

MEETING MINUTES
TROPICAL GULF ACRES STREET & DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 14, 2007
10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Richard Leisman, John Quinn, Florence Strawson, Lynne Ambrose
County - Dawn Harrison, Kim Raymond
Absent - Jim Leavor

Minutes: The September 26, 2007, minutes were reviewed and the following changes noted:

- On page two, the fifth bullet, it was requested that M&O be written out to reflect Maintenance and Operations.
- On page three, the first bullet, the spelling for Chinquapin was corrected. The last sentence was removed.

The minutes were unanimously approved with the noted changes.

Business:

- Mr. Leisman inquired why the County Purchasing Department shows a different number of ERU's (equivalent residential units) than the Committee's budget. Ms. Ambrose suggested looking at the number of ERU's for a single-family residence on the Property Appraiser's website. Ms. Harrison explained that, per approval by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), the methodology for Tropical Gulf Acres was changed from front footage to ERU in April 2006. The correct number of ERU's is displayed on the Committee's budget. Mr. Leisman stated that every County department should have the same number of ERU's. He questioned how, if the number of vacant lots are different in each department, the Committee will know if the vacant lots are paying enough. Ms. Harrison stated that the MSBU Department establishes the most current ERU counts. Ms. Strawson asked why someone from the MSBU Department was not present at meetings to explain the process.
- Ms. Strawson stated that, if residents cannot find specific information on the County's website, a computer should be made available, with instructions and answers to questions. Ms. Harrison asked members to contact her if they cannot locate information on the County website, and she will walk them through it. Ms. Ambrose requested that Ms. Harrison contact her to review the site.
- The Committee requested a copy of the mowing contract.
- Ms. Harrison discussed the email the Committee submitted to the Purchasing Department, regarding mowing the Civic Association property. She explained

at the last meeting that this property is private, and the County is not responsible for maintaining it. Mr. Leisman inquired whether the members can set up an arrangement with the mowing contractor themselves.

- Mr. Leisman discussed that Carole Smith, of the Purchasing Department, was very helpful prior to speaking with Ms. Harrison. Subsequent to that, he did not feel that she was as cooperative. Ms. Harrison advised that she does not intervene in such situations and requested that members come directly to her with any questions, so she can ensure they are answered accurately and in a timely manner.
- Mr. Quinn stated that it is very frustrating that members cannot discuss anything without residents present, as happened after the conclusion of a recent public meeting. He added that the Committee does not know where to start as far as the availability of money and the cost of future work.
- Committee members requested that all open service requests for the past year be submitted to them prior to the next meeting.
- Mr. Quinn shared his concern about the pothole repair process. Ms. Harrison has informed Maintenance and Operations (M&O) that the Committee wants more tac placed during the patching process. Ms. Strawson inquired why M&O staff was not present to explain the process and answer questions. Ms. Harrison will invite M&O's supervisor to the next meeting.
- Mr. Leisman made a motion that no changes be made to the 2008/09 budget, as the Committee does not feel confident with the County's process, has inexperienced members, and has received insufficient information. Ms. Harrison advised that the County is not proposing an assessment increase. If it was, the Committee would have to make a request to the BCC.
- Ms. Harrison stated that the work on Morningside Drive and Chinquapin has been completed.
- Per Ms. Strawson, the consensus from the residents is that drainage is more important than potholes. Mr. Leisman stated the problem is there are no culverts across roads, other than on main roads.
- Ms. Strawson repeated that the ERU's need to be straightened out to assure that residents are being taxed fairly. Ms. Harrison stated that the consultants for the MSBU study are currently working on ERU standardization throughout the County. The next workshop is scheduled for January 2008, when a draft proposal will be submitted to the BCC.

Open Floor:

- Tom Strawson clarified that Committee members can make statements to each other regarding the MSBU but cannot answer any questions or have discussions. He suggested that, in order to make communication more orderly, the members direct questions or concerns to the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman for weekly or monthly submission to Ms. Harrison. He stated that the Committee presented an increase of \$78.00 to the BCC last year but was turned down because the taxing units were inaccurate (according to Deanna Southwell of the MSBU Department). He feels there is double talking and inconsistency.
- Ms. Harrison reminded the Committee that she is there to work with them and help them maintain the area's infrastructure.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 6, 2007, at 10:00 a.m in the Public Works Conference Room, 7000 Florida Street, Punta Gorda.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Harrison
Municipal Services District Representative

DH:srb

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