

ECCL meeting Dec. 14
Estero Community Park
Attendance: 59

Membership: Linda Tecco-Roach

22 communities have updated their contact information. If yours hasn't, please do, for both the representative and the alternate.

Mayor Nick Batos gave the Village report.

- Village offices will occupy the building at the entrance to the park in March. Until then, Village administration will remain in the Estero Fire Rescue building. The Community Development and Permitting offices are in the former Bonita Bay Group office building on Coconut Road. They are open now and will remain there.
- Calvin, Giordano & Associates (CG&A), the firm the Village has contracted to handle all their land use services has hired 5 or 6 people who are located at the Coconut Road office and will hire 5 or 6 more to be brought on board Jan. 1 when the Village takes over responsibility for permitting from Lee County.
- CG&A now also has a code compliance officer at this location. To reach that office, call 239-221-5036. That is a temporary number for the entire staff in the Coconut Road building. The number will change in March when the rest of the Village officials get new numbers.
- The Village began the present fiscal year on October 1st with a little less than \$1 million surplus. Each of the next five years should result in a \$5 million surplus while providing the same level of services. Only changes related to inflation are included in these estimates.
- The Village has started to develop its first capital improvement program but doesn't plan on spending any money for these items until it's clear what citizen priorities are.
- Consultants at FGCU have been hired to study the condition of the community's roads, shoulders, bike paths, medians, where signs are located, etc. and will have an inventory completed by mid-January for presentation to the council. Town hall meetings will be



scheduled for March or April for the citizens of Estero to tell the Village what their priority repair and replacement projects should be.

- A traffic study should be complete by March. The existing traffic counters seem to be very out of date, from 2, 3, even 4 years old. Batos has learned that there are 6 locations in the village that have permanent traffic counters embedded in roadways.
- About speeding, Mayor Batos met with Lee County Sheriff who is cooperative and believes it his department's job to identify and solve these problems. Four roads have been identified as the busiest and most problematic and therefore need to be studied first. They are Corkscrew Road, Three Oaks Parkway, Estero Parkway and U.S. 41. But Batos said the Sheriff's department believes the problem as not as bad as people have estimated. If the Sheriff's department can't handle these problems the Village will hire an officer.
- Planning for the Village Center will be a public/private partnership. The Village is trying to incentivize the landowners and developers to make it financially attractive to build this area the way that the Village prefers.

Estero Fire and Rescue reported a 13 percent increase in its call volume so far this snowbird season. Last year it experienced a 4 percent increase in volume during season.

Jan. 16 is Walk at Miromar for Harry Chapin Food Bank. Please support the Fire District's Firefightin' Irish team. They have already raised \$1,000. They are asking each family to donate \$20. Please make your check out to Harry Chapin Food Bank and send it to Estero Fire Rescue.

Don Eslick: There are 4 topics on which ECCL wants community input.

Community Planning: Only 5 percent of the land in Estero is vacant and undeveloped. The Village's discussion with the Village Center developers have all been private meetings with no opportunity for public input. This is not how public business in Estero has been conducted. The ECCL has discussed with the members of the Village Council, the Mayor and the Village Manager how the public might begin to participate in this important decision-making process.

Bearing in mind that developers typically are responding to current market forces the Village, like the community, typically has a long-term view. In support of the Village there are two things ECCL can do:

1. Hold workshops that will provide public input about what the community foresees for the Village Center.
2. Conduct surveys of Estero public opinion with the help of an accomplished, retired market researcher in Estero. One of the Village's contract planners, Seth Harry, has asked if that tool might be available to help them in the Village Center planning process. We have a draft of a survey we've been working on.

Several people spoke about not knowing the nature of the negotiations and what agreements were being made with the developers – not the way they'd like to see this being done.



Beverly McNelis moved, Corey Gessler seconded. Appoint executive board to come up with a survey in a timely fashion followed by workshops.

Vote was Unanimous.

Bonita High School

Fred Forbes, retired architect and engineer, talked about the three sites the school board is currently looking at for a high school in Bonita Springs. Although one involves Conservation 2020 land, the section of that property that might be used it is the highest and driest part of the site.

Following Forbes' presentation, Jerry Masters moved, Eileen Galvin seconded holding the issue of the Bonita High School location in abeyance for later discussion. The resolution passed at the last meeting about not building in a 20/20 zone has been tabled since ECCL did not have all the necessary information when that decision was made.

Motion passed unanimously.

Environmental

Peter Cangialosi: Corkscrew Farms: Rezoning to 10 times higher density residential development approved Nov. 18 by Lee County Commission. Vote was 4 to 1 by with Commissioner Frank Mann voting against.

Corkscrew Crossing: no action since Water Management sent letter with concerns to developer.

Concerned about Big Cypress drilling. We're asking for an environmental impact study. More to come on this.

Transportation

Residents are urged to attend the MPO meeting Friday, Dec. 18 at which time it will adopt the 2040 plan. We need to protect the four-laning of Corkscrew Road, make sure the CR951 isn't part of the 2040 needs plan and other issues. ECCL advocacy has been very effective with MPO issues, so keep it up.

Healthy Life Center

Lee Memorial's Healthy Life Center is now open at Coconut Point on Fashion Drive just north of Dillard's. LMHS is willing to send health officials to communities for presentation on healthcare issues of importance to those communities.

Finance

Bob Lienesch reported that ECCL spent \$100 in support of Light Up Estero.

There is \$36,000 in the bank.

Jim Tatoes was elected to replace Bob Lienesch on the ECIF board.