

Community Council of Lehigh Acres

Lee County Sheriff Community Meeting Room
Lehigh Acres, FL
Minutes from April 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order by: 2nd Vice President Mohamed Yasin at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boy Scouts Troop 720

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Will Bronson, Joan Cunningham, Charles Edwards, Tod Garrisonish, Dewitt Green, Orville Hall, Bill Martin, Theresa Park, Bob Saul, Linda Saul, Diane Turrill, Mohamed Yasin, Diane Zigrossi

ABSENT: Mike Burgers, Gary Warchol

EXCUSED ABSENT: Rick Anglickis, Carol Cherigo, Ron Gogoi, Donna Lizotte, Laurie Sternowski,

TARDY: none

EXCUSED TARDY: George Kleurs, Tyler Woodby

A QUORUM was established with 13 present at the start, two increased for a total of 15

APPROVED AGENDA: Motion made Diane Zigrossi and seconded by Bill Martin to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: ON AGENDA – Ruby Daniels, President of Alva, Inc. asked to speak during Public Comments

MEMBER COMMENTS ON AGENDA: No comments

NEW BUSINESS: Guest speaker Pamela H. LaRiviere, School Board of Lee County, Dist 5. Ms. LaRiviere went over the pros and cons regarding the building sites in Alva and Gateway. She handed out a chart describing the three committees responsible for recommending which site would be most beneficial to Lee County. Ms. LaRiviere would like to see a public forum before the site selection is made and suggested Lehigh Senior High School Auditorium would be the best location for such a forum.

A new high school is needed because Lehigh Senior High School, East Lee County High School and Riverdale High School together are at 97% capacity right now. The 2020/2021 school year projected capacity will be at 106%, which is when the new school is projected to open.

The plan was to open in 2019 but has been pushed to July, 2020 because both sites have issues. She explained the Joel Blvd location doesn't have the utilities, which would be costly to put in. The condition of the roads in that area as well as ingress and egress issues regarding only one way in and out would be a problem. The environmental studies would take 18 to 24 months. The students live in a wider area around the Joel Blvd location and endangered species could be more of an issue at that site.

The Gateway location has the utilities in place and there are multiple ingress and egress options. The endangered species issues and road conditions would not be as big of a concern. Environmental studies would take 24 to 36 months because of the State Road 82 construction. The students live in a two to five-mile radius of the Gateway location. The Gateway school would be three stories, the Alva location would not.

The Construction Advisory Committee has visited to the two sites and submitted their reports to the District Advisory Committee. The District Advisory Committee will elect six members to go over the pros and cons of each site. Their first meeting is May 4th and the site recommendation is scheduled for May 16, 2017.

Theresa Parks asked if the agricultural science and environmental curriculums had been considered by the committees since the Alva location on Joel Blvd would be the attraction to students from Lehigh and Alva. Ms. LaRiviere said the curriculum had not been considered.

Joan Cunningham asked where the students from Alva and Lehigh would go if the school was not built on Joel Blvd since the projected capacity would be 106% in 2020? No answer was given. Joan also asked if Gateway had the land available to expand and grow the community? No answer was given.

Charles Edwards asked what the cost comparison is for the two sites. Ms. LaRiviere stated there are no anticipated costs. It is too early to project costs because the demand for supplies has gone up with the increase in new construction. Three separate companies will be selected to provide the cost after the site has been selected. Developing the infrastructure is going to be the major cost difference between the sites.

Charles Edwards asked how much consideration "organizations" are given in the selection process. Ms. LaRiviere said all organizations are heard, however, the most weight on the decision will come from the Construction Advisory Committee, the Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee and the District Advisory Committee. Mohamed Yasin reported the resolution from the Community Council supporting the Alva location had been submitted to the School Board.

Calendar: George Kloers investigate breaking away from the Chamber of Commerce web site and calendar so the council could have its own calendar.

FGUA: Donna Lizotte has invited everyone from the council to attend a meeting at their new office location. A tour of the new facility will be conducted. The meeting will replace a council meeting and will be held on a council meeting night.

The council members suggested FGUA have an open house with North Fort Myers and Lehigh rather than have a meeting at the FGUA office.

SECRETARY’S REPORT Motion to approve by Linda Saul, Seconded by Diane Zigrossi. Passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Motion to approve passed unanimously.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT REPORT:

Incorporation committee. Diane Turrill gave Tyler Woodby the information to start a not-for-profit corporation.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT:

Community Safety Committee continues to run weekly articles in the Citizen under the COUNCIL’S CORNER.

Library Park: Theresa Park reported the Library location is not acceptable. It was suggested by Mohamed Yasin that Veteran’s Park has land available that might be used for an ADA Park.

Orange Grove Park and Pinewood: Rick Anglickis reported the two condominium complexes do not pay water taxes at this time. Matt Caldwell is putting together a bill that would require them to pay the water taxes. Tyler Woodby made a motion to send a resolution and a signed petition to State Representatives not to pass Mr. Caldwell’s proposal. Motion was seconded by Dewitt Green. Rick Anglickis will draft a resolution. **No report was available as to whether or not the resolution had been completed, to be brought up at next meeting.**

New Business: Joan Cunningham suggested the Council have representation at the next Relay for Life.

Charles Edwards asked again to have the Buckingham Bar advertisement taken down from the Council website. George Kleurs will take it down and set up new web hosting since our site is now being hosted in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce website. Charles Edwards suggested “Go Daddy” host the website, it was voted on and all agreed. Charles will make that happen.

Donna Lizotte sent a message to the Council asking that we hold one of our Monday meetings at the new FGUA location. It was suggested we ask Donna have an open house to view the new facility – not on the Council’s meeting night. Diane Turrill sent Donna and email and made that suggestion.

New Member: Joan Cunningham presented her application to become an elected member rather than an appointed member. Her application was unanimously, she will be sworn in at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ruby Daniels, President of Alva, Inc. commented in favor of the Joel Blvd location for the new school. She stated electric had been in that area for over 50 years, Joel Blvd is in good shape and is a 4-lane road at the school site. She drove to Lehigh Senior High School, East Lee County High School and Riverdale High School and reported they were all located on two lane roads and all three had one entrance and exit, therefore, that should not be a factor in deciding which location to select. She said the curriculum should carry heavy weight in the site decision because of the pollution in Lee County starting with the Caloosahatchee River. The Alva school would teach hard core science based on the environment and agriculture. Teaching agricultural science will enhance the interest of agriculture and the environment and the benefits for this type of curriculum is needed in Lee County now and especially the future.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Orville Hall announced the Caribbean Social Club is giving scholarships to deserving students; if anyone would like to put in an application he should be contacted.

George Kleurs reported he was not receiving emails from the Council. His email address was inputted incorrectly and has been changed. Members should send emails to georgekloers2@yahoo.com

Bob Saul suggested to try to get community support via “Friends of the Council”.

Orville Hall made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charles Edwards. **MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 8:15 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Turrill