

Executive Summary
Estero Council of Community Leaders Meeting
April 11, 2014

Sarah Owen
President and CEO, Community Foundation of Southwest Florida

The Community Foundation of Southwest Florida, which has been in operation for 38 years, investigates actions that can be made individually, corporately and collectively to create change for the common good.

The Foundation works with individuals wanting to make charitable contributions, whether the donor has specific groups they want to support or who are looking to the Foundation to identify groups and areas where investment is needed.

The Foundation, which made a 17% return on investment last year, normally spends only the donation interest and not the principal unless otherwise designated.

They work with non-profit groups that are focused on economic development, education and the arts. The Foundation helps them by identifying the community's needs, collecting data on those needs and then empowering that need with information and funding to make change. They work with those non-profits to make sure they are making an impact with the money that is raised.

To learn more about the Foundation, go to www.floridacommunity.com



Status of Incorporation Bill – Nick Batos

The Estero Incorporation Bill passed unanimously through the State Affairs Committee, which is the last Committee before it goes to the Floor. The entire process should be completed by the end of April.

Bonita Springs' Annexation Activities – Howard Levitan

The map of our southern border is still a work in progress but should be completed by our state Legislature by the end of next week.

Incorporation Outreach – John Goodrich

To date there have been 10 Incorporation Referendum presentations with approximately 700 – 750 people in attendance. There is a presentation scheduled at the Estero Community Park at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 24. These presentations will continue, once a month, through the summer. Those wishing to have a presentation in their community should contact John at johnbarbgoodrich@comcast.net.

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS – Don Eslick

The Commercial Corridor Repositioning Study was initiated a year ago to determine how to get the 1,000 acres of vacant commercial lands developed and developed according to Estero's high standards. Three different areas have been targeted for future development. The Town Center area, north of the Hertz property and centered around Corkscrew Road and US41, includes 350 vacant acres of land which is ready to be developed. The second area is the medical or healthcare area, located near the Lee Memorial Health System's property. The third area is a group of properties around the intersection of I-75 and Corkscrew Road, close to the Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). The biggest property there is University Highlands, adjacent to the arena.

The Lee Memorial Health System decided that efforts to overcome the opposition of the Agency for Health Care Administration and Naples Community Hospital were probably futile at this time. Here is a statement from Lee Memorial:

“The ECCL leadership and Lee Memorial Health System leadership have committed to collaborate on developing a shared vision which would focus on creating a destination health neighborhood including a consumer-retail oriented healthcare experience that is clinically coordinated and balances medical and support facilities, programs and services. The purpose is to keep people well and reduce the need for repair center medicine.

“This shared vision would include, but not be limited to, developing non-hospitalization programs intended to prepare for population health management, including health and wellness, home health telemonitoring, telemedicine, clinical navigators to help deal with fragmentation of care, growing primary care and certain specialty care programs, chronic care management, behavioral health and senior services.”

The ECCL will be working with Lee Memorial and all the landowners in this vicinity to develop a plan for the development of that area as a full-service, 21st century healthcare delivery system.

Lee Public Voice is a network of civic, planning and environmental groups throughout Lee County. The group is sharing information and developing positions where we speak together and have some influence on County government so that they are cognizant of the needs of the community and not overly influenced by special interest contributions.

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR – Phil Douglas

It appears the Lee County Board of County Commissioners will not push for a Conservation 2020 referendum until 2016. The 2020 advisory committee has been “reinvented” with different people. They will be looking at additional issues, including water management.

The River Hall development was originally approved for 1999 units. The developer, Green Pointe, asked to increase the density by 1000 additional units. This had been turned down by the County Commissioners four different times. There was a mediated agreement to expedite this request which passed by a vote of 3 – 2 at the April 1 BOCC meeting. This will probably be challenged by the residents of Alva. This has a serious negative effect on local community plans. This could also set a precedent for mining applications. This is another reason why it’s critical Estero become a municipality in order to have local control.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR – Howard Levitan

The ECCL has set a number of goals for the transition period and the future Village of Estero. The primary goal is maintaining and enhancing the community’s quality of life. Other goals include encouraging public participation; high-quality, sustainable development; fiscally responsible government, building solid reserves and always balancing the budget; and protecting the environment and water resources.

In 2013, the state Legislature gave citizens the right, through a new Florida statute, to participate in and debate about local issues of concern. The ECCL strongly supports this right. There are new forms of dialog including social media and internet techniques which can help the public and our elected officials foster participation. The ECCL will be proposing the Village of Estero Council create a Public Participation Advisory Board whose only task will be to recommend ways to raise public participation and engagement.

TRANSPORTATION – Jim Boesch

The BOCC has approved the award of a \$167,184 contract for construction of a right turn lane from Estero Parkway onto southbound Three Oaks Parkway. Construction is scheduled to start in May and is expected to take five months to complete. Bill Williams, Transportation Committee, helped bring this project to fruition.

COMMUNITY PLANNING – Roger Strelow

Many old-growth trees have been leveled at the site of a new development at the southwest corner of Three Oaks Parkway and Corkscrew Road called Estero Place. When the developer came before the Estero Community Planning Panel and the Estero Design Review Committee, it was recommended that the developer retain as many of those trees as possible, especially at the intersection. At this point, it’s not known whether the County did not support that recommendation. The ECCL will be further investigating this issue.

The ECCL has been working closely with the County code enforcement staff to enforce Estero’s strict signage code, with particular attention to pennants and flags. These types of signs are usually associated with new, small businesses which are unaware of Estero’s strict signage

restrictions. The ECCL will start working with the Estero Chamber of Commerce to help announce some of these new, small businesses through the ECCL website and local media.

The Estero Community Plan has gone to the County for approval.

Next meeting: Friday, May 9, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Estero Fire Rescue, 21500 Three Oaks Parkway. The guest speakers will be Fire Commissioner Dick Schweers and Assistant Fire Chief Mark Wahlig. There also will be a tour of the Estero Fire Rescue Building and equipment.

For more information about the ECCL, go to www.EsteroToday.com.

Marilyn Edwards, ECCL Communications Director