

PALM-AIRE COMMUNITIES COUNCIL, INC. MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2026
Palm-Aire Country Club

Officers Present:

President: Lesa Hartigan, The Links
Vice President: David Brand, Lakeside Woods
Treasurer: Mike Grubbs, Country Lakes

Absent:

Secretary: Michele Wysinski, Eagle Creek

Representatives Present:

Cathy Allen, Avista; Marguerite Puca, Club Villas II, Barbara Robinson, Clubside; Leslie Benesch, Conservatory Estates; Kelly Arnold, Fairway Lakes; Eric van Baars, Fairway Point; Pat Comstock, Golf-Pointe; Paula Digilo, Misty Oaks; John Mele, Timberlake Village; Greg Martzolf, PACC

Absent:

Sue Pavlisko, Avista; Donna Hampton, Broadmoor; Joe Barch, Condo B/Sarasota; John Dietrick, DeSoto Woods; Ray Toothaker, Eagle Creek Villas; Karen Viera, Fairway Lakes; John Volpe, The Gardens at Palm-Aire; Jon MacDonald, Pine Trace; Martha Music, Fairway Point; Lois Cohrt, Golf Pointe; Jim Marsey, The Hollows at Palm-Aire; Alice Edwards, The Hollows at Palm-Aire; Jan Jordan, Rosewood; Marie Diamond, Woodlake Villas.

The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm by President Lesa Hartigan.
Proper meeting notice was sent out. A quorum was established.

MINUTES

The minutes for the January 21st, 2026 meeting had previously been emailed to all PACC directors. One director did not receive the minutes.

Minor corrections to the minutes were made.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Eric van Baars, seconded by Cathy Allen. All were in favor and the motion passed.

VENDOR SPOTLIGHT

No vendors were scheduled to speak. Suggestions were made for meetings going forward:

- March – Tru-Green
- Michaela – to speak about county grants and the MSTU
- A workshop with PACC and other communities

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE – Mike Grubbs

Income:

- Newsletter – 2 full-page ads @ \$300 each (Donna Hampton and The Palms)
- CD Interest - \$416.41
- Checking Account \$0.83

Expenses:

- Copies - \$95.11

Available funds in checking: \$19,984,77

As discussed at the January meeting, the CD was split into two:

- c. \$16,097 is now in a CD maturing in 120 days at 3/62%
- \$15,000 is now in a CD maturing in 60 days at 3.5%

Going forward, one CD will mature every 2 months

Lighted palms at University Parkway entrance to Palm-Aire:

- Lesa approved the cost to leave the white lights on the trees
- A \$1,000 grant application was submitted by Karen today (there was some confusion as to whether the grant application was for the newsletter or for the holiday lights; it was agreed that the application was submitted for the newsletter)

Grant Applications

- Bid process – Three bids are necessary in most instances. Bids must be exact in terms of the scope of services and materials used.
- Suggestion – Get one bid that covers services requested, redact the name of the company and the estimate and present the “template” to two other businesses to ask for bids.

REMINDER – Invoices for association dues will go out at the end of March. If there has been a change in who pays your association invoices, please let Mike know!

MSTU – Kelly Arnold

Committee hasn't met, however, the county has been surveying the swales along Whitfield prior to their cleaning them out.

- Lesa reiterated design issues involving the distance of plantings to underground structures. PACC needs a correct plan so that the project can be properly bid upon.
- Barbara Robinson stated that a “plan” is simply a recommendation from the landscape architect. The MSTU is responsible for choosing which parts of the plan to implement.
- Discussion:
 - Need plantings that are low maintenance, low water (drip line vs. sprinkler heads)
 - Needed setbacks require scaling back scope of plantings
 - New design will incorporate existing plantings
 - Plans were created in 2020 – the hurricanes took out a number of trees that show up on the plans

- Lesa suggested that needed changes could be done by the county using CAD
- Kelly spoke with Josh at Swift Mud who said that if the new landscaping was done according to conservation specs, we could be eligible for a \$5000 grant
- MSTU funds vs PACC funds: The Whitfield Beautification Project is being paid for by county MSTU funds (PACC owner/taxpayer money)
- The lift station was built on golf course property – can the country club make a request to get the project done and get reimbursement? Is there a domain issue? Per Greg Martzolf, the country club is going to apply to the county for reimbursement for the property from MSTU funds.

Newsletter – Dan Reeves

Dan was absent, so Lesa read his report.

- The publication date is March 18th; article submission date is March 3rd.
- Kelly and Karen Viera are going to write an article about writing grants
- Dan needs Letters to the Editor

Website – Cathy Allen

- Changes that were submitted during the last month have been added to the website
- Lesa was sent a list of the communities that need updated community pages

Signage – David Brand

- Do we want to include communities that are not PACC members on the signage? Mote Ranch has its own tax group (not the PACC MSTU), as do Treymore, Carlyle and Avalon. If the county is paying for the signs, they should be included.
- The current sign height is 7 feet. 1 foot may have to be added to 2 signs that will list 9 communities.
- Communities will be listed in the order of their “appearance”

OLD BUSINESS

Cell Tower

- No updates from Greg
- Lesa said that 1 bid has been received in its entirety by the Country Club; they are waiting on a second. A third bid is not forthcoming as there are not enough vendors.
- John Mele said that he had polled his community (Timberlake Village) and that of 7 respondents, 6 were in favor of the tower.
- The tower is expected to be in place in the latter half of 2026.
- Will space on the tower be free for emergency management? No.

Golf Course Drainage

- They are working on the out of bound areas, but they are not irrigated
- The tee box, fairway and the green are irrigated
- Mowing is restricted due to the drought
- The swale that appears to be blocked is on Avista property

Sidewalk Completion

- The sidewalk from Lakeside to the cart path has been completed
- The county also paid for the flashing stop signs and the golf cart speed limit signs
- All of the above was facilitated by County Commissioner Mike Rahn

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion about holiday lights – should lights be vertical instead of horizontal? Would make sense if lights are left on a growing tree.
- Barbara asked if the lights should be on at night year round? It would give more light to a dark intersection and the cost wouldn't be significant. Barbara asked if the lights should be on at night year-round? It would give more light to a dark intersection and the cost wouldn't be significant. A vote was taken and all directors voted in favor of keeping the white lights on the palm trees at the Palm Aire entrance on year-round.
- Other – a brief discussion of the one community that hasn't joined PACC. (The Preserves) Another, the Highlands, doesn't have an HOA.

DIRECTOR/OWNER COMMENTS

- John asked when we might expect the landscaping to be done. He said that the process has been going on for more than 6 years. Barbara said that we are at the mercy of the county. Lesa added that our project keeps being shunted from one department or one commissioner to another.
- The drainage clean-up is expected to begin during the last week of March or the first week of April. The survey will be completed next week. The problem is that there is no routine maintenance schedule. The county will clean them when they receive a complaint.
- Eric said that bulk trash pickup, formerly free, now cost \$59. Rumor has it that 1 pickup per month is going back to free. Landscape waste pickup is now \$45/yard.

ADJOURNMENT

David moved that the meeting be adjourned; John seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:54pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 3:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cathleen V. Allen