

LEHIGH ACRES COMMUNITY PLANNING CORPORATION
December 15, 2004 MINUTES

Chairman Jim Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Secretary Willard Baker took Roll Call.

Present were:

- Jim Fleming, Chairman
- Frank LaRosa, Vice Chairman
- Willard Baker, Secretary
- James Mudd, County Planning Liaison
- John Miller
- Charlie DiFelice
- Grace Parish
- Liz Eilf
- Azelma Simmons
- Colin Feng
- Keith Richter

Absent were:

- Excused - Desmond Barrett and Wayne Elrod

Chairman Jim Fleming gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA:

1. Address to the Board and the Public by the Honorable John E. Albion, Lee County Commissioner, District 5
 - Encouraged all to get involved and make a difference
 - Ensure that significant size groups have representation
 - Stated the need for the Comprehensive Planning & Rezoning
 - Matching schools to residential areas
 - To achieve “consensus”
 - To work together
 - Advised the Board to “stay focused” on what needs to be done
 - Not be sidetracked by incorporation or no incorporation
 - That will be the Community’s Decision
 - The study and plan still need to be completed regardless of incorporation
 - Stated that BOCC would stand behind the LACPC as long as the group stays on track and focused
 - Opportunity to set standards for Building & Zoning
 - Eg., WalMart in Estero (significant change for WalMart to “fit into Estero’s plans)
 - The Plan will not deprive people of the use of the land

- Albion was not surprised by the nay-sayers
 - That confidence and time should resolve many issues

Community Discussion

- ❖ Frank Lohlein – stated once the Plan is done there will be no feedback other than that If BOCC makes a change
- ❖ Albion responded – Plans are moving, flowing document that can be changed
 - Rules can be addressed and changed by BOCC
 - Need to work with people
- ❖ Robert Anderson – discussed the Land Usage Plan should encompass only the Building and Zoning Issues, that LACPC was reaching out to include too much
- ❖ Albion responded – the Plan is vast and does included many sub-areas
 - Stressed that his Staff is reporting to BOCC that LACPC is on course
 - Stressed his confidence in his staff, and of their objectiveness
 - General consensus is that the building process is representative of the Community
- ❖ Linda Carter – expressed concerns about a person with disabilities should be on the committee to address their particular concerns
 - Accessibility from bus stops and sidewalks all the way to building entrances
- ❖ Albion – responded that there is a Traffic Safety Coordinator that could be contacted
 - Land Development Regulations – do not require sidewalks to go to entrances
 - Higher standards could be something addressed in the Lehigh Plan
- ❖ Jim Fleming – expressed his appreciation to the media for their reporting on the Board and their progression towards the Community Planning; and providing the news space for Meeting announcements; and for their support.

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

Motion – approved

3. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Motion – approved with minor changes

4. Committee Report by John Miller – Beautification & Conservation Chair Address to the Board by special Guest, Charles Vavrina, Ph.D., Director of the University of Florida Extension Service

- John Miller – provided a binder with photos of areas of Lehigh
- Provided a report that his sub-committee is working towards
- Stated there are grants they will be pursuing
- How Lehigh can become a showplace, and use smart planning in our yards
- Introduced Dr. Charlie Vavrina, University of Florida
 - Provided information and offered training seminars
 - Extended use of their grant contacts and grant writers
 - Provided a contact for the training – Gene Boles (352) 392-0997
- Introduced Terry Wolfley, Master Gardener and local author

5. Committee Report by Grace Parish - Community Involvement Chair
 - Reaching out to various groups
 - To “work together”
 - To reach “common goals”
 - CAIT, Chamber of Commerce, WatchDog
 - Are expressing their interest and involvement in sub-committees
 - Stated how much she appreciated Robert Anderson and others who come every meeting, and participate, that they do not have to agree with the Board
 - That “involvement and participation is needed from all”

6. Presentation of a Significant Donation to the LACPC by Eugene and Conchita Borosch – Presented to Commissioner Albion, Grace Parish and Board Treasurer, Colin Feng, Ph.D.
 - Much appreciation was expressed to Eugene and Conchita for being the first to publicly support the LACPC
 - Eugene expressed his love of Lehigh and his desire to see more of the community to get involved and input their feelings into the plan
 - Photo’s were taken during the check presentation by local media

7. Composition of the Panel – Introduction of the Candidates to Replace Former Members, Carl Snipes and Ralph Hemingway (Jim Mudd)
(Public Comment 2-3 Minutes)
 - ❖ Robert Anderson – brought the issue up of
 - Requirements for the Board – citizen, business owner, voter? Not specific in the By-Laws or Meeting Minutes
 - Who votes on the candidates – Board or attendees?

Candidates were introduced:

- ✓ William Bracken
- ✓ Linda Carter
- ✓ Michael Fletcher
- ✓ Ralph Hemingway
- ✓ John Dixon Morrow
- ✓ Renee Roveal
- ✓ Bo Turberville
- ✓ Mike Welch

5 Minute Presentation by Each Candidate:
(Questions from Board Members)

- Renee Roveal was removed due to her not being present for the interview stage of the process
- Mike Welch – some confusion was caused due to (2) two Mike Welch’s being present; after a brief discussion it was resolved that only one had applied and the other Mike Welch left the room

- Michael Fletcher – after his presentation was questioned about his residential status – Fletcher replied that he resided in Ft Myers but his Business was in Lehigh

After the candidates Presentation, a question and answer session was open to the Board and the Public

Motion (M31) – Board voted to uphold previous decision, declaring Mr Fletcher ineligible to be a candidate on the Board at this time.

July 28th motion – stating candidates to be citizens/residents of Lehigh

Yea – Jim Fleming, Charlie DiFelice, John Miller, Colin Feng, Keith Richter, Frank LaRosa, Willard Baker

Nay – Liz Eilf, Grace Parish, Azelma Simmons

8. Selection of Replacement Members by Open Paper Ballot
(Conducted by Dr. Margaret Banyan and Jim Mudd)

- To vote from 1 to 6 with the lowest number being your top selection
- The two candidates with the lowest score would become the new Board members

	TOTAL	BAKER	BARRETT	DIFELICE	EILF	ELROD	FENG	FLEMING	RICHTER	LAROSA	MILLER	PARISH	SIMMONS
Bracken, William	34	6		3	3		3	2	5	2	3	4	3
Carter, Linda	50	5		6	6		2	6	6	6	4	5	4
Hemingway, Ralph	43	4		5	5		5	4	4	3	5	3	5
Morrow, John Dixon	26	1		2	1		4	5	2	5	2	2	2
Turberville, Bo	12	2		1	2		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Welch Mike	45	3		4	4		6	3	3	4	6	6	6
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 ABSENT FROM THE MEETING

9. Seating of New Members

- Bo Turberville
- John Dixon Morrow

10. Discussion of the Addition of a Non-Voting Student Member of the Board.
(Public Comment 2-3 Minutes)

- Was not discussed

Community Planning Agenda:

11. Report on the Completion of the Formal Application for the \$25,000 seed money grant offered by the Lee County Commission (Jim Mudd)
(Public Comment 2-3 Minutes)
 - Jim Mudd reported that the ByLaws and paperwork for the LACPC had been sent 12/15 to the FL Division of Corporations
 - To be a walk-on item on Tues for BOCC to approve the \$25,000 seed money

12. Board Member Changes to the By-Laws
(Public Comment 2-3 Minutes)
 - No discussion

13. Meeting and Visioning Session Schedule for 2005 and 24 month Timetable for Completing the Community Plan (Dr. Margaret Banyan)
(Public Comment 2-3 Minutes)
 - Dr Banyon stated it was time to seek a Planning Consultant
 - That it would be unwise to proceed without the Consultant on board from the beginning of the process

 - John Albion – stressed the importance of using the new Veteran’s Building
 - It is a wonderful facility
 - Highly desired, being booked by other agencies
 - Handicapped accessible
 - Well lighted

 - Sue LaLeike – stated again that the United Way would like to host an Open House for the Board
 - Jan 20 or Feb 17 were available dates
 - Offered their space for meetings

FUTURE ISSUES / MEETING DATES ~ TIMES

Action Needed – Jim Mudd to provide platted maps of Lehigh Acres from the 50's & 60's.

- JAN 5th // 6:00 – 9:00 PM // Subcommittee Meeting // Lehigh Acres Senior High School Cafeteria
- JAN 29th // 11: 00 – 3:00 PM // Community Visioning Program // Veteran's Park Recreation Center
- FEB 8th // 7:00 – 9:00 PM // Regular Meeting // Location to be decided

ADJOURNMENT

Motion for the meeting be adjourned - Motion Seconded – Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 10:00 P.M.

Karen Adams, Recording Secretary

Note: All handouts, By-Laws, Meeting Minutes, Incorporation, etc are posted on the website,
www.lehighacresplanning.com

and available as hardcopy in the East County Library at the Reference Desk.