

Minutes of the 5-12-21 Board Meeting of the Greater Pine Island Civic Association

Due to social distancing needs, the meeting was held on Zoom.

GPICA President Helen Fox called the meeting to order at 1:10pm. Also present were Vice President Nadine Slimak, Treasurer Mike Sweeney, Directors Debbie Memoli, Claudia Bringe, Shari Perkins, Deborah Swisher Hicks, President Emeritus Noel Andress, and consultant Scott Wilkinson.

The Minutes of 4-14-2021 were approved with the addition of Shari Perkins to the attendance list.

Treasurer's Report

Mike provided the treasurer's report:

- 1) Money Market balance: \$16,760.18
- 2) Checking account: We deposited \$180 in members' dues payments. Total balance: \$3,410.67
- 3) CD balance: \$76,309.46. The CD will be rolled over on April 23 and renewed in 6 months when the interest rate may be higher.
- 4) Financial review committee: Mike Sweeney has no response from Mike Downing or Jeff Waller, who were asked to review our books from last year. Mike will call both of them and follow up.

GPICA Website

Nadine Slimak updated us on the GPICA website, which was attacked recently. She has changed the host to Joker Media, which will be providing security and adding a SSL Certificate. This will let us receive payments from members online. The cost is \$79.00/month. Paypal will likely be accepted for payment. Mike and Helen will be added to the PayPal account. The PayPal transaction fee is 2.9%, which this will be charged to the members who choose to pay online. Because of the higher price for the website host, Membership prices will be raised to \$15 for an individual and \$25 per couple. We will also offer a lifetime membership for \$300 for a single member or \$500 for a family. Scott recommended that we explain to members that we are raising the dues because of the website security concerns. The new prices will take effect on Oct 1, 2021. Motion to approve by Helen Fox and seconded by Nadine Slimak. Helen made a motion to add Mike and Helen to the Pay pal account. Mike seconded. The motion was approved.

Speaker for May meeting

Pam Keyes, Director of Lee County Utilities, has not yet been tasked by the County BOC to do the county-wide study of septic needs. She has put off her presentation to the membership until November. Helen will stay in touch with her by email.

Roger's Plaque

Claudia will check with Roger to see when he could attend a general meeting, either in person or over Zoom, so the plaque can be presented to him.

Jamie Bush, Board member

Due to extenuating circumstances, Jamie will remain on the Board but is not expected to attend meetings until her family situation is resolved. She will be able to vote on issues if she is needed for a quorum.

Bike path Advisory

Mike Sweeney attended the State-Wide Bike Path Advisory Group. About 25 people attended the meeting, and everyone seemed to be in favor of the path. It was explained that instead of a "bike path," this proposed route would be a "shared use path" for both pedestrians and bicycles. It would run from Veterans Pkwy to Pine Island Center, most likely on the north side of the road. Many of the attendees were business owners from Matlacha concerned about various issues: bikers' speeding and lack of road etiquette, loss of parking spaces on the easements, and possible loss of business if those parking spaces are removed. One suggestion was that bikers could walk their bikes thru Matlacha, although this was considered difficult to enforce. There will be several more meetings before decisions are made.

Clean Water Issues

The entire board would like to have a tour of Pine Island's wastewater treatment plant to better understand our septic issues and possible solutions. Helen will contact Pam Keys at Lee County Utilities to see if she can set up a time and date and will get back with board members. Another possibility is to enroll in Lee Cares, a free program that takes residents around to all the facilities in Lee County.

Sanitary Survey

Helen, Nadine and Scott met with Samantha Fontenelle and the EPA team and spoke about whether the Sanitary Survey App could be used to test waters around GPI. Resident volunteers can be trained on how to use the app; however, Nadine reports that the app does not do any water testing. Nadine will follow up with the team about other programs that might be useful to us.

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP)

Nadine has reached out to Jennifer Hecker, asking for the Pine Island-specific maps and graphics from the PowerPoint presentation that she gave to our general membership. She has not yet received a response.

Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves (CHAP)

Arielle Taylor-Manges, an Environmental Specialist, manages a continuous water quality monitoring program in Matlacha Pass. Volunteers collect samples that are tested for nutrients, chlorophyll, fecal coliform, turbidity, color and red tide. This data, which has been collected continuously for 20 years, is used for regulatory

purposes and is available to the public. Arielle might agree to do a presentation for the GPICA on their program and provide us with links to the long-term data set.

Proposal for a Sewer Study of Pine Island

Noel and Nadine will write a proposal that will include documentation of the areas of most concern. These should include data from the testing that has already been carried out at Tropical Point by the GPICA and Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani, and samples from the end of York Rd, Saint James City, and trailer parks such as The Palms, which are known to be polluted. Other data would include maps and charts from Jennifer Hecker and the CHNEP, publicly available data from the CHAP studies, and citations that have been issued over the years on Pine Island package plants (available from the DEP). Noel and Nadine will also contact Judy Ott, who was in charge of water sampling in our area for 20 years.

Traffic and Road Safety Issues

Nadine has written a draft of a letter asking for a meeting with the Director of Lee County Transportation, Randy Cherchie, to discuss specific improvements to sites of current traffic congestion (Matlacha; Four-Way Stop) and unsafe roadways, particularly Pineland Road.

Calusa Cay and Orchard Cove

Stacy Hewitt, Director of Planning at Banks Engineering, has asked for a public meeting at the GPICA's June 1 general meeting about the large condominium development planned in back of the new Publix, and the proposed package store to be included in the nearby shops. The Board will ask to see a site plan and a copy of the approval by County planning staff so we can review them before the meeting. We will also require an authorized legal representative to appear for the developer (who is not required to be at public meetings) to answer questions.

Kayak Launch site ("Pine Island Preserve at Matlacha Pass")

Since many of the residents' questions were not answered by presenters at the April GPICA general meeting from TDM Civil Engineering (due in part to technical difficulties with Veronica Martin's computer), the Board will ask her to return along with a legal representative for the developer (Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast), as well as a site plan and approval by County Planning Staff. It was decided that these requirements should always be included at any public meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 2:40pm

Respectfully Submitted by Debbie Memoli and Helen Fox