



Executive Summary
Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting
January 10, 2014

Burt Saunders
Gray/Robinson Law Firm

Saunders reported he had been in Tallahassee earlier in the week meeting with all of the members of the Lee County Legislative delegation. The local bill has not been filed yet; it will be filed in the House. He has asked that both Senators Richter and Benaquisto keep track of the bill. If there are any amendments to be made to the charter, they should be made quickly. The bill should be approved by mid-April.

Ray Blacksmith
President, Cameratta Companies LLC

We are a Cleveland, OH-based company which started 35 years ago. About 12 years ago, the company expanded to Ft. Myers. The first acquisition was High Point Place in downtown Ft. Myers.

We broke ground for the Preserve at Corkscrew in 2011, which we designed for 441 single-family units. We're going through the final phase of development and I'm projecting to do an HOA turnover later this year. Homes will cost from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Also in 2011, we acquired the Cemex mine, on the eastern side of Bella Terra, which we now call Corkscrew Shores. We've designed it for 666 single-family units. The first phase is to put curbs down next week. Sales should start in February, March or April. We'll be creating several marshes at the back end of that property which backs up to the CREW lands. Homes will cost \$350,000 to \$700,000.

Estero Fire Rescue District – Fire Commissioner Dick Schweers

Estero Fire Rescue will be participating in the Hunger Walk on Saturday, January 18. We will be holding an open house to celebrate our 50th Anniversary on Saturday, February 1, starting at 10 a.m. There will be tours of the building and fire trucks.

Update on Bonita Springs' attempt to annex Pelican Landing & The Colony – Nick Batos

Jack Lienesch and Don Eslick were attending a forum at The Colony at the time of the ECCL meeting. There was also a forum earlier this week at Pelican Landing. There will be additional mailings to the residents of Pelican Landing and The Colony, stating the ECCL's position.

Government Relations – John Goodrich

The new Incorporation presentation will be ready for review by the Board by mid-January. I will contact community “captains” to see if they’re interested in having the updated presentation advocating incorporation. We’ll be describing the economic feasibility and governance of the proposed Village of Estero, as well as the importance of raising funds for this effort.

Lee Memorial’s application for a hospital in South Lee County has gone before an Administrative Law Judge and we’re now waiting for her recommendation. The Hospital Committee will be meeting on January 20 to discuss options once the recommendation comes forward.

Environment – Phil Douglas

The Bonita Springs’ City Council voted for a one-year moratorium on any development of the northeast quadrant of their Density Reduction Groundwater Resource (DRGR) area. There is a water task force which will be holding its first meeting on Monday, January 13. The reason for the moratorium is that a large number of people were able to convince the Council that the water issue must be resolved before any development occurs.

The Florida Land and Water Legacy amendment would dedicate a portion of the doc stamp revenue for conservation lands for 20 years. 961,000 signatures have been gathered and 91% of those signatures have been verified. This should be on the 2014 ballot; it will require 60% of the vote in order to be approved.

Community Planning – Roger Strelow

We have been going through a very intensive review of the Estero Community Plan. A significant focus of the plan is the area called the Town Center that starts north of Hertz’s property at Coconut Point and goes just beyond Corkscrew Road. The last meeting on the Plan revision will be held at 5 p.m., January 27, at the Estero Community Park. Estero residents are invited to attend.

The commercial repositioning study is moving forward. The focus of that is on the Town Center area as well as the commercial corridor on Corkscrew Road, Via Coconut, and US41 where there is a substantial amount of land that has been zoned commercial but has not been developed. We’ve been working with some of the major land owners to determine the best approach for development of those lands.

I’ve been working with others to prepare a “briefing book” for the new council, should Estero become incorporated. There are a number of issues for the new council to consider and the “briefing book” should be an aid to the council. As we proceed, we’ll be inviting participation by Estero residents.

Transportation – Jim Boesch

Work on the right turn from Williams Road onto US 41 is going at a snail’s pace.

The 40 mph speed limit signs on US 41, from Corkscrew Road north to San Carlos, will remain until the road has been “accepted”.

Chairman – Nick Batos

It's very rare that you have an unincorporated community working with developers, consultants and a marketing company, such as the ECCL is doing regarding the commercial repositioning study. We're working with the developers to make sure development occurs in their best interest as well as the community's best interest.

John Goodrich has been our Vice Chairman, Government Relations Director, and Chairman of the Incorporation Committee. John was presented a plaque in appreciation of his dedication to the ECCL.

Over the last 3 months we've asked for volunteers interested in running for the 2014 Board of Directors. We have not received any additional names other than the ones on the proposed slate and no name was offered at this meeting. The slate is:

Nick Batos	Chairman
Jim Boesch	Transportation Director
Phil Douglas	Environment Director
Marilyn Edwards	Communications Director
Howard Levitan	Government Relations Director
Bob Lienesch	Finance Director
Roger Strelow	Community Planning Director

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of officers; then the membership voted unanimously in support of the slate.

Next meeting: Friday, February 14, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Estero Community Park. Guest speaker will be District 4 Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman.

For more information about the ECCL, Estero Community Planning Panel and Estero Design Review Committee go to www.esterofl.org.

Marilyn Edwards, ECCL Communications Director