

February 3, 2009 General Meeting Minutes • Greater Pine Island Civic Association

The Meeting was opened by President Cathy Hendrickson at 7:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was asked for, made, seconded and approved unanimously. Bill Mantis then gave the Treasurer's report. Motion made to approve, seconded, unanimously approved.

President Hendrickson then introduced the Board including new Board member Mark Strom.

Bill Mantis was then introduced and led the discussion on the farmworker housing issue, the history of it, including the Hearing Examiner hearing held last spring, the Special Magistrate hearing from October, and finally, the upcoming County Commission hearing on this issue to be held February 3rd. To recap, the Hearing Examiner cited five reasons to deny the Special Exception. The applicant then appealed and the case went to a Special Magistrate who seemed to ignore the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommended to the County Commission that they approve the Special Exception. That is where we are now.

Over the next nearly two hours, the various reasons to reject this Special Exception were discussed at length in the context of assuring that all the reasons to reject would be covered by speakers at the February 10th hearing at the County Commission.

The consensus was that we need to get as many people to come to the meeting on February 10th and to get as many to speak on this as possible. Car pooling will be available at the Winn Dixie parking lot. Info on this will be posted on the web site about the meeting. Some individuals offered to pass out flyers, put them on posts, in windows, etc.. We will get some sort of flyer made up.

Christine Kneeland will phone Nan Summerall to find out who will be allowed to speak, just those who spoke at the HEX examiner or anyone.

Cathy Hendrickson discussed the need for more people to join the GPICA rather than only when there is a major issue that threatens the area. People were encouraged to get their neighbors and homeowner's associations to join so that we have a source of funds for legal fees when they come to. Mark Strom also opined about the fact that the GPICA is the only real organization fighting to preserve Pine Island and that people should spend the \$10 to belong.

Barbara Anderson offered to phone some of those who spoke at the HEX hearing but who weren't here tonight if we got her a list of those names.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Dave Lukasek
Secretary