

MEETING MINUTES
MANASOTA KEY STREET & DRAINAGE MSTU ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 5, 2015 – Special Meeting
9:30 A.M. – Tringali Community Center

Attendees: Joan Dunham-Card, Kim Frahn, B.J. Galberaith, Lorraine Johannessen, and William Wing

Absent: Tommy Brock

County: Mike Dallenbach, Kelly Louttit, Dawn Harrison, Tara Musselman, and John Elias

Guests: Sign in sheet attached

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. A roll call was taken that established a quorum was present. Cards were presented to the audience for input. Committee had conversation on comments and questions received from February 4, 2015 meeting. Ms. Musselman asked for input from the meeting; received additional emails afterward and advised information and comment collection are ongoing.

Citizen Input on Agenda Items Only (3 Minute Limit)

- Betty Sue Carroll disagrees with urbanization of the area. Wants speed bump or signage. Suggested before any changes are made homeowners should be consulted.
- Mr. Elias explained why input was gathered and noted meetings have been scheduled with County Commissioners. Ms. Harrison asked if speed bumps could be addressed.
- Betsy McCallum asked when the information will be presented to the commissioners. Mr. Elias stated he did not know.
- John Minick expressed he is in favor of sidewalks; stated some of the opposition is the homeowners who have encroached on the right-of-way; suggested, as a last resort, to install an impervious walkway in the area, and said a walkway is needed for safety. Mr. Elias said whether or not the sidewalk or community plan moves forward, there will be issues with the plantings in the right-of-way.
- Mr. Frahn asked why the right-of-way was not enforced from day one. Mr. Elias was unable to speak to why it wasn't addressed.
- Ms. Galberaith asked why the road couldn't be widened. Ms. Musselman said it wasn't asked for in the original plans, staff will not just widen the road to allow people to walk.
- Julie Ouellette asked about permeable sidewalks. Mr. Elias advised we are not constructing that type of sidewalk at this time. It's a new technology and would require heavy maintenance.
- Judy Avery expressed her opposition to sidewalks, asked how many accidents including bikers or pedestrians in the area. Mr. Elias responded.
- Bonnie Littrell asked if sidewalks could be installed without concrete bumpers. Mr. Elias stated biking is an increased trend; attempts are made at constructing multi-use paths and detailed reasons for the curbing. Ms. Littrell wants a bike path and walker path. Ms. Musselman said the road will be striped differently to allow bikers and approval was given by the County Engineer to construct a 5 foot path.
- Bob Carroll said bikes are allowed to legally use the lane and sidewalks noted traveling down the roadway at 15 mph is unsafe for pedestrians.
- Charlie Lose- Frahn expressed safety concerns related to impermeable sidewalks. Stated their houses will flood. Mr. Elias is aware of the drainage issues.
- Sigrid Bowen stated bikers and walkers need to be educated on the rules of the road.
- Betty Sue Carroll stated there would be a larger turnout for this meeting if it didn't coincide with the Beaches and Shores meeting and mentioned a copy of the Beach nourishment documents. Ms. Harrison clarified MSBU meeting scheduling. Ms. Harrison stated tax dollars are not spent on private property beaches. Ms. Carroll feels it is unfair that residents are being asked to pay for items that do no benefit to them. Ms. Harrison clarified that the county has helped with improvements on the key.
- Dan Ruiten questioned how many accidents have occurred on South Key. Ms. Harrison advised we will have to research. Mr. Ruiten stated when you cause more flooding in homes you cause a mold issue. Ms. Harrison stated drainage is addressed when sidewalks are installed.

- Frank Carlin stated discussions are needed and how do we come to a resolution. Time frame for sidewalk issue to move forward. Mr. Carlin wants to drop sidewalk issues and fix the lighting. Ms. Musselman clarified sidewalk plans are on hold because easements are required by four property owners and she has been notified that the County will not be getting the easement. Redesign is needed. Ms. Musselman advised this MSBU has done the most community outreach to get input and committee needs to give direction. Mr. Elias stated input is needed for the committee to vote on the project.
- Ray Orozco spoke to safety issues, noted discussions with engineers at the last meeting. Indicated he wants something put in before injury occurs.
- Mary Wolff, North Beach Road, commented on drainage problem. Noted everything flooded when the sidewalk was installed. Recommended addressing the drainage problem first.
- Alicia Silva stated if and when sidewalks are built who takes care of maintenance. Ms. Musselman said the MSTU.
- Kendall Jackson questioned Southwest Florida Water Management District permitting. Wants SWFWMD to see if damage to the flooding prevention area will be caused by installation of sidewalks. Feels there are alternatives. Advised there are speed bumps in Jupiter, FL which is a six mile road and the devices are called traffic calmers and said this alternative would work. Ms. Musselman advised they have already met with SWFWMD and this project will not negatively affect drainage. SWFWMD has been involved with the plans for months.
- Mike McClain served on the Committee for several years; need to improve lighting. Right-of-way pavement not useable due to landscaping or road cleanliness. Traffic is not similar to the traffic north of the roundabout. Stated he doesn't believe there was any recent injury.
- Bob Carroll stated the sidewalk issue is contentious; safety is a concern. Survey he conducted with Manasota Key Association was approximately 50/50 with approximately sixty responses. Stated Board of County Commissioners should not approve. Recommended for committee to stop work on the project south of the roundabout. Wants to restart the project with guiding parameters that do not involve sidewalks. Believes widening the road may be a better option.
- Elaine asked are there any other traffic calming alternatives. Ms. Musselman advised no because other option were not included in the Master Plan.
- John stated a rebuttal to speaker encouraging new motion. Thanked the board and county for addressing a serious safety issues. Parking is an issue at the beach. Traffic will get worse each year. Should just move forward with the sidewalks.
- Recess: 10:39am-10:47am
- Rawy Shediak on Shoreview Drive will not be affected by any work. Safety is the main concern. Drainage is an issue. He provided an example of turning on Beach Road of drivers not using the correct lane. Ms. Harrison advised she has had another complaint at the said intersection and the traffic engineer is aware of the dangers. SR776 is a state road and the county would have to work with the state to get results.
- Dan Ruitter said there should no building on a barrier island. Tide dictates the water level on the island and there is nowhere for the water to go. He also stated there are walkers all year around.
- Bonnie Littrell suggested one-way of Shoreview Drive. Why is that option not being discussed? Suggested a need for a rumble strip at the White Elephant restaurant. Stated the north end of the key wants to be left alone. No sidewalks. Wants the turtle friendly lighting only.

Advisory Committee members Open Discussion:

Ms. Galberaith advised they will be discussing the comments that were presented at February 4th meeting. Ms. Harrison will send a copy of the comments to all member of the committee. Ms. Musselman summarized comments received and requested Board direction to widen the road, make it one way, or do nothing. Ms. Galberaith stated if an attempt is made to widen the road we would have to go thru SWFWMD and it would require holding ponds. Ms. Musselman clarified widening the road is possible. Ms. Johannessen said if the road is widened it does not help pedestrian safety. Mr. Frahn stated that the most dangerous area is the White Elephant. Safety needs to be concentrated in that area only. Ms. Galberaith advised we do not have public right-of-way in the White Elephant area. Ms. Harrison explained the right-of-way in that area. Mr. Frahn asked when we get to see the costs of the project. Ms. Galberaith advised when it is finished. Ms. Musselman said costs of 1.3 million were given at the previous MSTU meeting in January. Mr. Elias spoke to estimated costs. Ms. Johannessen pointed out the estimated costs report. Discussion continued. Ms.

Galberaith asked do we have a contract with Weiler Engineering. Ms. Musselman confirmed. Ms. Galberaith asked about a change order to add. Ms. Musselman said it would need to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval. Ms. Galberaith questioned do we still need to pay contractor. Ms. Musselman said if the work is stopped; no. Ms. Dunham-Card asked about North Beach Road commercial area. Ms. Galberaith stated the reason the master plan was done was to coordinate lighting, landscaping, and sidewalks at one time and thinks plans should continue. Ms. Musselman said committee could finish plans and then only put out construction for lights, etc. Ms. Dunham-Card asked to re-open issue of lights on the east side of the Gulf Blvd. Ms. Musselman stated plans show street lights on the east side of road. Ms. Galberaith asked why we can't put street lights on the west side of the road in the landscaping. Ms. Musselman advised it would not fit with the sidewalk. Ms. Galberaith questioned if the lights will be turtle friendly. Ms. Musselman said lights as designed are turtle friendly on east side of Gulf Blvd. Discussion continued. Ms. Dunham-Card motioned to go forward with the design plan and to decide once design is complete decide what parts to implement. Ms. Johannessen seconded, passed unanimously. Ms. Galberaith wants all property owners polled to get input. Ms. Harrison suggested supplying community options and costs on ballots. Ms. Musselman will meet with Weiler Engineering to get cost estimate for change order. Mr. Wing motioned for Code Enforcement to contact all property owners that infringe on the right-of way to start removing plants, seconded by Ms. Galberaith. Ms. Johannessen asked that all residents move landscaping on a voluntary basis prior to contacting Code Enforcement. Motion amended to send a letter to everyone that has a problem with their landscaping encroachment in the right-of-way. Seconded by Ms. Dunham-Card and Mr. Elias asked who would send out the letter and expanded upon requests received. Ms. Harrison suggested the right of way be cleared a couple of feet for a recovery area. Discussion continued. Ms. Harrison suggested clear off a couple of feet for a recovery area. Mr. Frahn asked if there were any encroachments that affect line of sight. Mr. Elias confirmed. Ms. Johannessen motioned to have homeowners remove any obstructions within 3 feet of the white line. Ms. Johannessen withdrew motion and asked a question on liability. If someone is walking on the roadway or pushed into landscape in the right of way, who would be liable. Ms. Harrison will check with legal and get back to the committee. Mr. Frahn asked when will results of the yellow comment cards be released and he stated he did not get answers to questions. Ms. Musselman reviewed all questions again and answered each question written on the comment cards. Discussion continued on destruction of landscape and drainage. Ms. Musselman met with SWFWMD and drainage will be improved. Mr. Frahn stated he has flooding issues. Mr. Elias spoke to the contract for backflow valves. It was put out to bid and received none. The price was extremely high. The contract is getting ready to go out to bid again. Ms. Musselman stated new lights must meet county lighting standards. Mr. Jackson concerned of the lights on the roundabout some are not working. Ms. Dunham-Card stated South Manasota and Sandpiper Key Association conducted an opinion survey and the survey indicated a need to fix lighting. A copy of the survey was given to Ms. Harrison. Mr. Wing stated 563 surveys went out and sixty were returned and small percent were no's. Ms. Harrison clarified mailings and how the list is generated for voting. Ms. Harrison advised we only count what is received back. Ms. Galberaith advised 1,800 property owners on Manasota and Sandpiper Key. Ms. Harrison advised that clarification needs to be made about the options to be put on the survey before doing a mail out. Mr. Frahn wants an estimated date of plan completion. Ms. Musselman stated amendments are needed.

Citizen Comments on MSTU Related Items (5 Minute Limit):

Ms. Littrell needs clarification going forward without getting easements from the property owners. Ms. Musselman advised moving forward with plans change to other side of the street, just in that area. Betty Carroll asked if one has landscaping or structure in the right of way or a structure will the county go around it. Ms. Musselman advised to her knowledge no structures will be left in the right-of-way. John Minick stated encroachment is a concern. Right- of- Way outward is not your property. If this is approved as decided then landscaping or structures would have to be moved. Mr. Minick stated motion presented earlier was rescinded but needs to move forward. Ms. Musselman said if structures or landscaping are in a place where the sidewalk would be then it will be removed. Ms. Dunham- Card stated she rescinded the motion but hopes people will voluntary remove structures and landscaping and she just had a concrete planter removed. Julie Ouellette stated board is not representing the homeowners. Ms. Harrison advised a ballot will go out to all property owners to get the opinion and politics are not involved. Ken Jackson he thinks the board contradicted itself. Stated existing trees the Board offered help and assistance to owners to move landscaping at previous meetings and now the board is saying remove everything. Bike lane was mismarked in the last paving and needs to be corrected. Ms. Musselman advised

landscaping will be marked before removal but MSBU money could not be used to move trees to private property. Judy questioned costs of 1.3 million and proceeding with the project. Ms. Musselman said finishing the design and then sending a survey to all MSBU property owners and compile responses for discussions. John Minick said politics should not be involved in these proceedings. Charlie Lose-Frahn striping issue was not answered. Ms. Harrison will check with Jason on road stripe. Betty Carroll stated her husband did not make it political he said we live in a democratic society. Mr. Frahn questioned Ms. Musselman about the road being striped. Ms. Musselman advised county would have to follow the law on striping. Frank Carlin asked to move the sidewalks to the east side at Little Court and when it rains water from Little Court lots will flood his property. Ms. Musselman advised drainage will be maintained or made better. Judy Avery requested the advisory board to share information between members. Ms. Harrison spoke of Sunshine Law requirements. Alicia Silva asked who will participate to compile of the information on the survey. Ms. Musselman said staff will do that. Ms. Harrison stated the Advisory committee will have input on what is on the survey. Questioned submitted change orders and wants a crosswalk in front of Tom Adams Bridge. Ms. Galberaith advised will be installed on another project. Mr. Elias advised there will be options on the survey but it will only be options that were designed on the original plan. Discussion continued. Mr. Fran motioned for Weiler Engineering to look into costs for widening the road in place of the concrete sidewalk. Discussion continued. Mr. Frahn explained reasons for his motion; Ms. Dunham-Card liked the idea of options. Mr. Frahn motioned to have Weiler Engineering review costs involved in widening the road and/or the making Shoreview Blvd. one-way south and Gulf Blvd one-way north up to the Shoreview, to include feasibility and costs, seconded by Ms. Dunham-Card. Mr. Wing will not support. Discussion continued. Mr. Frahn rescinded his motion. Mr. Frahn motioned to have Weiler Engineering look into the cost and feasibility of widening Gulf Blvd to accommodate pedestrian and bike traffic, seconded by Ms. Dunham-Card. Discussion continued, the motion failed with a 3 to 2 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 pm.

Mr. Frahn motioned for feasibility and costs to make Shoreview one-way south and Gulf Blvd one-way north, seconded by Mr. Wing passed with a 3 to 2 vote. Discussion continued.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37pm.

Submitted by:



Kelly Louttit
Public Works Department