

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

Minutes
November 18, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Susan Faust

GUESTS

John McGuire, CCT of SGC, Inc.
Karen Ireland, SGCHA Secretary, S&D MSBU
Karen Price, SGCHA President

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
Chair Slater called the November 18, 2009, **South Gulf Cove Community Plan Advisory Committee** meeting to order at 9:04a.m. noting there was a quorum present.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A motion was presented by **Yvonne Ermirio** and seconded by **Kendall Leach** to accept the October 28, 2009, South Gulf Coast Community Plan Advisory Committee minutes with corrections. Following a discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. STAFF COMMENTS**
Meeting Location
Roxann Read commented that there are three (3) other active Community Planning Advisory Groups in Charlotte County and that each hold their monthly meetings in their own communities. She encouraged the Committee to consider doing the same on a six (6) month trial basis. She also felt it would be a good catalyst for shifting to a direction that would be more focused on the Community Plan and which would establish the Committee's presence in South Gulf Cove. **Chair Slater** felt the Committee already keeps the community well apprised in the way of monthly articles and website updates. **Ms. Read** confirmed that, although she would continue to attend meetings as the Staff Liaison, the increased responsibilities assigned to staff as a result of budget reductions make it difficult to continue providing a Recording Secretary to transcribe minutes. Discussion continued regarding the practices of other community groups and possible

locations for future South Gulf Cove Community Plan Advisory Committee meetings. It was decided that meetings will continue to be held in an available room at the Murdock Administration Center but will be reduced from three (3) hours to ninety (90) minutes. **Mrs. Read** reiterated that the Committee will be responsible for taking their own minutes going forward. **Karen Price** inquired if this meeting was required to operate under any specific guidelines and was told the only requirements are following Sunshine Law and the established Committee Bi-Laws. **Chair Slater** advised that it was opted not to do Bi-Laws and all that existed was the adopted Resolution. **Ms. Read** confirmed that minutes are required by Sunshine and need to be posted on the County website. It was confirmed the Growth Management Department will no longer provide a Recording Secretary and the Committee will be responsible for their own minutes beginning with the January meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS – None

V. NEW BUSINESS

Spreadsheet Review

Roxann Read discussed the purpose of the spreadsheets provided to members and clarified which projects are underway and which projects are mid-term from 2008. She advised that these are projects that the Committee should be involved in right now. **Chair Slater** advised that several projects underway or mid-term are missing from the list. A review of the spreadsheet ensued and past and future goals were discussed. **Chair Slater** made known that the report would be updated in April of 2010 and changes and additions made at that time. **Mrs. Read** agreed to help with the spreadsheet reformatting.

Chair Slater reminded members that a decision was made at the last meeting to have the sponsor for individual areas provide the Committee Reports each month and to be the contact person for related questions and issues.

Kendal Leach offered his view regarding communication between members and staff and voiced concerns about the amount of money spent on watering. **Yvonne Ermirio** added that the plants were chosen because they were environmentally friendly and did not need continuous watering. **Chair Slater** advised that she has requested additional documentation from Tara Musselman and asked that she be allowed enough time between meetings to obtain requested information before Commissioners are consulted. Discussion continued regarding the cost of irrigation and the amount of water used. Sunshine procedures were discussed and **Mrs. Read** added that, for clarity and to avoid crossover issues, it should be stated who will be obtaining requested information and when the information can be expected to be received by members.

Mr. Leach asked **Chair Slater** how she planned to address the watering issue. She advised she would schedule a meeting with Parks and Recreation in early January and an update will be provided at the next meeting. **Mrs. Read** did not

advise sending email updates on this issue but instead suggested that more time be allotted to discuss this fully at the next meeting.

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Master Park Plan/Park Maintenance & Development (Yvonne Ermirio)

John McGuire confirmed that he visited the Lift station with Commissioner Duffy at Jack Paine's request and advised that the Commissioner is willing to facilitate a meeting in January to discuss plans for the Lift Station. **Ms. Ermirio** and **Mr. McGuire** both stated they would be in attendance. **Ms. Ermirio** added this would be an opportune time to bring up the billing issue at Linear Park. **Chair Slater** advised she would not be attending but would provide information on the watering issue to Jack Paine so it can be discussed with CCU at the same time. **Kendal Leach** asked **Mrs. Read** if she felt there would be a problem with Ms. Ermirio relaying information to him prior to the meeting. **Mrs. Read** reiterated the only caution she would have would pertain to emails and the temptation to start a discussion outside of a meeting setting. It was her advice to share the information at the January meeting and not before. **Karen Ireland** suggested **Mr. Leach** speak directly with Mr. Paine. **John McGuire** shared that he told Commissioner Duffy on their visit to the Lift Station that a plan had already been done for the plantings and he would provide her a copy prior to the meeting. **Ms. Ermirio** advised that she gave a copy to Tara Musselman and it was her understanding it would be provided to CCU. She confirmed an additional copy would be provided to **Mr. McGuire** for Commissioner Duffy.

Ms. Ermirio commented on Santa Lucia and Nittany Park and advised of a safety issue concerning the Cabbage Palms that were originally planted by the residents on the corner of Keystone and Calumet Blvd. She was told the palms will need to be moved away from the school bus stop due to the hazard they pose to the children's safety. It is hoped that they can just be moved further back away from the road. Watering was addressed and **Ms. Ermirio** said she would stress that the plants be completely saturated when they are transplanted. It was also recommended that bike racks be installed at all corners where school bus stops are located.

Chair Slater responded to an inquiry from **Kendall Leach** about treating the re-growth at Arlewood Park following the re-mulching. **Ms. Ermirio** advised she would make a note to follow up on this issue. **Mr. Leach** stated he reviewed all of the previous 2009 minutes and voiced concern regarding statements that were made regarding the removal of exotics and/or treatment to avoid re-growth. He felt this was another example of communication problems with County staff and voiced frustration that the Right-of-Way and 771 mowing scheduled for November has not yet been started. **Chair Slater** said she would like to see the Committee involved in decisions regarding all projects that have been funded by South Gulf Cove.

Public Safety & Health (April Chattinger) – None

Pedestrian Bikeways/Cove Connector (April Chattinger)

April Chattinger stated the November Fundraiser Brunch brought in earnings of approximately \$1,000.00. She reported all of the money was deposited into the Tree Fund and there are now a total of fifty-six (56) trees planted and maintained within the community. A Brochure for the next fundraiser on December 13, 2009 was provided and **Ms. Chattinger** spoke about the event and encouraged everyone to promote attendance.

Firewise Community (April Chattinger)

Ms. Chattinger reported this project is on hold as nothing further has been received from the State.

Zoning/FLUM/Deed Restrictions (Kendall Leach)

Kendall Leach reported the HOA is working to update the deed restrictions so they will conform to Charlotte County Zoning and the Smart Charlotte 2050 Comprehensive Plan.

Stormwater/Lakewatch Program (Kendall Leach)

Mr. Leach reported he has not received a Stormwater report from the County since February 12, 2009. He expressed concern that a company is receiving funds for water testing but not generating a report. **Chair Slater** confirmed this was funded from the Waterway MSBU. **Mr. Leach** added that he asked to be advised when a Waterway MSBU meeting was held but there has been no communication in this regard. **Chair Slater** advised she attended the last meeting which was advertised in the newspaper and confirmed a water analysis report was not available.

Mr. Leach went on to say he spoke with Fritz Hausermann regarding the Lakewatch Program and reported that a lengthy report is available on the HOA website of the water analysis from the University of Florida in Gainesville. **Chair Slater** felt this would also be a good addition to the South Gulf Cove website. **Mr. Leach** advised that Mr. Hausermann spoke with Eric Knowles in Gainesville regarding water quality and the chara in the canal system. He was told the unpleasant smell is a result of the algae decomposing and to spray it would be useless and an unnecessary expense as it will eventually sink down to the bottom naturally and add nutrients back into the canal system.

Chair Slater led a discussion on the Seawall issue and asked **Mr. Leach** if he would engage in this issue and meet with Commissioner Skidmore for an update. **Mr. Leach** agreed to have this added back on the agenda as one of his reports.

Quality Mining (Kendall Leach) - None

Boat Ramp Park (Sandy Slater)

Chair Slater reported that the Boat Ramp Park Opening took place on Monday

and she was impressed with the County leadership that attended. She stated the restrooms are now open and advised that parking is free for park use only. An update on the Phase 3 project was provided and she spoke on other park amenities that could be added when funding becomes available. **Chair Slater** responded to a question by **John McGuire** regarding a commitment on shoreline restoration and said it was her understanding Parks and Recreation ad valorem funds would be used within the next year to complete a required study.

Land Acquisition (Sandy Slater)

Chair Slater advised she has been working with Real Estate Services to purchase the last of the five (5) lots around McAllister and she also spoke with them about the additional three lots (3) at Fruitport. In addition, she stated a number of properties were identified as part of the Cove Connector Bike Path Trail and she will be meeting with John Jackson of Parks and Recreation to discuss everything further. She added the cost for Real Estate Services to obtain the other lots was less than \$3,000.00.

Entranceways (Sandy Slater)

Chair Slater advised that the BCC approved the construction contract to Holland and she thanked everyone for attending the meeting and showing their support. **Mr. Leach** reported on the Pre-agenda hearing and conversations he had afterwards with Commissioner Starr and Commissioner Loftus. **Chair Slater** commented further on the process and the timeline going forward.

Funding and Resources (Sandy Slater)

Chair Slater reported on current year funding and stated there is a total available of \$434,392.00: \$50,000.00 that was newly funded, \$343,655.00 of carry over within the MSBU, and \$40,737.00 of the Native Tree Fund. She informed members of the date and time of the January MSBU meeting and said she plans to meet with Parks and Recreation prior to this meeting to obtain more solid numbers on what was spent last year. **Chair Slater** also advised that the MSBU Committee has asked her to think about what could be accomplished if they did not end up spending as much as they anticipated on the pipe replacement and/or if the pipe replacement was spaced out. More information will be forthcoming.

Lastly, **Chair Slater** advised the Board of County Commissioners will be meeting on December 8, 2009. They will be voting to consider an adoption of a Resolutions authorizing Charlotte County to use uniform methods of collecting non-ad valorem assessments for MSBU's of which South Gulf Cove is included. It was confirmed to **Mr. Leach** that funds will not be discussed at this meeting.

Chair Slater responded to an inquiry by **John McGuire** about the budget amount listed in the Parks and Recreation report and stated it did not include the cost of the water bill. She confirmed any amount not spent will be carried over.

Mr. Leach commented further on the funding and the mowing schedule for

maintenance on State Road 771 and confirmed that Tara Musselman is trying to obtain funding from other sources for the sixth mowing in September as the MSBU Committee has stated they will not fund it for next year. **Chair Slater** provided additional information.

Mr. Leach read excerpts from an email received from John Jackson regarding irrigation and stated they are getting a price for the installation of rain sensors. He made known that he was upset about the amount of money that is being charged for irrigation and offered to undertake future reports on irrigation for the St. Paul Linear Park. **Chair Slater** said she would like to continue with it as her job on the entranceway has come to a slow down and the opening of the park has been completed.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

April Chattinger responded to an inquiry about additional flowering trees and advised **John McGuire** about the current price for Palms Trees. She added that residents will be responsible for their own watering and the trees already planted are going through a great deal of stress at this time so it is suggested that further trees not be purchased at this time.

VIII. NEXT MEETING - To Be Announced

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this committee, **Chair Slater** declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 11:37a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Starr

Jane Starr, Recording Secretary

/jms