

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH GULF COVE NON-URBAN S&D ADVISORY BOARD
May 3, 2016– Special Meeting
9:00 a.m. – Murdock Administration Building (Commission Chambers)

Attendees: Paul Sabin, John Paine, and Jules Feldmann

Absent: Karen Ireland and Carmine Rossi

County: Mike Dallenbach, Tara Musselman, and Kelly Louttit

Guests: Sign in sheet attached

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call of members was taken that determined a quorum was present.

Citizen Input on Agenda Items Only (3 Minute Limit)

Ms. Slater does not support the one-time assessment due to some residents living on fixed incomes, owning multiple lots or being assessed for Phase 1 paving. Ms. Slater discussed the South Gulf Cove sidewalk plan and master bike path plan. Ms. Slater would like to know why Gulfstream and Harbor Blvd sidewalks more important than South Gulf Cove sidewalks and would like the one percent sales tax pushed to fund the sidewalks. Ms. Slater feels the 45mph speed limit is excessive.

Mary Black supports a one-time assessment for sidewalks and feels sidewalks are an important safety mechanism at the main arteries for pedestrians. Ms. Black stated the speed limit is confusing to drivers when the posted speed limit is 45mph then approaching the bridge it lowers to 25mph and then resumes back to 45mph.

Pam Curtis introduced her family and stated one dollar a day for a year is worth saving a life and donated \$365.00 dollars in cash to help fund the pathways in South Gulf Cove.

Peter Watson is in favor of the additional sidewalks and is concerned about the length of time the existing sidewalk project has taken to complete. Mr. Watson would like to expand Phase 3 to include all the collector roads, accelerate the completion of the project and proposed an increase in the annual assessment for sidewalk construction with a target completion date of 2020.

Mr. Robinson thanked Advisory Board and the County for facilitating the special meeting. Mr. Robinson stated the all funding options should be presented to residents and the community should decide whether the project will move forward. Discussion continued regarding community growth and Mr. Robison believes the sidewalk project should be expedited. Mr. Robinson stated his decision to fund the sidewalks will be based on the majority and said speed limits in the area are an issue.

Mr. McGuire thanked the Advisory Board and the County for their dedicated service to the community. Discussion continued regarding long term debt from the County's fiscal policy statement and municipal bond rates.

Debra Howell read a letter for Ruth Thurber that discussed the impact of the pedestrian death in South Gulf Cove. Ms. Thurber discussed the statistics highlighting the growth of South Gulf Cove community. Ms. Thurber is in favor of the special assessment for the installation of sidewalks.

Robert Lang stated Appleton should be a priority for speed limit reduction and sidewalks and is in support of the assessment.

Amy Bentley said she lives on Appleton Blvd and safety should be the main priority and is willing to pay the special assessment for sidewalks.

Dale Ritchhart is concerned about the width of the sidewalks and stated if the width is reduced more sidewalks could be installed.

Linda Harrison stated communities are often burdened with doing the greatest with the littlest amount of funding and stated the tax base is put on residents not businesses. Ms. Harrison stated prevention education is needed and she is in support of the special assessment for sidewalks. Creative funding was discussed.

Unfinished Business:

South Gulf Cove Sidewalk Plan: Ms. Musselman discussed funding scenarios for remaining 15.5 miles of remaining of sidewalks. The options are: one-time assessment of \$320.00 dollars which does not include the four pedestrian bridges, the second option would be one contract, one RFP for design and borrow the money for ten years at an additional rate of \$41.00 dollars, option three would be a five year assessment at an additional \$75.00 dollars, option four would be assessing an additional \$25.00 for 10 years but would only include 10.25 miles of sidewalk. Option five would be no increase and continue and complete the 3 miles of sidewalks currently under design. Mr. Paine discussed the current paving assessment. Mr. Feldmann supports the ten year assessment. Mr. Sabin asked if the assessment could be assessed over twenty years. Ms. Musselman stated the term could be requested but the interest would be doubled. Mr. Paine motioned to increase the assessment to \$41.00 dollars over ten years for additional sidewalk construction; Mr. Feldmann seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Musselman advised the paperwork will be completed and the item will appear on the May workshop agenda for Commissioner review. Notices will be mailed for the

Public Hearing. Ms. Musselman will continue with the current sidewalk design and the Engineering department will be consulted to put out one RFP for the additional 12.5 miles of sidewalks once funding is available. Ms. Musselman will consult with finance to see if the project can be expedited. Discussion continued regarding the Ingraham bridge pathways. Ms. Musselman advised that no rest stops or landscaping will be included in the additional mileage of the sidewalk.

Citizen Input

Ms. Harrison asked if residents will have the option to pay the assessment in a lump sum. Ms. Musselman stated no.

Ms. Hall stated asked if fundraising could be performed for the sidewalk project. Ms. Musselman confirmed and said the fundraising monies would be applied to the balance of the loan.

Mr. Lang asked if bidding process could incorporate the bridges for future reference.

Ms. Norton clarified that the \$41.00 dollar assessment will not include the bridges and discussed a possible solution for pedestrian traffic on the bridges.

Mr. Ritchhart asked why the sidewalks are so wide and suggested reducing the size of sidewalks. Mr. Ritchhart discussed the price of concrete.

Mr. Hart discussed the ten foot path on Parade Circle and is concerned about the bridges and suggested the County take over the maintenance of the four bridges.

Ms. Curtis thanked the Advisory Board for the motion to proceed with the sidewalks and clarified the timeline for construction of the sidewalks.

Ms. Shauk stated the sidewalks are a blessing due to drivers not allowing enough room for bikers and walkers and noted the \$41.00 dollar assessment with a million dollars in interest could pay for two bridges.

Ms. McGuire asked if the Commissioners do not approve the rate hike what is the next step.

Mr. Curtis stated the Advisory Board is correcting a mistake from the past. Mr. Curtis thanked the Advisory Board and County staff for showing support for the community.

Ms. Stater thanked the Advisory Board and the County. Ms. Slater suggested residents sell the project to neighbors and friends to gather support for the sidewalk project. Discussion continued regarding sidewalk widths for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Ms. Slater stated the rate should be set higher to include maintenance for mowing.

Mr. Robinson stated the approval of the additional sidewalks could fail and discussed locations for sidewalks.

Mr. McGuire commented on the current construction and asked if the sidewalks could be opened as soon as possible

The next regular meetings are on Thursday, July 21, 2016 and October 20, 2016 in the Building Construction Services Conference Room at 10:00 am.

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The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Submitted by:

Kelly Louttit

Public Works Department

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY
SOUTH GULF COVE STREET AND DRAINAGE ADVISORY BOARD
ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2016 – SPECIAL MEETING

MEETING TIME: 2:00 PM – BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

**INFORMATION SUPPLIED ON THIS FORM BECOMES
PUBLIC RECORD**

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John Mc Guire		"

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