

## GPICA Board Meeting MINUTES 11-16-2021

Present: Deb Swisher-Hicks, Nadine Slimak, Shari Perkins, Mike Sweeney, Debbie Memoli, Helen Fox

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 1:05PM over Zoom. Mike Sweeney shared the Treasurer's report, and Helen read her notes from the October meeting, as a quorum had not been present and no Minutes were taken.
2. **BOARD MEMBERSHIP:** The Board voted unanimously in favor of bringing on Cindy Bear and Connie D'Alessio as new Board members. Cindy is granted leave until February or March, at her request. Connie is replacing Jamie Brush Delacey, and Cindy is replacing Claudia Bringe, both of whom have resigned. Helen will ask Leoma to release her position to a candidate who can be more active. Shari will contact Tim Heitz, who has been inactive for many months, to see if he is ready to either release his position or resume attending Board meetings.
3. **STONE CRAB FEST:** Our booth was very successful at introducing many people to the GPICA. Thanks to Deb Memoli and Uni-Scape for offering the beautiful bird bath for our raffle. We now have a much-expanded email list. Deb S-H will transfer the new email addresses to an Excel sheet. Nadine will send them a group email asking them to renew or join. She will also begin to send out renewal reminders to members.
4. **GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR DEC THROUGH FEB:**
  - December 7 (Zoom only). Pamela Keyes, Director of Lee County Utilities will speak about septic conversion issues. Our purpose is to try to be first in line for a septic to sewer survey that will be done at various locations throughout Lee County.
  - January 4 (Hybrid – In person at the Methodist Church of Pine Island and on FaceBook Live). Veronica Martin of the Conservation Foundation will hold a public meeting regarding their requested zoning changes for their project in SJC. Helen will reserve the Church hall and request an IT person.
  - February 1 (In-person at the Elks Lodge). This is our Annual Meeting, where we elect new Board members and re-elect (or not) those whose terms have expired. We will start with a meet and greet that includes light refreshments, signing up and renewing GPICA members, and possibly a raffle. Next, we will have a powerpoint showing GPICA's priorities and progress over the last year, followed by a vote on Board members. Shari will head the ad-hoc committee on elections.
5. **OTHER BUSINESS**
  - Helen will draft a letter to the County Commissioners asking them to ensure we are the sponsors of all Public Information Sessions. Nadine will edit.
  - Some Islanders have complained about several hand-written "Let's Go Brandon" signs put up on public roadways. The GPICA does not comment on political matters but does encourage civility.
  - Scott Wilkinson sent an information request to Lee County and received the following information: The EWT Corporation and two of its employees, Vidaurri and Strickland, who performed the saw palmetto berry harvest at the Pine Island

Flatwoods Preserve, were authorized by the Florida Dept. of Agriculture to harvest 50%, not 80% of the berries. In addition, Vidaurri's license as a farm labor contractor had expired before he did the work, while Strickland was not a licensed FLC at all. Helen will forward Scott's email to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at ~2:30PM.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Helen Fox