

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 3, 2007

A roundtable meeting of the Board of County Commissioner was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida. The following members were present: Chairman Loftus, Commissioner Duffy, and Commissioner Moore. Also in attendance were County Administrator Loucks, County Attorney Knowlton, and Deputy Clerk Mitchell. The following members were absent: Commissioner Cummings, and Commissioner D'Aprile. The meeting was called to order at **9:00 AM**.

I. Comprehensive Planning

1. The Comprehensive Plan

Tom Scott started the PowerPoint presentation covering the Comprehensive Plan portion as detailed in the package material.

(Commissioner Cummings was present for the remainder of the meeting.)

2. The History of Comprehensive Planning in Charlotte County

Jan Hancock continued the PowerPoint presentation covering the History of Comprehensive Planning portion as detailed in the package material.

3. Growth Management, SB 360, Hometown Democracy

Seann Smith continued the PowerPoint presentation covering the Growth Management / SB 360 / Hometown Democracy portion as detailed in the package material.

4. Smart Growth Overview

Jeff Ruggieri continued the PowerPoint presentation covering the Smart Growth Overview portion as detailed in the package material.

5. New Planning Initiatives in Community Development

Mike Konefal showed a short video and continued the PowerPoint presentation covering the New Planning Initiatives in Community Development portion as detailed in the package material.

Commissioner Cummings commended staff for their excellent presentations, agreed with the need for new direction and a new approach, said they have an opportunity to get back on track, the Comp Plan should represent their vision for the future, commented on the need to better utilize the infrastructure that's already in the ground, and summarized the goal is to enhance the quality of life for the County residents.

Commissioner Duffy agreed the Comp Plan needs to become more modern, the people need to become involved, suggested using focus groups, said she supported starting all over again, and she supported all of Mr. Konefal's suggested changes.

Chairman Loftus endorsed what staff presented, said he supported what Mr. Konefal suggested, agreed on the need to get the community involved, and said he felt this is a step in the right direction.

Commissioner Cummings commented on making the Comp Plan more interesting and interactive through the use of videos and other modern technology.

RECESS: 10:15 AM - 10:29 AM

II. Code Enforcement

James Dossett explained Community Development has six basic divisions; Comprehensive Planning and Current Planning are under the management of Mr. Ruggieri; the remaining four divisions of Land Information Services, Permitting Review, Land Development, and Code Compliance are under his management; and introduced Code Enforcement Supervisor Shawn Horton.

1. Community Development Code Compliance Overview

Shawn Horton gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of the function of the Code Compliance Department that paralleled the material, and reviewed some of the issues they deal with as listed in the material.

Commissioner Duffy asked what happens to the trash collected during a neighborhood clean-up.

Mr. Horton said it's a coordinated effort through the Partners for a Clean Charlotte and Waste Management is part of that.

Terri Barnett continued the PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the illegal dumping issues and problems in Charlotte County.

Tom Gravagna continued the PowerPoint presentation covering the issue of illegally dumped boats, cars and trucks; and actions being taken to address these problems.

Mr. Horton commented on some of the programs they're involved with as alternatives to taking violators to court.

Mr. Horton commented on the number of man-hours involved in residential and commercial inspections as detailed in the material.

Mr. Horton stated that as of December 2006 all available staff positions were filled, for the most part the department is complaint driven, explained with the current staffing his department is at maximum capacity at what they are capable of handling which is about 40 CEB cases per month, and commented on some possible options to increase productivity.

Commissioner Cummings asked if he was suggesting a special master process. Mr. Horton said that's one of his suggestions - scheduling a second hearing date each month but that would also mean adding the necessary additional administrative personnel to handle the added case load.

Mr. Horton commented on the last option which would be the addition of a citation process.

Commissioner Duffy asked if he felt comfortable with implementing a citation process as a possible solution. Mr. Horton said yes after everyone became familiar with it.

Commissioner Duffy opined maybe the ordinance needs more teeth in it. Mr. Horton agreed but said it also means taxing staff more.

(Board consensus for staff to bring back more information on the citation process and other options as a regular agenda item, and then discuss any additional costs or staffing needs during the budget cycle.)

2. Building Construction Services Code Compliance Overview

Erin Mullen-Travis gave an overview of the licensing division as summarized in the package material.

Ms. Mullen-Travis said they have a large backlog of cases with hearings scheduled five months out, and they are just as busy now as they were following Hurricane Charley.

Commissioner Cummings asked for clarification on the number of contractor violations. Ms. Mullen-Travis said the vast majority of complaints, 80 to 90 percent, deal with out of town contractors, and added that the State of Florida has severely restricted what legal actions she is allowed to take.

Ms. Mullen-Travis commented on the Jim Walter's law regarding single-family residences and the problems it has created.

James Evetts commented on pending legislation dealing with local jurisdictions having the authority to discipline state certified contractors but it's in trouble right now and needs local support or it's doomed.

Commissioner Duffy asked if they're having the same problems with contractors from surrounding counties. Ms. Mullen-Travis said yes, the same problems.

ADJOURNED: 11:55 AM

Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Chairman

ATTEST:

BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Deputy Clerk

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