

PALM-AIRE COMMUNITIES COUNCIL, INC. MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2024
Palm Aire Country Club

Present were Officers and Representatives:

Vice President: Susan Romine, Woodland Green
Treasurer: Mike Grubbs, Country Lakes
Secretary: Marguerite Puca, Club Villas II

Representatives:

Cathy Allen, Avista; Donna Hampton, Broadmoor Pines; Dan Reeves, Fox Point; Cathe Snyder, Gardens at Palm Aire; Lois Cohrt, Golf Pointe; Lesa Hartigan, Links; Gayle Schmidt, Pine Trace; Guelda Wooldridge, The Preserves

Absent were:

Barbara Robinson, Clubside; Jean Pacholek, Eagle Creek Condos; Ray Toothaker, Eagle Creek Villas; Van Hayhow, Fairway Point; Frank Scianni, Fairway Six; David Brand, Lakeside Woods; Laurie Lawrence, Misty Oaks; Greg Martzolf, Palm-Aire Country Club; Tom Schwartz, Rosewood at the Gardens; Julie Jacques, Timberlake Village; Maryann Mitchell, Woodlake Villas

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 by Vice President Susan Romine. A quorum was established.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 21, 2024 meeting had previously been emailed to all PACC directors.

No changes were suggested. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Guelda Wooldridge, seconded by Cathy Allen, and approved via voice vote.

FINANCES

Mike Gibbs reported that the balance in the checking account at the beginning of February was \$15,210.74. Income was \$5,000 transferred from the CD (to avoid a future "low balance" penalty), \$636 in CD interest at maturity and 75 cents interest on the checking account. There were no February expenses. At month end, the balance in the checking account was \$20,211.49.

At the end of February, the balance in the CD was \$31,222, giving a combined balance in both accounts of \$51,433.91.

We are expecting that the cost incurred for holiday lighting in December (\$2942) will be paid for by Manatee County out of our MSTU funds. In order to release the funds, the county wanted documentation that the invoice had been paid. Documentation has been provided.

The budget for the 2024 – 2025 season had been previously distributed to Member Directors. Mike reviewed the numbers with the attendees. There were no questions. The proposed budget was approved via voice vote.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAXING UNIT (MSTU)

Susan reported that the county has been weeding and picking up fallen vegetation at the island at University and Whitfield. New plantings are due to be in place at the front and rear of the island by the end of next week.

The MSTU contract for the mowing of Whitfield and the island planting will be ending on July 31st, 2024. The county is planning to put the contract out for bids at that time.

When the right turn lane at the Whitfield/University intersection was extended, a number of trees had to be removed. The expectation had been that the county would replace the trees at a later date. Susan reported that the replacement will not happen, due to the fact that there is not enough room on either side of the swale to do so.

We will look to use the money allocated to this tree replacement for another location along Whitfield.

NEWSLETTER

Susan Romine reported that the article deadline was March 15, with a “to the publishers” date of March 22nd . She noted that the size had been reduced from 16 to 12 pages. The lead article was about the history of Tallevast Road. There was no Community Spotlight article because the proposed community, Eagle Creek, declined to participate. She reviewed the article content, plus the advertising pages sold.

Dan Reeves reported that the size of the Newsletter had been reduced from 16 to 12 pages due to the lack of articles submitted for publication.

Tallevast Road, the lead article, was named after a pair of brothers who came down from Alabama to start a turpentine producing facility from the abundant pine trees in the area. After that business dried up, it was replaced by chemical companies which left the land contaminated with heavy metals.

Nick Barbi suggested that a group he is affiliated with might be willing to contribute articles about local environmental issues, although there was concern that they should be focused on the Palm Aire area. Several article topics were proposed for upcoming Newsletters, although none were ready for production.

THE WEBSITE

Cathy Allen reported that the website was up to date.

She asked that she be notified when the community representatives are changed, so that the web pages could be kept up to date. She also noted that number of Community Pages are very basic and could stand to be refreshed.

Mike Grubbs reported that the problem he had been having with website access was an issue with his tablet, not the website.

CERTIFICATION OF MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THEIR ASSOCIATIONS

By-laws require that at the annual meeting, the members are certified. We have been certifying the various Associations as named on the Sign-in Sheet instead, since individual representatives change from time to time.

A motion to certify the member Associations, as listed on the sign-in sheet, was made by Guelda Wooldridge, seconded by Cathy Allen. It was carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

AVID AT UNIVERSITY – APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT

Susan said that the development was approved 4 – 3 by the Manatee County Commissioners at their February meeting. PACC will continue to monitor the progress to make sure that our traffic concerns are addressed.

CURB PAINTING

Susan said that painting the north side of the island at the intersection of Whitfield and University is on Manatee County's schedule.

The county will also take a look at the pavement which is eroding along Whitfield at the edge of the bike path.

GOLF CARTS ON WHITFIELD

Susan said that Manatee County rules indicated that golf carts should proceed in the driving lane on Whitfield, not the bike path (which is only wide enough for bikes and has been so marked). She thinks that we will probably have to distribute this information to our respective community members, since it appears (based on observation) that many drivers (of both cars and golf carts) are not aware of this rule.

In communities designated as “golf course” communities by Manatee County, the max speed on thoroughfares is 30 mph and golf carts are to drive in the “driving lane” with automobiles.

NEW BUSINESS

REVISION TO BYLAWS

Susan suggested that the PACC annual meeting should be moved from March to February so that the new officers would take office on March 1st. This would align the election of new officers with the beginning of PACCs fiscal year (which begins on March 1st).

NEW PACC OFFICERS FOR 2024 – 2025

Susan Romine presented the proposed slate developed by the Nominating Committee, asking for floor nominations for each office as well:

President - Lesa Hartigan, Links
Vice President – David Brand, Lakeside Woods
Secretary – Cathe Snyder, The Gardens
Treasurer – Mike Grubbs, Country Lakes

A motion to accept the slate was made by Cathy Allen, seconded by Nick Barbi. It was approved by voice vote.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Guelda Wooldridge talked about the rules governing trimming of your trees when branches or limbs hang over a neighbor’s property. The neighbor has the right and responsibility to trim those branches or limbs.

Lesa Hartigan commented that if you own a tree that is dead and known to be dead, and if it falls over onto a neighbor’s property, you are responsible for any damage caused in the fall. However, if a live tree falls (e.g., during a hurricane) everyone cleans up their own property.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

The next PACC meeting will be April 17, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. at the Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathe Snyder....