

MEETING MINUTES
CHARLOTTE RANCHETTES STREET & DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 6, 2007
6:30 p.m.

Attendees: Nigel Morris, Michael Szuba, Ruth Cudzillo, William Faris, Robert Schaffer

Absent: James Howarth

The meeting was called to order by Nigel Morris at 6:35 p.m.

Agenda: There were no requested additions or deletions to the agenda.

Minutes: Mr. Morris advised that a draft of the October 22, 2007, minutes had not yet been received. Their approval will be added to the agenda for the November 19, 2007, meeting.

Business:

- Mr. Szuba advised that he had again spoken with Mr. Steve Leonard, City of Punta Gorda Project Manager, regarding the sewer force main. Mr. Leonard advised that the City's attorneys were submitting the question of whether Pelican Drive is an easement or a right-of-way to the County for a determination. The Committee discussed the fact that many property owners, on both sides of Pelican Drive, have not responded to the City of Punta Gorda's letter requesting a pipeline easement. Mr. Morris requested that Mr. Szuba, Mr. Faris, and Ms. Cudzillo contact the owners in question and encourage them to respond to the City's request.
- Mr. Morris expressed concern that no one attended the recent County Commission meeting at which the MSBU study came up for discussion. He further stated that--although three Committee members were given invitations to the presentation by Government Service Group, Inc. regarding its MSBU study--no notice was given to any Committee member regarding the MSBU study discussion before the Commission.
- Mr. Morris advised that he had spoken with Commissioner Adam Cummings' secretary concerning a meeting with the Commissioner to discuss the Committee's request that Public Works notify the appropriate Committee member prior to the commencement of work in the Ranchettes. He was advised that such a meeting would not be useful, as such notice could not be given.
- The Committee again discussed the 2007/08 Work Program received from Ms. Dawn Harrison and the need for a clearer explanation of the charges. Mr. Faris advised that he had not received clarification of the material billing issue raised at the October 22, 2007, meeting, at which time he observed that material costs are estimated by the ton, but the MSBU is billed by the cubic yard. He added that, after further review of the Work Program, he would like to have an explanation of the fees charged for supervisors. The Committee discussed the need to continue further discussion of the charges set forth in the Work Program, so as to be able to address the concerns of residents regarding the expenditure of MSBU monies.

- Mr. Morris obtained input from each member regarding development of the Phase II work plan for 2008. Other than the road work for access reviewed at previous meetings, Committee members indicated that, in each of their areas, crowning of the roadways and brush removal need to be addressed.

Public Comments:

- Ms. Betty Vaughn and Ms. Madeline Popejoy stated that removal of brush and growth at intersections in the Ranchettes, in particular on Polk Drive at and between Alfred Boulevard and Gewant Boulevard, should be addressed, as a danger exists for motorists due to the lack of visibility of cross traffic.

Member Comments:

- Mr. Szuba suggested waiting to poll residents about any proposed assessment increase until the Committee is able to explain the specifics of the spending of prior and future assessment monies.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Charlotte County Public Works, 7000 Florida Street, in Punta Gorda.

Mr. Faris made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Szuba. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Schaffer

Nigel Morris, Chairman

RJS:srb

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