

November 4, 2008 General Meeting Minutes • Greater Pine Island Civic Association

The Meeting was opened by Bill Mantis at 7:05 p.m with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes from the previous meetings from May of 2008 and October of 2008.

Bill Mantis gave the Treasurer's report.

Nominating Committee chair Lukasek then briefly discussed the December election and asked anyone who wished to run for a board position to announce their intention at this meeting or at the December meeting. Lukasek also noted that there were free dvds available at the sign in table containing hundreds of ads and articles announcing the various meetings to which the public was invited to participate in the revision of the Pine Island Plan starting in 2000, all of which disprove the contention by some that the Plan was somehow "done in secret".

Bill Mantis introduced Phil Buchanan who introduced the developers of the Publix shopping center known as Calusa Cay. Phil spoke of potential votes that will be taken of how members felt about this project. He then introduced John Agnelli, who then introduced Michael Carr and Jim Dunphy. They proceeded to show both the elevation drawings and the site plan. Mr. Agnelli stated that there was nothing definite at this point due to the economy. He later indicated that the earliest the center could be opened if it were to go forward would be thirty months to thirty six months.

After their presentation questions were asked and comments taken from the audience. Most in attendance were supportive, a few were not. At the end of the presentation, a motion was made and seconded that a vote be taken then and there and that additional votes could be taken later as well as on the web site. The result was 25 for and 7 against the proposal. The presenters agreed to return one or more times over the course of the next 18 months or so as they go through the development order process with Lee County. More specific comments as to what was presented will be made available on the GPICA web site as well as the six conditions which the developer will be asked to adhere to . Also on the web site will be one or more methods for the public to comment on this proposal, including the types of other stores that Greater Pine Islanders might want to see in that center. One thing that was of great concern to most everyone was lighting. No one wants light pollution spilling off the property or upwards into the sky. A motion was made and seconded that a vote be taken then and there and that additional votes could be taken later as well as on the web site.

Phil then introduced Val Hedman who briefly explained how a 4 1/2 acre parcel she owned had no zoning due to an expired PCD zoning from years ago. She wishes to build a small barn and outbuilding on it and it needs to be zoned ag2. A vote was taken and it was unanimous to support that rezoning.

Phil briefly discussed the outcome of the mediation hearing regarding the proposed farm worker housing. It is anticipated that the issue will come before the Lee Commission after the mediator makes his recommendation to them. Phil suggested that we have a good showing in the Commission chambers when that meeting occurs.

Christine Kneeland announced the Mardi Gras fundraiser in February and asked for help on a committee for people to help prepare and help for this event.

Glenn Roberts asked for volunteers for Charlotte Harbor Estuary water testing program to collect samples.

Phil Buchanan showed news article from 1973 in the News Press which showed a proposed ten story high rise condo for St. James City.

Motion made to adjourn by Larry Rhoda. Meeting adjourned at 8:23.

Dave Lukasek
Secretary