

GPICA Notes from Board Meeting: 2/10/21

1. New officers: President: me; Veep: Nadine; Secy: Scott; Treasurer: Mike Sweeney
2. Board Members: Claudia Bringe (?), Mike Sweeney, Shari Perkins, Debbie Memoli, Nadine Slimak, Jamie Brush, Roger Wood, Tim Heitz, Scott Wilkinson, Helen Fox, Leoma Lovegrove (11 in all)
3. Scott will bring over his box of materials by end of week. Claudia also has some, possibly. I need phone numbers for all.
4. I need to contact Leoma, Tim, 314-596-1435 (text him) and to see if they want to remain on the board. Leoma was convinced to stay on by Scott, but is dealing with cancer and her business. She could be a consultant for talking with the County Commissioners on certain issues. A good candidate for board is Jeff Waller, who led the effort to stop the Wink tower. Jmwaller333@gmail.com 262-639-1234. Shari was appointed liaison to Wink effort.
5. NADINE will write letter to Ruane. She will a press release to send to Paulette LeBlanc for Eagle on community priorities. She will (?) send a letter to the SW FL political delegation supporting the inclusion of the septic upgrades in the state budget.
6. How to proceed with community priorities: Identify an issue (water; transportation; septic; etc.). Invite the appropriate state and county people to talk with his at a general meeting, and invite the public. Ask them about possible solutions. ALSO, once an issue is live, ask people on community survey who agreed to be contacted (and who identified the particular issue) to take the next steps, whatever they are. Try to rouse community support, involvement.
7. MARCH MEETING: WATER QUALITY Since residents have identified water quality as a pressing community issue, we will invite Jennifer Hecker, head of the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Program a federally funded water quality program, to speak to us. Noel will contact her and ask her to speak about what they're doing; what we could do. Executive Director · Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) Punta Gorda. <https://www.chnep.org/> "A partnership of citizens, elected officials, and resource managers working together to protect and restore water and wildlife habitat in Central and Southwest Florida since 1995." jhecker@chnep.org
8. APRIL MEETING: SEPTIC Noel will contact our new Rep, Adam Botana, and Lee County Utilities Rep to talk about improving the septic tanks and systems, especially extending the septic system to the north end.
9. MAY MEETING: TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY. Transportation Department. What are their ideas about solving traffic problems in Matlacha. They have done studies.
10. Noel reports that Desantis is proposing putting \$100 million into the state budget for septic tank upgrades. We should get in line for this funding with the help of our new State Rep, Adam Botana. The legislature is meeting in the Capitol until the second week of March. They're voting now on the budget. *We should send a letter on behalf of the GPICA Board to the whole SW Florida political delegation saying we support this inclusion in the state budget.* Some PI septic tanks were built in the 50s and 60s. What we need is to extend the septic from St. James City to the N and NW of the island. The County is responsible for this. At the Palms, they (under old owners) dumped their wastewater into the West side. The large agriculture employers went to the Palms and told the manager not to enforce the sewage regulations, though the park has been cited numerous times. If they were enforced the trailer park would be closed down and the ag workers would have nowhere on the island to live (cheap enough to live, I suppose).

There are new owners now who have made some improvements to the park, but we don't know about the sewage. The wastewater treatment plant is near Turtle Trail. It has capacity but can't get rid of its wastewater.

11. Regarding road surfacing: on Kreamers Acadado and Sun Diet there are big houses but no paved roads. The owners would need to be brought in to any request to the county to pave them since they would be responsible for raised taxes.
12. Shari suggests that someone should write a very brief letter to the editor of the Eagle (since people read them) announcing the current speaker/s and urging people to come to the zoom meetings, citing the GPICA website for the zoom address. We encouraged her to do it. She will call me if she has questions.
13. TO DO: Secretary of State, pay \$50., update. Scott will send link. We have a debit card but "nobody knows the PIN". Sun Trust Bank: Scott will set up a meeting on Tues. Feb. 23 at 2 to go there with Nadine, Scott, Mike, to set up signatories
14. Every month TO DO:
 - Create zoom link for next month's general meeting and ex com meeting
 - Contact board and Nadine on those