

MEETING MINUTES
ROTONDA WEST STREET AND DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
July 25, 2007
9:00 a.m.

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

Attendance: Dr. Bill Coy, Dick Buszka, Charles Dodd, Olga Durham, John Peszko
County - Commissioner Tom Moore, Thomas O’Kane, John DeGiovine, Alan
Holbach, Barry DeMello, Tara Musselman, Kim Raymond
Absent - Connie Volpe

Minutes: The Committee made the following changes to the June 4, 2007, minutes:

- On page one, fourth bullet, the second sentence should read median, instead of road.
- The seventh bullet on page one should reflect that Claudette is the RWA Vice-President.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the amended minutes.

Business:

- The Committee received a revised 2007/08 budget and the Activity Report dated May through June 2007. On page two, under boulevard enhancements, \$175,000 is earmarked for drainage at Oakland Hills to re-design the pipes. This project will go out for proposal.
- The Committee inquired where the money was distributed that was set aside for pavers. Ms. Musselman stated that \$100,000 was applied to the curbing for Rotonda Boulevard West; \$175,000 was applied to boulevard enhancements; and \$25,000 was put back into the beginning balance.
- Mr. O’Kane discussed the possibility of the County combining into three MSBU’s. Ms. Musselman stated that three committee members were chosen from each MSBU to meet with the consultant reviewing the MSBU system. This public meeting is scheduled for August 30, 2007, but no public input will be accepted. Any comments residents have for the consultant can be submitted to Ms. Musselman. Mr. O’Kane stated that Gulf Cove is the only MSBU in West County that is not up to standards on its roads.
- Ms. Musselman stated that Tall Pines was added to the MSBU at the public hearing. These residents will start paying next year.
- Mr. O’Kane informed the Committee that Public Works is in the process of changing accounting systems and requested that members report any errors found on the reports. He explained that the County is currently going through budget cuts, which is resulting in employee lay-offs. These lay-offs will affect public services.
- Services can be contracted out, if Public Works is unavailable to do the work.

- Mr. Dodd stated that easements and rights-of-way are County property but questioned if they can be transferred to a private contractor. Mr. O'Kane stated they can work with the MSBU's to have stipulations placed into the contracts.
- The County Attorney has stated, per an e-mail to the members, that the County can accept an easement but does not imply maintenance to that easement.
- There was discussion about work needed at the dam. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the State own a portion of the land by the dam. Mr. O'Kane will contact DEP regarding this situation.
- Mr. Norbert Zoltowski discussed drainage easements at the dam. SWFWMD stated that the Rotonda West developer, who is located in Fort Myers, is the deciding agency. There is a 120-foot easement, and a piece of paper is needed to gain access to it. Mr. Zoltowski suggested a follow-up team for the dam. He stated that there are two MSBU's involved. It will be verified that the permit is up to date.
- The list of work projects submitted to Mr. DeMello at the June 4 meeting has been completed. Mr. DeGiovine stated that no request has been submitted to SWFWMD or DEP for the marked work on the list.
- Mr. DeGiovine stated that a 150-foot-deep pipe has failed between two homes. He stated that \$175,000 has been earmarked for this project, which will need to be completed in two phases. Phase One will consist of a consultant evaluating the pipe to create options for replacing it. Phase Two will consist of implementing the consultant's option and generating a design, along with applying for the permit. The proposal for the consultant is due by August 9, 2007. It was explained that pipe lining and excavation cannot be used in this situation. The pipes are too deep, which will require sediment movement.
- Mr. John Carroll expressed his appreciation to Mr. DeMello for the work that has been completed. He stated that the Committee needs to start planning for maintenance and capital improvement projects for 2008. Mr. Carroll stated that the Committee agreed last year that drainage was their number one priority. The Committee needs to establish a priority list for 2008. Ms. Musselman said the Committee meets quarterly with Public Works, but it has the option of meeting more frequently without the County present.
- Ms. Musselman requested again that the Committee and residents keep the Board of County Commissioners informed that they want the West County Stormwater increase.
- David Kelly, owner of the golf course, stated that the drainage problem around the golf course is affecting everyone in community. The swales were designed to go to the golf course. He stated that the homeowners pay taxes into the MSBU, and the money goes to the County to maintain those swales. According to an e-mail from the County Attorney, the County will not be responsible for maintaining the easement around the golf course. Mr. Peszko inquired about responsibility for getting the water off the homeowners' property. Mr. O'Kane stated that the County gave the responsibility of the easements to the golf course in July 2006. Mr. Peszko said the golf course should have been given a say about this decision and not just have it handed to them by the County

Mr. Kelly stated that, if the golf course never accepted this responsibility, the County is still responsible. It was added that the easements should have been brought up to standards before they were given to the golf course. Mr. O'Kane stated that they are trying to resolve the problem without having the residents pay for the repair. Mr. Kelly stated the water is coming from the homes and streets, not the golf course.

- Linda Harrison, a resident who resides at 246 Long Meadow Lane, reported her drainage problems to Mr. Peszko. She stated that this problem has caused rats.
- Claudette stated that the Rotonda West Association received a complaint on grates. Ms. Musselman requested that all complaints and issues be submitted to her. Claudette stated that Pinehurst Place is not on the list of work to be done, and this entire road floods. Mr. O'Kane stated that, according to the pictures submitted, the swales do not meet the criteria for pipes. These swales are filtering systems, and the State will not allow pipes to be installed.
- Mr. John Carroll stated he has listened to this debate for four years, and the residents will end up taking these issues into their own hands. He stated they need some kind of authority, and the County is not representing them. Mr. Carroll stated that someone needs to take responsibility for these problems. Mr. O'Kane stated that the County Attorney has given Public Works the direction to take regarding the golf course. The golf course was given this responsibility, and it needs to follow through.

The next scheduled meeting is October 15, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. at the Rotonda West Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara L. Musselman
Municipal Services District Representative

TLM:srb

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