

The ECCL Report

Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting
August 28, 2015

139th Monthly Meeting
[Agenda](#)



Don Eslick, Chairman of the ECCL opened the 139th meeting by welcoming both members and guests.

ECCL Assists Estero Community Improvement Foundation With Focus Groups for Community Needs and Assets Study

Don introduced Wayne Smith with the Estero Community Improvement Fund (ECIF), a Foundation originally organized by ECCL but now an independent, broad based Foundation whose mission is to provide financial support for specific projects deemed essential to the continued improvement in the quality of life for the citizens of Estero.

Wayne reported that they hired Syntony Research & Consulting Company to conduct a needs and assets assessment of the Estero community. The next step in this process is recruiting a broad array of participants in four focus groups that will help identify Estero's unmet needs and opportunities. Wayne asked the ECCL community leaders present to distribute the letter that he passed out to members of their community asking them to register for one of the focus group sessions in September at the South Lee Regional Library.

<https://www.esterochamber.org/wp-content/uploads/Estero-Community-Improvement-.pdf>

ECCL Administrative Matters

Don reported that the **ECCL** Has been asked to appoint a member to the newly created Estero Historical Preservation Advisory Committee. ECCL's Finance Director Bob Lienesch has volunteered to serve in this capacity. Hearing no other nominations from the floor Lienesch was nominated and unanimously approved.

Don also mentioned that the **ECCL** is searching for a new Membership Director. As the title implies this office's duties are to insure that the ECCL leadership is responsive to its member communities and to

develop a program that ensures that everyone in Estero understands the complimentary role the **ECCL** will be playing with the Village Council.

Village Report

Bill Ribble, District 1 Village Councilor, gave the monthly report for the Village. He reported that Peter Lombardi will not be continuing as the Interim Village Manager and has not applied for the permanent position. The Village has hired a search firm to recruit, screen and select a permanent Village Manager. 80 candidates that have applied for the position and the Village's consultant has selected six of them for interviews by the Village Council members September 11th.

Councilman Ribble has been designated to work with Manager Lombardi to identify possible intermediate term offices for the Village and then negotiate a five year lease for the new Village Council offices.

Ribble also spoke about how the residents of Estero need to speak with one voice with other governmental agencies in order to be effective.

Finally he shared some of his experiences at the Florida League of Cities conference in Orlando last week that four Village Councilors attended and how much they all learned and the valuable contacts they made.



Estero

FIRE RESCUE

Report – Chief Scott Vanderbrook

Susan Lindenmuth, filling in for Chief Scott Vanderbrook commented that residents should have received a letter from the fire department on sprinklers – these are for new construction only. On September 15th, at 2 pm they will have a meeting to discuss sprinklers by doing a live demonstration. She reported that due to Tropical Storm Erika, the Governor had declared a state of emergency that then put's into place the steps required with Florida and the surrounding states.



San Carlos Rescue Report - Chief Dave Cambareri

The District's representative of Chief Cambareri discussed Tropical Storm Erika and storm preparation.

LMHS Healthy Lifestyle Center Lee Memorial Staff Leads Discussion of the Forthcoming in Coconut Point

Suzanne Bradach and Mike Moss of Lee Memorial led a discussion about the new healthcare services they will soon be providing the residents of south Lee County.

Lee Memorial Health System will lease space at Coconut Point mall for a Healthy Life Center. It is a first-of-its kind information and health education services storefront for LMHS. The 5,334 square foot space, located at 23190 Fashion Dr. will be open seven days a week and is expected to open by December 2015.

The Healthy Life Center will focus on health and wellness, offering services and education that will support the design of healthy life plans, early detection of disease, healthy life choices, chronic disease management and the incorporation of holistic health options/choices into daily life. In addition, it will be a destination for individuals who need health guidance and assistance with connections to physicians, services and health information.

The site will be staffed by a Personal Health Advocates and Health Guides who will assist patients in person to help navigate their health care needs. They will provide information and connect them with the resources they need to regain their health or maintain a healthy lifestyle. Wellness initiatives; including lectures from physicians and health professionals, chronic disease management programs, support groups and wellness based programs will be scheduled at the location.

Plans also call for a welcoming area to showcase the design, development and services planned for Lee Memorial Health System at Coconut Point.

Plans are proceeding for the 31-acre LMHS at Coconut Point medical campus. On September 8th, the LMHS Board of Directors will be asked to approve and authorize contract negotiations with the recommended architectural design and construction management firms recommended for the project.

ECCL Members Unanimously Support Village Council's "Village Center Component of the Interim Comprehensive Plan Amendment"

Interim Chairman Don Eslick reviewed the ECCL's two and one half year effort to plan the future development of the vacant lands in Estero's commercial corridors.

He provided the members present with some graphics showing how the south side of the proposed Village Center might look if all the civic, entertainment, transportation, recreational, greenway and gathering place assets are fully utilized.

In addition he provided a list of all the community assets that might be included in an expanded Village Center including properties along the east side of US41 from Williams Road to Broadway.

[\(Village Center Area Assets\)](#)

After discussing the attached list of Village Center assets, the members of the Estero Council of Community Leaders present at the meeting unanimously voted to approve the following motion:

"The Estero Council of Community Leaders (ECCL) encourages the Village Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) and the Village Council to include the civic, recreational and arts and entertainment assets on the attached list in the section of the Village Center south of Corkscrew Road and expanded public, bike and pedestrian access to the Estero River, improved integration of the Koreshan State Site and the Boomer/future State Park property with the historic and river access properties on the east side of US 41 and preservation of the historic properties in the Old Estero area north of the Estero River into an expanded Village Center north of Corkscrew Road."

ECCL's Continuing Efforts to Persuade Lee County to Study the Environmental, Water And Traffic Impacts of New Residential Development in the DR/GR

In spite of ECCL's opposition on August 19th, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Corkscrew Farms. This action permits the Development to the rezoning part of the development approval process.

Next the developer will ask the County to rezone the 1,361 acre site from agricultural to Residential Planned Development (RPD) in order to allow development of up to 1,325 units dwelling units up from the currently authorized 136 units. The developer present his case to a Lee County Hearing Examiner on September 2nd. These Hearings are open to the public and only those citizens who testify before the Hearing examiner may later testify when the case goes to the County Board.

ECCL will also be providing testimony on the 2nd and encourages all ECCL members and Estero residents to testify as well.

[\(Director Cangialosi's Corkscrew Farms testimony\)](#)

Esteroans Need to Tell the MPO about our Roadway Needs by September 30th

Every five years the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required by Federal law to update their Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

This update covers the period from now to 2040, thus it is call the 2040 Plan.

Once adopted by the MPO in December only projects included in the 2040 Plan can be funded from any funding source, Federal, state or local (County or Municipal) over the coming years.

On August 25th the Lee County MPO held a public hearing on their 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan. About 60 Estero residents attended the Workshop and expressed their concerns about our roadway deficiencies.

Prior to the Workshop the MPO released it's "Project Evaluation Criteria Spreadsheet and the Project Cost Estimates" ranking 107 pending transportation projects from throughout Lee County. At this time the list includes the following four important Estero Transportation projects:

- **Corkscrew I-75 Interchange...Ranked \$7**
- **Six lane Corkscrew Road from US41 to east of Ben Hill Griffin...Ranked #22**
- **Four lane Corkscrew Road from Ben Hill Griffin to Alico Road...Ranked #37**
- **New 2 lane Via Coconut Point extension from Pelican Colony Boulevard to Strike Lane in Bonita Springs...Ranked #87**

The only Estero project that has widespread community support and is not included in the 2040 Plan is:

The 4 laning of Williams Road from US41 to Three Oaks Parkway

Once the Hertz Global Headquarters begins operations later this year and the future development of the Village Center area gets underway the need for this improvement will become more and more evident and should be promoted with the MPO now.

This information was provided to all 3,400 Estero households on the ECCL email list prior to the Workshop.

The **Lee Metro Planning Organization (MPO)** is conducting a survey this month (up to September 30th) asking Lee County residents to tell them which projects you think would make the biggest difference in getting around Lee County, now and in the future. If we are to improve the ranking of our project and add the Williams Road project you need to complete the following brief survey as soon as possible...

[Take the MPO transportation survey on what you would like to see in Estero's future.](https://lee2040.metroquest.com/)
<https://lee2040.metroquest.com/>

Finance Report

Financial Statements for the month ending July 30th 2015

The July financial statements are attached to the meeting agenda link at the beginning of this report.

Community Planning Report

Here is a quick recap of the Development Process in the new Village of Estero. Two boards have been designated to review projects and forward their recommendations to the Village Board for its consideration and final approval or rejection. [Read more.....](#)

Communications Report

We continue to put an emphasis on improving communication efforts with our audience to enhance everyone's **ECCL** experience. A task force was created to assist in new ideas and to help with various objectives.

[Some of the projects in process are:](#)

ECCL Mission Statement

ECCL's Mission..... is to Help Estero Residents to be informed and to Get Involved in Village, County, Regional and State Issues that Impact the Community!

Next meeting: **10 a.m., Friday, September 25th, 2015**, at the **Estero Community Park**, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. Please remember to check the website for any last minute changes to the schedule.

Barbara Saxton
ECCL Communications Director