

LEHIGH ACRES COMMUNITY PANEL JULY 28, 2004 MINUTES

Chairman Jim Fleming called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M.

Secretary Willard Baker took Roll Call.

Present were:

- o Jim Fleming, Chairman
- o Frank LaRosa, Vice Chairman
- o Willard Baker, Secretary
- o Colin Feng, Treasurer
- o James Mudd, County Planning Liaison
- o John Miller
- o Charlie DiFelice
- o Grace Parish
- o Desmond Barrett.

Members absent: Carl Snipes, Liz Eilf, A Simmons, Wayne Elrod, Ralph Hemingway, and Gary Kruse.

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

Chairman Jim Fleming gave the guidelines of how the meeting will be run.

ORGANIZATION AGENDA:

1. Composition of the panel. – Possible Expansion and Inclusion of New Panel Members from Other Representative Organizations. (Public Comment 2-3 Minutes)

Public Comment – Leave Board as is. Discussion by Panel on how original Panel was formed – Everybody had a choice to be nominated - Rules were set up in advance before first meeting – Members were nominated & voted upon at that meeting - Charles DiFelice agreed, John Miller agreed; Jim Fleming agreed – Charles DiFelice made a motion the Panel members stay as formed with no increase of members – John Miller seconded the motion – Motion passed unanimously.

(Motion Passed (M1) – Panel members stay as formed with no increase of members.)

2. Policies for Required Attendance of Panel Members, and procedures for Replacement of Panel Members. (Public Comment 2-3 Minutes)

Willard Baker reported that Gary Kruse called him, because he was secretary, from Phoenix Arizona to turn in his resignation because of work & family obligations. General Discussion from Public & Panel on replacement of Gary Kruse – It was decided to have Gary Kruse put his resignation in writing and any future resignations in writing – Willard Baker agreed to get Gary Kruse's resignation in writing.

Desmond made a motion (a loose motion for discussion) If a Panel Member misses 3 meetings in a year – that person would be asked to resign. Motion seconded by Frank LaRosa discussion from Public – Discussion from Panel Members – Jim Fleming stated that he had an excused absence from Liz Elif – Willard Baker reported that Carl Snipes already had 2 absences – We are now having 2 meetings a month, hopefully will go to once a month with the first meeting being the designated meeting – Desmond Barrett amended his motion to 6 excused absences & 3 unexcused absences, the member be asked to resign. Frank LaRosa seconded the amended motion – Discussion followed – Willard Baker called for the question on the amended motion – Motion passed – Voting on the original motion – Motion passed.

(Motion Passed (M2) – If a panel member misses 6 excused absences and 3 unexcused absences, the member will be asked to resign.)

Charles DiFelice made a motion to replace a member, we should advertise in the newspaper & vote on the member at a regular meeting – Motion seconded by Willard Baker – Discussion from Public – Discussion from Panel – Charles DiFelice made an amendment to his motion that the replacement does not have to come from special Interest Groups, but may be any citizen of Lehigh Acres – Motion seconded by Willard Baker – general discussion from Public & Panel – Willard Baker called for the question – Motion on the amendment passed – Original Motion passed.

(Motion Passed (M3) – To replace a member. Vacancy will be advertised in the newspaper & voted upon at a regular meeting, may be any citizen of Lehigh Acres without being part of any special interest group.)

3. Preliminary Listing of Sub-Committees & nominations of Chairpersons. (Public Comment 2-3 minutes)

Chairman Jim Fleming explained why this organization was formed – which is to set guide lines to be presented to the County Commissioners – as how we want our community to be in future, i.e. Community Facilities; Public Services; Conservation; Environment; Parks; Inter-local agreement with schools; Parks; Economic Environment; Landscaping; Commercial Land Use; Zoning; Transportation; Sidewalks; Parking; etc. Lee County submitted Boca Grande Subcommittees, which we can use as a guide in setting up our Committees. It was decided to bring back to next meeting people & chairpersons for these committees. It was also brought out that we need a good mission statement to present to public so as to get the public involved.

(Action Needed - Mission statement, Vision)

4. Record Keeping – Appointment of a Recording Secretary, Selection of a Document Repository, Member Assignee Responsible for Recording, Public Access to records (Where, When & What Procedure?) (Public Comment 2-3 Minutes)

James Mudd reported that Lee County will not do the minutes or record keeping. He suggested keeping records at Public Library. Charles DiFelice reported that Lee County does not furnish Recording Secretaries to organizations such as ours. Willard Baker stated that he would have to disagree, as he is the Secretary for the Bicycle Sidewalk Committee, he signs the minutes, they have a paid person to do the minutes, but he has other duties as secretary; the Lehigh Acres CRA had a paid recording secretary, Willard Baker was also the Secretary for East County Water Control District, but they paid someone to do the minutes. Jim Fleming stated that other organizations paid their secretaries; we shouldn't expect Willard Baker to do the minutes. Desmond Barrett quoted that Grace Parish was also nominated for secretary – Grace Parish stated that she declines to be secretary. Discussion followed – John Miller offered to help Willard Baker if he needs any. Willard Baker said he would do the minutes on the Kiwanis Computer, but he would need supplies.

Willard Baker stated that he would inquire about the Library for storing material. Desmond Barrett volunteered East County Water Control District to store materials.

(Action Needed - Recording Secretary; Records Storage)

Members – Suggested mailing of minutes;
Jim Fleming to get Name Plates for Panel Members.

5. Creation of a Lehigh Acres Community Panel Public Information Web Site (Public Comment 2-3 minutes.) Discussion – James Mudd stated that he will help to set up our Web Site & we can go from there.

(Action Needed - Web Site)

6. Information Sharing and Mentoring with Planning Panel Members from Other Communities, James Mudd will get members from other Panels to come to our August or September Meeting. Hopefully Dr. Margaret Banyon, Facilitator, should be back in town and attend our next meeting. Our Committee does not make rules, but will present to the County an outline as to how we want our Community to be in the future.

James Mudd said that we may be able to obtain \$5000.00 seed money from Lee County for operating expenses.

(Action Needed - Mentoring, Information Sharing, Seed/Grant Money)

FUTURE MEETING

7:00 P.M., Aug 11, 2004, John Sweatlock Hall, Lutheran Church.
(John Sweatlock Hall is available to use through the month of September)

August Community Planning Agenda

1. Adoption of Organization By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation
2. Procedures for Formal Application for County Grant Money and Other Funding Sources (Jim Mudd)
3. Recording Secretary, Records Storage
4. Web Site

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Open Public Comments on any Subject Relevant to the Authority, Scope and Mission of the Panel (5 Minutes) - None

ADJOURNMENT

Frank La Rosa made a motion the meeting be adjourned - Motion Seconded – Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 8:40 P.M.

Willard W. Baker
Secretary