

Boca Grande Planning Advisory Committee

Official Response to Charlotte County on the Issue of Sun Setting the Committee

Roxann Read, Planner II
Building and Growth Management Dept.
Planning Division
18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, Florida 33948

April 20, 2011

Dear Roxann,

On behalf of my Client, the Boca Grande Planning Advisory Committee, I would respectfully submit the following in response to the county's intention to sun set the committee in May of 2011.

At the present time, the committee is not actively involved in any planning efforts that would benefit from a delay in the sun setting. Therefore the committee has no objections to the planned schedule for such action.

The committee would like to thank Charlotte County staff for their assistance and cooperation in addressing the planning concerns of the residents of Gasparilla Island. Although there are no current planning issues requiring active participation from the committee and the county planning staff...which in no small part has been influenced by the severe downturn in Charlotte County's construction and development industry... there are several remaining challenges to the well being of Gasparilla Island that will need to be addressed and resolved in future planning efforts by Charlotte County.

Water Supply As you are aware, the water supply for Gasparilla Island comes from wells on the Cape Haze Peninsula that are surrounded by industrially zoned lands and industrial uses. It is essential that Charlotte County protect both the quality and quantity of this public water supply in their decision making. Towards this end, certain amendments to the county's well field protection section of the zoning ordinance, aimed at improving such protection, have been discussed with county staff. The committee encourages Charlotte County to continue to work with the Gasparilla Island Water Association towards this objective.

Future Development around the Causeway to Boca Grande Impacts on the safe and efficient operation of the causeway and toll booth, which is the only way to access the island, need to be carefully evaluated and mitigated during the review and approval of new development.

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Gasparilla Island Act Charlotte County planning staff must remain vigilant in understanding and enforcing the various zoning provisions of this state act, recognizing that certain zoning standards are more restrictive than those found in Charlotte County's zoning code.

As the local economy begins to improve, and new development proposals are submitted, it is hoped that Charlotte County will continue to seek input from the local citizenry on land use decisions that will affect their communities.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any of these matters, and thank you again for your ongoing cooperation towards insuring a well planned environment for the community of Gasparilla Island and Boca Grande.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Smith
Planning Consultant for the Boca Grande Planning Advisory Committee

Copies: Charlotte County Board of Commissioners
Director of Building and Growth Management
Bonnie Pringle, Director of Gasparilla Island Water Association
Members of Boca Grande Planning Advisory Committee