

MEETING MINUTES
GULF COVE STREET AND DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 29, 2007
9:30 a.m.

**“Amended Final Version 8/9/07” Prior version did not reflect amendments **

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Attendees: John Killeen, Claire Kuhlman, Randy Roberson
County – Tara Musselman, Kim Raymond, Thomas O’Kane, Barry DeMello
Absent – Bette Lyttle, Anthony Hofstede

Minutes: The Committee unanimously approved the minutes from October 30, 2006.

Business:

- The Committee reviewed the 2007/08 budget, and discussed increasing the assessment to \$50. Mr. Roberson stated that, with costs increasing every year, the MSBU will fall behind if it does not take care of the problems in Gulf Cove. Ms. Kuhlman said that, while this increase is needed, the residents are the ones to convince. Ms. Musselman said a letter should be submitted to Bruce Loucks and the Board of County Commissioners, requesting an increase. A public hearing will then be scheduled.
- Mr. O’Kane explained that County Administration has hired an outside consultant to review the MSBU system. There are three options that could result from the review.
 1. The MSBU system would remain the same,
 2. The MSBU system could be eliminated, or
 3. The MSBU system could be modified to possibly three MSBU’s (West County, Mid-County, and South County).
- Mr. Roberson stated that, “as the MSBU stands now it is broken and needs to be abolished if it can't be fixed.” Mr. O’Kane explained that, if the money all goes into one pot, the underdeveloped communities will receive the work first, and communities that have paid their assessments will be paying for the underdeveloped areas.
- The Committee discussed the option of preserving the roads instead of completely repaving.
- Ms. Musselman stated that the cost for contract mowing, to include picking up trash, would be approximately \$16,000. Mr. DeMello suggested the community set up an Adopt-A-Road program to help pick up trash prior to mowing. Ms. Musselman stated that, if the Committee explains the cost as \$2.27 per equal residential unit (ERU) for the year to pick up trash, the residents might be willing to pay for removal.

- Ms. Kuhlman suggested that, before a letter is written to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), the Committee needs to get input and approval. Mr. Roberson explained that they need to get the increase approved and, if the Committee does not make an attempt, they will be letting down the residents of Gulf Cove. Ms. Musselman said that, due to the budget deadline, the increase needs to be submitted to Bruce Loucks before mid-March.
- Mr. Roberson made a motion to approve the 2007/08 budget. Mr. Killeen seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted in favor of the motion, which carried.
- A motion was made for Mr. Roberson to compose a letter to Bruce Loucks and the BCC, requesting an assessment increase, and attempting to secure approval from all Commissioners. Mr. Killeen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor, and the motion carried.
- Ms. Musselman suggested that Mr. Roberson schedule an appointment with Bruce Loucks to personally hand deliver the request and discuss justification for the increase.
- Mr. Roberson requested a Town Hall meeting to seek a consensus from the residents. Mr. O'Kane advised him that Town Hall meetings are unproductive and suggested informing the residents through meetings of the Homeowners Association or other associations within the MSBU. Ms. Musselman suggested that a survey be mailed to all the residents, explaining the purpose of the increase for drainage and road issues. Mr. O'Kane and Ms. Musselman will generate a draft survey discussing beautification and specialty mowing for the entrance and the center. The survey will also explain drainage, in detail.
- Mr. Roberson requested that \$15,000 be taken out of specialty mowing. The individual who currently mows the center will also mow the entrance by SR 776 and Gillot Boulevard.

Open Floor:

- A resident expressed concern with project delays due to scrub jays, which have not been seen around the area. Mr. O'Kane explained that this is reviewed and approved by US Fish and Wildlife. If the habitat exists for the birds, then the process will be reviewed.
- Al stated that he is in favor of the increased assessment and suggested obtaining signatures of residents in favor of the increase. Ms. Musselman stated this was a good idea.

- A resident inquired about a request raised at the previous meeting to seek assistance from the State to fund the entrance. Mr. O’Kane stated that money is not available.
- Mary inquired about how changes to the MSBU system would affect projects and paperwork currently in progress. Mr. O’Kane explained that consultants will present their results to the Board of County Commissioners in April, and any changes would not take effect for a couple of years.
- Mr. DeMello stated that Phase 4 is completed, and Phase 5 will be completed by the end of February.
- Mr. O’Kane expressed his appreciation to the members for their participation in the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

The Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Monday, April 30, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at Hope Lutheran Church.
- Monday, July 30, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at Hope Lutheran Church.
- Monday, October 29, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at Hope Lutheran Church

Respectfully submitted,

Tara L. Musselman
Municipal Service District Representative

TLM:mb

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