

MEETING MINUTES
DEEP CREEK STREET & DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 20, 2008
9:00 a.m.

Attendees: Michael Brown, Philip Palmer, John Biluk, Gerald Newell, Roxann Read
County – Commissioner Tom D'Aprile, Marty Simone, Tara Musselman, Kim
Raymond

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Minutes:

- The October 22, 2007, minutes were approved as submitted.
- The December 3, 2007, minutes were revised at the sixth bullet to read “Mr. Brown mentioned that Santos Drive is falling apart, due to Waste Management’s trucks.” The minutes were approved as amended.

Business:

- Mr. Brown said Committee members try their best to represent Deep Creek and get more for the dollar. He noted that, according to their ordinance, a member does not have to be a property owner. Mr. Brown added that the Committee values input from the residents.
- Kim Jakubaitis, President of Section 20, feels that MSBU’s are a political ploy between Public Works and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and that the Committee is being unheard. She said that conflicting information is given regarding money put into reserves for future projects and that no one is taking responsibility for the work that is to be done. Ms. Jakubaitis feels the County needs to find a better way to address these problems.
- Ron Woods, President of Section 23, said that conflicting answers are also given about the Desoto Canal, and he feels there is a lack of communication between Public Works and the BCC. He also expressed concern about the newly appointed member, who is a County employee and not a Deep Creek homeowner. He said other volunteers were submitted prior to this appointment, but they were rejected. He added that members of this Committee were told it was unnecessary to meet because of the possible combining of the MSBU’s, and they would only be a beautification committee. Mr. Woods suggested the Committee be kept up to date to be able to inform the residents.
- Ms. Musselman clarified that resumes submitted from volunteers seeking to be on the Committee go directly to the BCC, and she is not involved in the process of appointing members.
- Mr. Brown inquired about posting parking and “No Littering” signs along the roadway. Ms. Musselman said they cannot prohibit parking on the County rights-of-way, but she will inquire about having “No Littering” signs posted.
- Mr. Biluk stated there is an issue on the south side of Uruguay Drive, starting at the outfall going to the greenbelt.

- Mr. Palmer feels the pipe replacement on Newburgh Street should have only been a week-long project but has been going on for two months. He thinks the project is being mismanaged.
- The Committee reviewed the 2008/09 budget and requested that the balance be forwarded and not earmarked.
- Ms. Musselman informed the Committee that the BCC has requested more information from the consultants regarding the MSBU study. All MSBU's will remain the same for the next fiscal year.
- Mr. Brown clarified that the Committee never said they did not want to raise the assessment rate. He stated they need to increase the MSBU's money for future work.
- Mr. Brown said that Rio de Janeiro is deteriorating. He inquired how many miles of roads are in Deep Creek, to which Ms. Musselman responded that there are 67 miles of roads.
- Ms. Musselman said that Rio de Janeiro and Rampart Boulevard were recently added as Road & Bridge roads, which are funded by gas tax. The Committee inquired about Deep Creek Boulevard and Capricorn also becoming Road & Bridge roads.
- The Committee asked about the status of Tierra del Fuego Circle. A resident said that pipes were dropped off a few days ago. Ms. Musselman confirmed that this is for the sidelot outfall work requested by Mr. Brown at the last meeting.
- The Committee received the January and February 2008 Activity Report.

Open Floor:

- Harvey Goldstein commented on the actual hours worked by County employees on the Newburgh Street project. He also asked for Commissioner D'Aprile's response regarding the appointment of an individual who is not a Deep Creek taxpayer.
- Clyde Kane asked about the process of being appointed to the MSBU Committees. Ms. Musselman said that resumes must be submitted to the BCC. The requested appointment is then put on the next BCC agenda for consideration.
- Ms. Roxann Read stated she has lived in Deep Creek for a year and has always been involved with the community she resides in. She said the advertised notice read that you only had to be a resident, so she submitted her resume.
- Mr. Brown stated that, if it passes, the penny tax should be used for roads only.
- Ms. Musselman stated that, if the Committee chooses, Public Works can contract out any project. However, once it goes out to bid, they cannot request to have the work done in-house because the price is too high.
- Mr. Palmer commented that the budget is not a pre-authorization to spend money.

- Commissioner D'Aprile said that the BCC cannot help resolve issues they are not told about. He stated that Desoto County has been contacted regarding the Desoto Canal, but they do not take any responsibility for it. Commissioner D'Aprile added that he has spoken with Tom O'Kane about this issue but has not heard anything back. Ms. Jakubaitis said that the canal is a Mid-County Stormwater issue, but no committee exists.
- Commissioner D'Aprile said there is a problem with the MSBU system. He has presented the idea of having one tax rate for all residents but was told it was illegal.
- Commissioner D'Aprile does not agree with Purchasing allowing bidders to see what the committees have budgeted, but the government said this information has to be available.
- Commissioner D'Aprile discussed that the County budget is being cut by 40% and how this will affect services. He stated that he has submitted his concern to Tallahassee.
- Dan Collins inquired about who decides on the competitive bidding for projects. He was informed that there is a process in place for bidding.
- Mr. Simone stated that, because of disagreements with the current Public Works representative, the Committee has the option of switching to another representative. Mr. Brown stated that it is not only Ms. Musselman they are not getting information from, but all levels of government. Mr. Biluk feels there is animosity between the Committee and Ms. Musselman. The Committee agreed to switch to another representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Musselman
Municipal Services District Representative

TM:srb

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