

## **ECCL Report: July 12, 2019**

*Executive Summary: 185th meeting of the Estero Council of Community Leaders*



- **ECCL Reorganization:** Membership unanimously approved the ECCL new organization structure and bylaws. The new structure includes a Board of Directors, with 9 appointed members that will jointly oversee the activities of the organization. The 5-member Executive Management Team (EMT) comprised of President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Membership Development Officer, and Chief Communications Officer will manage the day to day activities of the ECCL. And, the 6 Advocacy Council Chairs and their committees will focus on issues and advancements in Transportation, Health, Education, Community Development, Environmental, and Arts / Entertainment that impact residents and the Estero area.
- **Estero River Monitoring** – the Village Council is partnering with Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) to conduct a 15-month study to provide water quality monitoring and bacteria/nutrient source identification services on the Estero River. The tidal section of the river has been identified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as impaired for dissolved oxygen and bacteria. A sampling of the river will start near Country Creek and go downstream to Estero Bay.

The next ECCL meeting will be **Friday, August 9, 2019**, at 10:00 am at Estero Community Park.

### **WELCOME**

- First-time attendees included residents from Bella Vista, Fountain Lakes, and the Lee County School Board.

## ESTERO FIRE RESCUE

- *Chief Vanderbrook, Estero Fire Rescue*

- **Budget Workshop held July 9, 2019** – it was recommended that the current millage rate be maintained. The budget includes funding for Station 45 and 3 new hires (1 replacement, 2 new positions)
- **Call Volumes** -continue to increase. Over the past 10 years, calls have gone up 57%
- **Hurricane Preparation Presentations** -  
Contact EFR to set up community presentations
- **Board Commissioner Retiring** – it was announced that after 22 years of service, Commissioner Dick Schweers will be retiring.

## SAN CARLOS PARK FIRE RESCUE

- *Alexis Rothring, San Carlos Park Fire Rescue (SCPFR)*

- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade** – the parade was a great success with over 3,000 people lining the parade route.
- **Hurricane Preparation** – if there is a hurricane threat, SCPFR will have sand available. They will not provide bags, so it is recommended that residents purchase sandbags early. They can be ordered online. SCPFR will conduct a hurricane preparedness seminar at Estero Country Club on 7/24. Contact SCPFR to set up a seminar in your community.
- **Call Volumes** – 319 calls in June 2019, an increase of 7.7%

## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

- *Chris Patricca, Vice Chair*

- **The Students** – children are the focus of the Lee County School Board. With 96,000 students in 120 schools and a 91% graduation rate, Lee County has the 9<sup>th</sup> largest enrollment in Florida.
- **Village of Estero / School District Partnership** - Councilmember Nick Batos is a key driver of this partnership and the vision of the Estero Education Campus which will include an elementary and middle school in addition to the high school. Through this partnership, Lee County School Board will make sure school placement works with Village infrastructure.
- **Change for Change** – the half-cent sales tax that was widely approved by voters is an investment in education that helps pay for new schools, renovation and maintenance, technology upgrades and enhancements to campus safety and security.
- **State Controls Lee County Schools Millage Rate** – the state sets spending requirements for the School District including the rate the District must spend and on what. The state also sets the per student station costs.
- **Member Questions** –
  - Placement of new schools was questioned. (Q.) Why are these schools going to be built in the Education Village vs. east where the population is growing? (A.) A key

factor is the School District owns the ground on Williams Road and does not own ground east of I75.

- DRGR – one attendee mentioned that since we do not support building in the DRGR, we should not support building infrastructure, such as schools, in the DRGR.

## VILLAGE REPORT

- *Councilmember Nick Batos*

- **Education Campus** – as mentioned above, the Village is working with Lee County Schools to develop an Education Campus around Williams Rd, Via Coconut Point, River Ranch Rd, and Block Ln for new elementary, middle and K-8 schools. The Village will contribute the infrastructure and roads for the campus.
- **Estero River Monitoring Contract signed with Florida Gulf Coast University** – this 15-month study seeks to identify the source of the river’s pollution. The tidal section of the river is impaired. FGCU will conduct water quality monitoring within this section of the river to identify the source(s) of the impairments. A sampling of the river will start near Country Creek and go downstream to Estero Bay, allowing sampling in both the wet and dry seasons.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan** – the MPO conducted a significant Bike and Ped study for the Village of Estero. The Plan includes many recommendations and while implementing all recommendations may not be practical, prioritizing these projects is the first step towards implementation.
- **2019-2020 Budget Review** – Budget Workshop was held 7/10/19. Councilmember Batos provided an overview of the Village’s purposed General Fund Budget and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Specific CIP projects were highlighted including project budgets and funding sources.
- **Other efforts underway in the Village**
  - Refurbishing of Estero Parkway to start October 2019 and last 1 year.
  - US 41 median landscape to start Sep 2019 and last 6 months.
- *Learn more about what’s happening with the Village Council on their website:*  
<https://estero-fl.gov>

## BOARD ACTIONS

### ECCL Board of Directors - 2019 LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

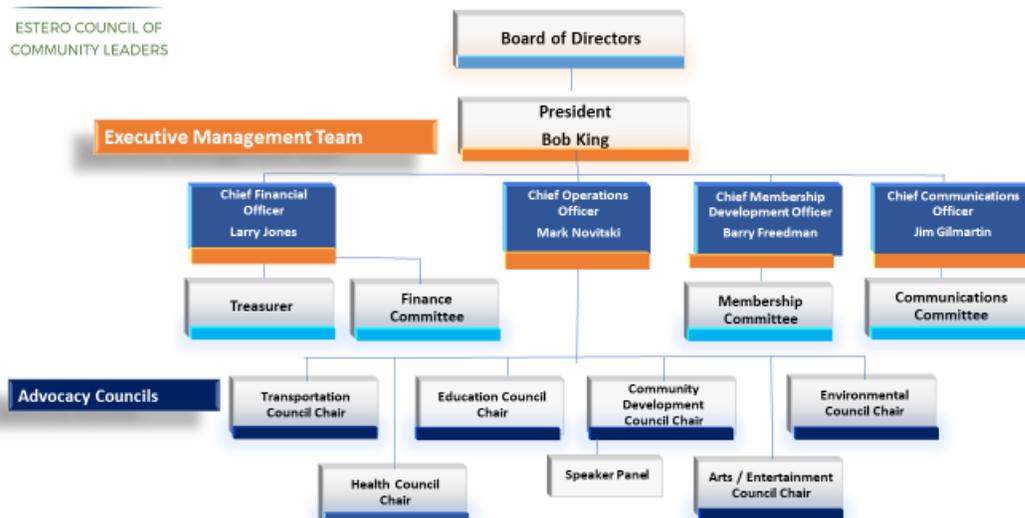
- *Linda Tecco-Roach for Bob King*

- **New ECCL Organization Structure** - was reviewed during the May and June meetings. Current Board of Directors approved the new organization structure on June 7, 2019. As outlined in the organization chart below, the new structure includes:

- **Board of Directors** – like corporate boards, the purpose of the ECCL Board is to oversee the ECCL's affairs and participate in fund raising. This “outside” Board will be comprised of 9 individuals. Three of the new Board members being considered are former ECCL leaders.
- **Executive Management Team (EMT)** – the new EMT will be comprised of 5 individuals:
  - President – **Bob King**
  - Chief Operating Officer – **Mark Novitski**
  - Chief Financial Officer – **Larry Jones**
  - Chief Membership Development Officer – **Barry Freedman**
  - Chief Communications Officer – **Jim Gilmartin**
- **Advocacy Councils** – will include Transportation, Health, Education, Community Development, Arts / Entertainment, and Environmental.



## ECCL Organization Chart



BOD Approved 6/7/19

- **To Fully Implement the new organization structure**, the following actions were taken:
  - Bylaw amendments were provided to all Member Community Representatives and Alternates
  - Member Voting – Representatives attending the July meeting voted on the Bylaw changes, the new organization structure and the new Executive Management Team (EMT) members. Member Alternates were eligible to vote in the event their Representative was not present.
  - A motion from the floor to adopt the proposed changes was made and seconded.

- The new organization structure, bylaws, and EMT members were unanimously approved.
- **Selecting the New Board of Directors**
  - The selection committee has identified 9 candidates and is scheduling meetings with candidates to establish interest and compatibility with ECCL goals and objectives.
  - The full slate will be presented when all slots are filled.

## COMMUNITY INPUT

### River Oaks Preserve at Village of Estero

– *Doug and Barbara Saxton*

- Doug and Barbara asked that the ECCL help save this 10-acre natural area preserve located at 9541 East Broadway Avenue, along the Estero River. This property is a link in the natural buffer protection of the water quality of the Estero River as it flows through Koreshan State Park, into Estero Bay and on into the Gulf of Mexico.

The Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast is working with the Estero community to permanently protect this piece of “Old Florida”. To learn more visit

<https://conservationfoundation.com/river-oaks-preserve-at-village-of-estero/>

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

- Membership Director *Barry Freedman*

- We are happy to report that ***Bonita Bay Community Association*** is our newest member of the ECCL. Bonita Bay feels that their concerns and goals related to the environment, infrastructure, health care, etc. aligned with those of the ECCL and it was a natural fit for them to join our organization. As the ECCL restructures and expands the focus beyond the Village of Estero, we look forward to working with Bonita Bay and other community members in the Estero area.

**Welcome to Bonita Bay Community Association!**

- Interested in being a member of the **Membership Committee?** Contact Barry at [ecclmshp@gmail.com](mailto:ecclmshp@gmail.com).

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

- *Don Eslick & Linda Tecco*- Roach for Transportation Director *Bob King*

- **Corkscrew Rd and more traffic**
  - No drop-in “off-season” traffic, even with schools out.

- East Corkscrew Rd development “The Place” is 50% sold out with 660 units. Sales are ahead of schedule and build-out could occur before road widening is complete.
- Cameratta Companies announced their acquisition of the Pepperland Ranch and Verdana properties, combining them into one project of 2,138 housing units.
- 573 acres East of Pepperland Ranch ripe for development which could equate to even more traffic
- 4 lane Corkscrew cannot come fast enough based on current development pace
- **Lee County Comp Plan Amendment Limerock Mining - Approved**
  - Over objections of many elected officials and residents, the amendment was adopted by the Lee County Board.
  - The Estero Republican Party hosted a discussion between Lee County Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass and Estero Councilmember Nick Batos on the impact of the adopted Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Commissioner Pendergrass indicated he will never approve a mine that would impact adjacent residential homeowners.
  - The approval process by the Hearing Examiner has been made easier by this amendment.
- **A Lee County Hearing Examiner Recommends Troyer Brothers Mine Approval** - Troyer Brothers property is over 1,700 Acres. The mine pit will be 781 acres, 110 feet deep and 2,000 feet from residences. The mine will operate for 30 years and is planned to start in 2025.
- **Next Transportation Meeting:** August 15, 2019, 9:30 a.m., FineMark Bank, Coconut Rd.

## FINANCE & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Assistant Treasurer *Larry Jones*

- **Summary Financial Report**
  - June ended with a total revenue of \$970 and \$3,047 in expenses resulting in an excess of expenses over income of \$2,076 for the month
  - June’s Database expansion expense was \$1,400, the e-mail database increased to 17,000 Estero households
  - Year-to-Date Excess of Revenue Over Expenses: \$3,206
  - June 30 Cash Balance: \$10,080
- **Establishment of relationship with Southwest Florida Community Foundation** is complete
- **Donation Plan** – Year to date donations are over \$2,500 and we will continue to look for ways to enhance this revenue stream
- **Re-establishment of Finance Committee** – those interested should contact Larry Jones at [Lawrence1020@aol.com](mailto:Lawrence1020@aol.com).
- *For more details, you can view the full financial statements at the ECCL website:* <http://esterotoday.com/reports/meetings-minutes>

## HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

- Health Director, Lowell Gerson

- **Health Committee is working on:**
  - Participation in Evidence Based Fall Prevention. Falls continue to be the #1 type of accident, followed by car and bike accidents.
  - Increase physical activity –Million Mile Movement
  - Increase bicycle safety
  - Working on “Safe Community” designation
- **Lee Health’s 82 Bed Hospital:** Announcement should be forthcoming in Oct/Nov 2019
- **Next Health Meeting:** August 23, 2019, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm, LHCP
- *Learn more about the ECCL’s Health Committee at the ECCL’s website:*  
<http://esterotoday.com/about-eccl/eccl-hospital-committee>

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

- Planning Director *Jim Tatoes*

- **Community Updates**
  - Estero Grande making great progress, construction will be starting soon on the Sprouts Market
  - Construction is also starting soon on an Aldi Grocery Store
  - Landscaping on the Via Coconut median strip west of Genova is underway
  - **P&Z Board meeting July 19, 2019**
- **New Members Welcome** - Anyone interested in joining the Community Planning Committee should contact Jim at [jetatoes@prodigy.net](mailto:jetatoes@prodigy.net)

## EDUCATION OUTREACH COUNCIL (EOC) REPORT

- Council Chair *Jeremy Jasper, M. Ed*

- **Incoming Chair** – Jim Shields introduced new Council Chair, Jeremy Jasper. Jeremy a former educator, is Chief Operating Officer of NavaED, a company that assists teachers with certification.
- Under Jeremy’s leadership, the EOC will focus on Junior Achievement, Estero area schools/Community involvement, Florida Gulf Coast University and Adult Education.
- **Junior Achievement Successes:**
  - JA Our Nation Program - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at Estero-area Schools, Pinewoods Elementary and Three Oaks Elementary. 93.17% of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students responded favorably about the JA Program after completion of the five sessions in “JA Our Nation” Program.
  - JA “Economics for Success” Program - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Three Oaks Middle School. 71.08% of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students responded, “Junior Achievement connected what I learned in the classroom with real-life”.

- JA “Career Success” Program - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Estero High School. 91.8% of 11<sup>th</sup> Grade students said, “I would recommend this JA Program to a friend”. After completion of this seven-lesson plan Program, 83.82% of 11<sup>th</sup> Grade students said, “I will set goals for my future.”
- *Learn more about the EOC on the ECCL website:*  
<https://esterotoday.com/educationoutreach-council>

**Please join us for the next ECCL meeting, Friday, August 9, 2019, at 10:00 am at Estero Community Park**