretary

STAFF

Roxann Read, Growth Management
Tara Musselman, Budget & Admin. Services
Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Yvonne Ermirio
Susan Faust

GUESTS

Brett Clark

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chair Slater called the September 23, 2009, **South Gulf Cove Community Plan Advisory Committee** meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. noting there was a quorum present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was presented by **April Chattinger** and seconded by **Kendall Leach** to accept the July 15, 2009, South Gulf Coast Advisory Committee minutes with corrections. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Tara Musselman requested the Recording secretary to include the Parks and Recreation Director when emailing the meeting agenda and other documents. **Chair Slater** suggested he be asked to attend the October meeting.

III. STAFF COMMENTS

Roxann Read advised that she is in the process of revising the Committee's web page and requested that members provide her with photographs of the South Gulf Cove community for her to post online. It was her feeling that this would greatly enhance the appearance of their web site.

Chair Slater led a discussion on the procedures and time frame for sending out meeting documents. It was decided the Recording Secretary will provide the draft agenda to Committee Officers for their review at the beginning of the week prior to each meeting with a request that all changes be provided to her by noon on the following Thursday. The finalized document will be posted online and notice will be provided to all members and interested parties the Monday before each meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS – None

V. NEW BUSINESS

SGCAC 5-Year Budget

Chair Slater announced that the MSBU Committee would be meeting the first week in October and have requested that members begin preparing a Five (5) Year Budget Projection. **Kendall Leach** and **April Chattinger** were asked if they could foresee any budget needs for the projects they sponsor and **Ms. Chattinger** advised her projects were all volunteer led. **Tara Musselman** reminded the Committee that all required maintenance will need to be included in the budget.

Chair Slater felt trimming might be needed on future trees and said fertilizing would also need to be considered. **Mr. Leach** commented that mowing will be ongoing on CR 771 and confirmed that the Pepper Trees have not been completely eradicated and still present a problem. **Chair Slater** advised she would request additional input from Parks and Recreation regarding projected maintenance requirements.

Chair Slater reported that the San Domingo Park Design was approved at yesterday's BCC meeting. In response to an inquiry from **Mr. Leach** regarding the vote, she stated the initial vote was 3-2. **Ms. Musselman** confirmed the final vote was 4-1.

Chair Slater advised she would like to discuss the budget projection further with **Ms. Musselman**. **Ms. Musselman** suggested scheduling a meeting with David Milligan. **Chair Slater** agreed she needed to speak with Parks and Recreation as their last report did not reflect the financial numbers that were promised by August.

Rezoning of Property on 771

Chair Slater introduced **Brett Clark**, an attorney in Englewood who Chairs the Scenic Highway Committee and stated she felt his Committee has a good representation of South Gulf Cove. **Mr. Clark** agreed and also confirmed that the members are very active in the community.

Chair Slater referenced an email from Susan Faust that she forwarded to members regarding the rezoning of the property on 771 and advised she was invited by Jie Shao to sit in on a meeting that took place this morning. **Mr. Clark** confirmed the Contractor was not in attendance. The Committee was asked if they felt the community would have an interest in knowing more about this issue and a brief discussion ensued regarding the best time to schedule a meeting so that winter residents would be able to attend.

Mr. Clark provided additional input regarding his views of the Comprehensive Plan and stated he would like to learn as much as possible. He mentioned concerns he had with evacuation issues and stated he felt there would be a problem on the Cape Haze Peninsula if flooding occurred and residents needed to evacuate prior to the landfall of a storm. He stated he was impressed that the Planning Department had discussed similar concerns with the developer and a club house was planned that would be hurricane resistant and that would serve as a shelter for the people in that development. **Chair Slater** added that Rotonda is a huge community and she felt residents would be interested in this initiative. She also felt there would be community

interest in Cape Haze and South Gulf Cove as well. **Mr. Clark** felt emails would be the best way to inform the community of specific issues and to announce meetings with the developer and staff. **Chair Slater** advised information could also be accessed on the South Gulf Cove website. A discussion ensued on the best way to proceed. Chair Slater asked the Committee if they felt South Gulf Cove would be interested in participating in this type of project and was met with positive replies. **Mr. Leach** suggested sending out emails and questionnaires now to get feedback and to generate interest for a December/January meeting.

Mr. Clark advised of a rumor he heard that the County would be closing parks and/or reducing services. He will be meeting with the Parks and Recreation department to obtain additional information. **Chair Slater** responded that Parks and Recreation maintain the South Gulf Cove parks out of two different budgets and confirmed funding is in place to maintain Linear Park. She further stated the South Gulf Cove Community Park should be finished soon and the maintenance costs would more than likely come from the Parks and Recreation Ad Valorem funds. She said that this is an area that has been cut drastically and stated she also heard there would be park closures and/or maintenance reductions. She added that there has been no word that this would happen at South Gulf Cove Park and boat ramp. **Chair Slater** also mentioned the Learning Garden Park which was developed through fundraisers and grants and is strictly a volunteer effort and the San Domingo Park which they are looking at developing. It is her hope that there will only be minimal impact to South Gulf Cove.

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Zoning/FLUM/Deed Restrictions (Kendall Leach)

Kendall Leach thanked **Roxann Read** for sending out the re-zoning for 771.

Stormwater/Lakewatch Program (Kendall Leach)

Mr. Leach confirmed a recent report on water checked by the University of Florida showed good, clean, and useable waters. He also mentioned a letter that stated the University of Florida would be changing their schedule for collecting water samples to every other month and are requesting funding from the State of Florida to continue with their program. They are asking for support and have requested writing State Representatives to request continuous funding for the Lakewatch Group and for the University of Florida. **Chair Slater** stated she would be writing a letter and encouraged members to do the same.

April Chattinger inquired about chara in the water and was told six (6) waterways are being treated and tested accordingly.

Quality Mining (Kendall Leach)

Mr. Leach reported on correspondence received from Mr. and Mrs. Spence and mentioned a meeting with Commissioner Skidmore and County Staff. He felt the biggest problem with the reclamation program is a misunderstanding of the time frame and confirmed the County and Developer have stated the program is for five years, however this was never verified through a public hearing process where South Gulf Cove residents could participate.

Mr. Leach also reported on the mulching of 771 and work that still needs to be completed. He stated the mowing contractor is doing a good job and he complemented him on his efforts. **Ms.**

Musselman advised she spoke with David Mulligan and was told it was his understanding 771 was complete. She confirmed an email has been sent informing him of the situation with the Pepper trees. Discussion continued regarding the contract and the work to be accomplished.

(Roxann Read left the meeting at 9:55am)

Chair Slater advised that in Yvonne's Ermirio's absence, she would provide the Parks Update.

Boat Ramp Park (Sandy Slater)

Chair Slater stated she is still in need of an estimated date for completion as well as information on the Grand Opening. She advised the preliminary clean up has been completed and the signs are up. The park should be ready to open as soon as the playground equipment is installed and the bathrooms opened. She stated she would keep Mr. Clark informed as it is adjacent to the Scenic Highway. **Mr. Clark** asked about signage from 771 and was told standard signs have already been installed and the park is identified in the Charlotte County Parks Brochure. **Chair Slater** requested that **Tara Musselman** speak with Mr. Milligan and inquire about the estimated completion date and when the Grand Opening of the Boat Ramp Park would take place.

Ms. Musselman corrected information previously stated and clarified that the poles to the access road have been added to the contract for six (6) times a year. The poles to 771 are still under Road and Bridge and are only done five (5) times a year which explains why work is not being done at this time. This will be discussed further at the next MSBU meeting.

Parks Update

Chair Slater provided an update on Linear Park and advised that the West County Mowing Contractor has not started. **Ms. Musselman** reported that Mr. Milligan will follow up on this and stated they should have started this week. **Chair Slater** described the work that is scheduled to be completed.

Chair Slater spoke with the Parks and Recreation Director yesterday and asked him about the Mangrove trimming. It was his understanding trimming would start in October. **Ms. Musselman** confirmed the Environmental Specialist will be out in October or November to measure the mangroves and she will have a firm date in November as to when the trimming will begin. **Chair Slater** advised previous work several years ago was done incorrectly and there has been no further trimming since that time.

Chair Slater provided an update on the work that will be conducted at Arlewood Park beginning this week and stated it included re-mulching the pepper trees and the subsequent herbicide of all new growth. Discussion continued regarding maintenance at Arlewood, Nittany, and Santa Lucia Parks. **Ms. Musselman** advised she will check on these issues in addition to the maintenance on 771.

Chair Slater explained that the San Domingo Park Design Contract had been pulled from the August agenda and stated she learned a misunderstanding led people to believe the funds were for park design rather than development. She, Jack Paine, and Karen Price met with

Commissioners Skidmore and Starr and the issue was placed back on the agenda and heard by the BCC this past Tuesday. Concerns regarding the wording of the contract and related County procedures were addressed and she advised of additional conversations she had with Commissioner Starr. **Chair Slater** advised that she spoke at the meeting on Tuesday and provided an overview of what transpired. Further discussion ensued. **Tara Musselman** felt the \$25,000.00 would cover the overall plan, public input, and possibly a Phase I, but stated additional funding would be needed for construction drawings, the bid docks, and permits. **Kendall Leach** commented that he seldom sees people at Linear Park and wondered about the need for additional parks when there appears to be a lack of use at the parks already established. **Chair Slater** disagreed and felt, based on the people she has spoken with, that the majority of the community wants these things accomplished. She reiterated the importance of community input and said plans will move forward until the community as a whole desires otherwise.

Chair Slater reported that Steve Riley, a reporter from the Charlotte Sun, will be writing a four part feature article on what South Gulf Cove is trying to accomplish. He has asked to be notified in advance of the first public session for the San Domingo Park and she has asked him to include information in his article on the trees that have been planted in the community through donations and fund raising and also on the learning Garden which is a volunteer initiative.

Land Acquisition (Sandy Slater)

Chair Slater will provide members with an update following the MSBU meeting on October 5, 2009.

Entranceways (Sandy Slater)

Chair Slater made known that Commissioner Skidmore has recently made an offer on a home in the community. She provided an update on the status of the entranceway signs and confirmed that although the public is not allowed to participate at the Pre-bid Conference, they can attend. The Bid opening is scheduled for October 14, 2009. It is her understanding that if a local bidder is within five (5) percent of the lowest bid, they are given an additional five (5) working days to make their best and final offer. It is anticipated this will be on the Board's agenda in October or November. **Chair Slater** felt there is a lot of work to be done before this time and led a discussion on the best way to proceed. She discussed copies of the designs and explained a handout which best showed the three (3) designs merged together. It was confirmed the final design will be included in the structural package that contractors will bid on at the pre-bid meeting tomorrow.

Chair Slater asked for additional suggestions. **Tara Musselman** advised on plans for the entranceway infrastructure and confirmed that the trees are approximately the same height and are spaced consistently. **April Chattinger** stated they averaged twenty (20) feet overall. **Chair Slater** requested that **Ms. Musselman** provide her with a breakdown of all funding before she meets with the Commissioners.

Ms. Musselman responded to a question about mowing and said nothing further would be done at this time as the bids for mowing have been extended. She will discuss this further at the next MSBU meeting to see if the MSBU would pay for either Parks and Recreation or Public Works

to do it. In answer to a question by **Mr. Leach**, she confirmed that an addendum could not be added to the contract.

Funding & Resources (Sandy Slater)

Chair Slater advised she is unaware of the amount Parks and Recreation spent in the last fiscal year so it is hard to project the amount needed going forward. **Ms. Musselman** suggested estimating what needs to be done and she will work to come up with the actual figures. Current and estimated allocations were discussed.

Chair Slater mentioned the Committee's unanimous decision at the July meeting to move forward towards a separate MSBU or separate breakout of the existing MSBU in the Community Plan for the fiscal year 2010-2011. It was **Chair Slater's** opinion that a campaign should begin now to educate residents on why this is needed. She also advised of a suggestion by Jack Paine to move funds from this year's budget into the Beautification/Community Plan. **Ms. Musselman** added additional comments and **Chair Slater** tabled additional discussion for the October meeting.

Public Safety & Health (April Chattinger)

April Chattinger announced the CERT class is presently in progress and approximately twenty-eight (28) students have registered. She stated several are from the South Gulf Cove area, but others who have no team of their own, have expressed interest in becoming part of this team.

Pedestrian Bikeways/Cove Connector (April Chattinger)

April Chattinger reported that the trees are now planted and confirmed twenty-six (26) are specifically family trees. She stated, although the trees are guaranteed for one (1) year, the county is not watering them and residents having taken over this responsibility. She reported a great deal of interest in this project and has received both positive and negative comments. She advised on upcoming fund raisers for the purchase of additional trees and stated individuals will have the opportunity to purchase their own trees but the care would be their own responsibility. Care of the trees and alternate watering methods were discussed.

Firewise Community (April Chattinger)

Ms. Chattinger reported that further clearing was done over a one day period. It is unknown when additional work will be completed.

Discussion continued regarding the purchase of additional trees.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at 9:00a.m., in the Growth Management Conference Room #B-207.

A discussion took place regarding the upcoming meetings. It was decided to reschedule the November meeting to November 18th. The date for the December meeting will be confirmed at the next meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this committee, **Chair Slater** declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

/jms