

**SOUTH GULF COVE COMMUNITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2010**

Sandy Slater, Kendall Leach, Susan Faust, Yvonne Ermirio and April Chattinger were in attendance. John McGuire and Karen Price attended as guests. Roxann Read attended from staff.

Sandy called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

April made the motion to approve the minutes from the Feb. 24, 2010 meeting and Susan seconded.

There were no staff comments.

New Business:

None.

Old Business:

Committee Member Reports:

SGCAC New MSBU Discussion: Sandy reported that actions from the Feb 24th advisory meeting are complete and included: (1) Develop & e-mail petitions and supporting points to all members, (2) Community outreach at HOA New Neighbor Meet & Greet Feb 27th, SGC Yacht Club Meeting Mar 2nd, and SGC HOA Meeting Mar 17th. Thanks to the Team for their help as well as Karen Price, Karen Ireland, and Becky Borci. We have collected signatures representing nearly 250 properties obtained to date and several letters of support have been sent to the BCC. (3) Sandy, Kendall and Denny Curtis (HOA President) met with Commissioner Skidmore Mar 17th and are meeting with the other 4 Commissioners Mar 22nd to define need, discuss community outreach, and solicit their support for a new SGC Maintenance and Beautification MSBU. At the BCC next Tuesday, Mar 23rd, the BCC will make the decision to set the SGC Public Hearing for the Apr 13th BCC. Commissioner Skidmore did not anticipate a problem with setting the Public Hearing. The timing was excellent on Beth's letter as we are discussing it with the Commissioners. We still need to keep getting petition signatures for the April 13th Public Hearing.

Boat Ramp Park – Sandy stated that the Park Report dated March 9, 2010 provides an update. She also confirmed with Roxanne that there is a County process in place for Growth Management to obtain the Park Report each month and forward to the Team, including John McGuire, Karen Price and Karen Ireland as they always attend our meetings.

Land Acquisition – Sandy reported the initiative is still underway by RE Services with no known responses to date.

Entryways – Sandy reported the 4 entrance signs are progressing nicely. Mick Slater, Yvonne Ermirio and Sandy are in regular communications with the PW Project Manager Barry Cohen, who is doing a fantastic job addressing the challenges and keeping things moving. Barry, Mick, Holland Landscaping and FPL met Mar 10th to resolve (1) trees on power pole side of road at Keystone and Appleton need to be moved 3.5 away from

poles to meet FPL requirements. This is being done at no cost by the contractor although the trees were set in accordance with the plans. (2) Curbing will be installed on San Domingo as there is insufficient space to set trees at current speed limit. (3) Electric specs were not spelled out well in the construction drawings, and modifications were agreed upon to meet our requirements. The contract modification has been written, funding is identified, and we are awaiting signature. This should not delay the project much, if at all.

Funding & Resources: Current Year Budget – Sandy reported that we are 5 months into the FY and still have NO idea what's spent from the P&R \$150K budget from this FY and no idea what was spent on what last FY. Sandy reported that based on Kendall's and her e-mails over the past few days that we are finally getting some activity, but she hasn't seen anything yet. Lynn Lawrence in Budget was tasked Tuesday to get current year expenses. They will be provided back through Tara. Roxanne provided a recent e-mail from Tara. The report did not include updated information and what was provided as YTD expenses did not give a clue as to what the expenses were for. Sandy will follow-up with Tara and forward any updates she receives at a later date.

Sandy reported that per Tara on Tuesday, the SGC Maintenance is being included with PW specialty mowing contract except for irrigation maintenance and tree/bush replacement. The SGC maintenance contract inputs we forwarded were sent to Randy (PW Contract Specialist). Sandy restated to Tara again on Tuesday that we wanted to see draft "before" it goes to Purchasing, and that we will likely need mowing and maintenance "before" this contract is awarded.

Sandy requested that Tara obtain a copy of the maintenance agreement for the Entryways. Tara insists that a year of maintenance, to include mowing and weeding, is included with the entryway contract according to Alan Holbach and Greg O'Connor in PW landscape areas. Sandy has requested this a few times with Tara and is very uncomfortable not seeing something in writing. She is going to request this through the PW Project Manager. When the entryways are complete in the next few months, the last thing we want is to NOT have maintenance in place and be waiting for the PW specialty mowing contract to be awarded - which will likely take at least a few months.

Funding and Resources: Next FY budget – Tara distributed the proposed budget to the S&D Committee and herself yesterday afternoon. The MSBU meeting is today at San Casa at 10:30. At first glance it looks like \$65K for Maintenance (\$40K specialty mowing, \$10K mangrove trim, \$15K P&R internal labor) and \$65K for the St Paul Linear Park path. Sandy asked for a mark-up copy from Tony Ermirio that will be the final budget submitted. She will forward this to the Team as soon as received.

Yvonne: Mangrove trimming contract, spaghetti dinner plans, linear park clearing and Christmas decorations were discussed.

April: **Public Safety & Health** – The South Gulf Cove Community Emergency Response team will be offering a "Parrot Head Party" fund raiser on March 27th.
Pedestrian Bikeways/Cove Connector – Cove Connector will be offering a brunch on April 25th with Firewise. Profits will go towards maintenance and replacement of any Cove Connector plantings damaged by the frost. Leftover profits will be dedicated to park development.

Firewise Community – Every year in order to maintain our Firewise Community status, an educational program must be offered for the community informing them of how to become fire wise in their homes as well as within their community. This will be accomplished this year through the Cove Connector/Firewise brunch to be held on April 25th. The Charlotte County Fire Dept. will be there with a fire truck and educational material will be available. There has been no further communication from the Dept. of Forestry as to when they will return to do more brush and invasive clearing.

Susan: Scenic Highway Day, March 26th: our Advisory Committee has been invited to attend a meeting at Cedar Point to learn about the LBMT Scenic Highway and the Committee projects.

LBMT Grant applications in the works: LBMT is currently working with a volunteer private grant-writing consultant on a project-by-project basis who typically is paid “a small portion of the grant to administer it and provide reporting to the granting organization”. This consultant, Anne Merrill, is willing to talk with us (I would suggest reps from CCT & CERT too). Bret Clark, the LBMT Chairperson suggests we investigate funding parks in proximity to the LBMT. Their current applications include:

1. Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP)
<http://www.chnep.org/Grants/R&R.htm>
They have applied for funding to finance publication of an informational activity book that provides information on area resources, history, businesses, in the format of a colorful, engaging children’s workbook. The LBMT will arrange sponsorships with local businesses to raise additional funds.
CHNEP typically funds a) Public outreach projects b) Research / Restoration / Monitoring Projects and c) Micro grants (often to fund public outreach events.)
2. National Scenic Byways Program <http://www.bywaysonline.org/>
I’m unsure which project the LBMT group has in mind for this grantor. They require a 20% match and looks for “value-added livability component” and grant categories include corridor management, safety improvements, and connecting the byway to recreational facilities.
3. The Selby Foundation <http://www.selbyfdn.org/> LBMT has applied for funding to develop their website. A listing of 2009 awards included Charlotte Council on Aging, CC Homeless Coalition, Senior Friendship Centers and the Crowley Museum/Nature Center (computers/printers/networking.)

The Committee is in favor of pursuing funds from granting agencies. Sue Faust will set up a meeting with Anne Merrill, Sandy Slater, John McGuire, and perhaps Bret Clark to discuss grant applications for South Gulf parks development.

LBMT Committee to receive proclamations simultaneously from Sarasota and Charlotte Counties, March 23rd.

Adopt a Park Program: the LBMT Committee is reviewing the contract from Charlotte County to adopt Bay Heights Park.

Great American Clean-Up Program: March 1-May31st

Elaine Sullivan from LBMT feels it would be possible to co-ordinate clean-up efforts with SGC to pick up some or all of the section of 771 bordering SGC, prior to the

unveiling of the entryway signs. We will continue to talk as the date approaches. Which SGC organizations are interested in this?

A date of Saturday, May 1, 2010 was proposed for the clean-up. Sue Faust will co-ordinate with LBMT. Cove Connector members will participate, and a call will go out for volunteers to all the other SGC committees and organizations.

Keep Charlotte County Beautiful (adopt-a-highway type program)

Elaine Sullivan will get us the information to consider applying for this program. The agreement is for two years, 4 clean-ups per year. Permanent signs will be affixed at the ends of the adopted section. The County will supply training, gloves, vests and trash bags.

Kendall: Property owner notification of new MSBU, canal quality, Quality Mining reclamation program and seawalls were discussed.

V. Old Business: Community Plan Review & Planning for the Future

Sandy requested input from Kendall and Susan. Kendall's input is on the updated forms from several months ago. Sandy will assimilate all the inputs and forward prior to the next meeting.

VI. Public Comment: Karen Price informed the committee about the new residents packet. John McGuire informed the committee about a lot that was donated to the CCT and was being sold for funds. He inquired about clearing the banks of South Gulf Cove neighborhood park of exotics.

Roxann inquired about the development of San Domingo Park and the possibility of including rain gardens and other low impact techniques for stormwater in the new park. Roxann will provide more information to the committee for consideration. These techniques were also discussed for possible retrofit in the Linear Park.

VII. Next Meeting: April 22, 2010 9:00, B200

VIII. Adjournment at 11:25AM.

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