

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COLLIER COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Naples, Florida, May 4, 2011

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, that the Collier County Environmental Advisory Council in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 9:00 AM in a REGULAR SESSION at Administrative Building "F", 3rd Floor, Collier County Government Complex Naples, Florida with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Dr. Judith Hushon
VICE CHAIRMAN: Andrew Dickman
Michael Sorrell
David Bishof
Gina Downs

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Williams, Assistant County Attorney
Summer Araque, Sr. Environmentalist Specialist
Mac Hatcher, Sr. Environmental Specialist
Jack McKenna, County Engineer
Jeff Wright, Assistant County Attorney
Tony Ruberto, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation
Barry Williams, Director, Parks and Recreation
Alex Sulecki, Conservation Collier Coordinator

- I. **Call to Order**
Chairman Hushon called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.
- II. **Roll Call**
Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
Mr. Dickman moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Mr. Sorrell. Carried unanimously 4 – 0.
- IV. **Approval of the October April 13, 2011 meeting minutes**
Mr. Dickman moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2011 meeting. Second by Mr. Sorrell. Carried unanimously 4 – 0.
- V. **Upcoming Environmental Advisory Council Absences**
None

Steve Williams, Assistant County Attorney replaced Jeff Wright at 9:18am

- VI. **Land Use Petitions**
 - A. **Gordon River Greenway Park Rezone (RZ-PL 2009-25)
and companion item Special Treatment Permit (ST – PL 2011-677)
Section 27 & 34, Township 39, Range 25 East**

J.P. Marchand, Kimley-Horn and Assoc. and Ray Loraine, Entrix, Inc.
provided an overview of the project noting:

- The project is located is approximately 124 acres in size, located south of Golden Gate Parkway and East of Goodlette Frank Road.
- It is a joint project between Collier County Parks and Recreation Department and Conservation Collier with partnerships from the Naples Zoo and Conservancy of Southwest Florida.
- The site is mainly undeveloped except for some areas utilized for overflow parking by the Naples Zoo.
- The applicant seeks to develop a public greenway incorporating passive recreational uses such as a multi use pathway, walking trails, Gopher Tortoise Preserve, fishing platform, kayak access, etc.
- The trails will consist of boardwalks and a 12 foot wide asphalt walkway.
- Parking is proposed in two areas, in the northerly section, off Golden Gate Parkway (55 +/- spaces) and in an area between the Naples Zoo and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida (660 spaces).
- The parking area in the vicinity of the Zoo will be a combination of asphalt and grass parking areas (approximately 50 percent of the overall parking area is proposed to be grass).
- The project is subject to permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District and other Agencies.

The following issues were raised during Council discussions:

- The feasibility of constructing a filter marsh at the easterly end of the parking lot in the area of Naples Zoo.
- The feasibility of utilizing pervious pavement for the construction of the parking areas and the 12 foot wide pathway associated with the project.
- Concern on the size of the parking area proposed (660 spaces) for Greenway users and the overflow users for the Conservancy and Zoo

The Council questioned if a parking analysis has been completed for the project to determine the size of areas required for Greenway users.

Mr. Bishof arrived at 9:39 am

Ray Loraine and J.P. Marchand noted the parking area in question is designed with depressed medians to assist in stormwater retention. The proposed retention area may be planted with appropriate vegetation to improve treatment of stormwater. The stormwater system is designed to retain any water generated by a storm precipitating 2.8 inches of rainfall or less. Any stormwater which is discharged from the stormwater treatment system during a larger storm event will be treated by the wetland before discharging into the river.

Tony Ruberto, Project Manager noted Staff considered use of pervious materials, however are concerned with long term durability and maintenance issues associated with the products (the areas require “vacuuming” on a regular basis to maintain their previous characteristics). The project will meet the requirements of the South Florida Water Management District for stormwater treatment.

Barry Williams, Director Parks and Recreation noted there has not been a parking analysis completed for the project. The County continues to consider pervious surfaces, however has ruled them out at this point due to concerns on the long term stability of a pervious material given the amount of traffic which may utilize the area.

Other concerns included pervious surfaces may not optimal conditions for all intended users of the pathway (i.e. roller bladers, etc.)

The Council expressed concern the project proponents may not have thoroughly considered the feasibility of utilizing pervious materials in construction of the infrastructure within the project. The project should be a showcase for “green” development and given the draft recommendations contained in the proposed Watershed Management Plan, the concept of utilizing green materials should be thoroughly exhausted.

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Summer Brown Araque, Sr. Environmental Specialist stated County Staff has reviewed the applications and recommends the project be approved with no stipulations.

Speaker

Gary McNally expressed concern asphalt, given its composition has a tendency to leach oil into the soil and consideration should be given to its impacts on area wetlands.

Jack McKenna, County Engineer noted he is not aware of any studies identifying the potential for asphalt to leach oil.

Alex Sulecki, Conservation Collier Coordinator noted the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Committee considered utilizing pervious materials in the construction of the pathways, however given the challenges as outlined herein by the project proponents, opted for impervious asphalt.

Ms. Downs moved for the applicant return the item to the Environmental Advisory Council after completing the design of a filter marsh (at the east end of the parking lot proposed between the Naples Zoo and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida,) and a more serious consideration of utilizing pervious surfaces for the parking lot and 12 wide pathway. Second by Mr. Sorrell.

Ms. Downs amended the motion for the applicant return the item to the Environmental Advisory Council after completing the design of a filter marsh and a more serious consideration of utilizing pervious surfaces for the parking lot and 12 wide pathway. The applicant provides a parking analysis for the project. Second by Mr. Sorrell.

Steve Williams, Assistant County Attorney stated the applicants are seeking a recommendation from the Council and are not compelled to return the application for review.

The Council questioned if Staff would be willing to continue the item.

Barry Williams requested a recommendation to deny or approve the application so it may move forward through the permit process. Any comments generated by the Council will be forwarded to any necessary parties.

Andrew Dickman stated that the application is inconsistent with the Growth Management Plan.
Ms. Downs withdrew the motion.

Mr. Sorrell moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners deny the application due to:

- 1. Lack of use of pervious materials for the proposed parking lot and 12 foot wide pathway.*
- 2. The lack of a proposed filter marsh on the east end of the proposed parking lot between the Naples Zoo and Conservancy of Southwest Florida.*
- 3. Lack of a parking analysis for the proposed project.*

Dr. Hushon added that this project includes special treatment areas and should be a "green" design to minimize its adverse impacts on the Gordon River Water Quality.

Second by Mr. Dickman. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.

Break: 10:50am

Re-convened: 11:01am

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Old Business

A. Watershed Management Plan Update

Mac Hatcher, Sr. Environmental Specialist provided a memo to the Environmental Advisory Council dated April 25, 2011 – Subject “*Staff Summary – May 4, 2011 Watershed Management Plan Workshop Update*” for review.

Moris Cabezas and Peter deGolian of Atkins provided a Slideshow overview of the Watershed Management Plan.

Robert Mulhere, Mulhere and Associates provided an overview on the schedule for adoption and implementation of the Plan.

Speaker

Nicole Johnson, Conservancy of Southwest Florida provided a Memorandum from the Environmental Resource Regulation Permit Review Staff from Robert Brown, Director of Environmental Resource Regulation Dept. dated November 12, 2009 – “*Subject Environmental Resource Permit Water Quality Evaluations for Discharges to Water Bodies that to Do Not Meet State Water Quality Standards.*” She noted the memo contains information on how District Staff should treat applications which propose stormwater discharges into impaired waters (water bodies that do not meet State Water Quality Standards). The majority of the projects in Collier County will be subject to the parameters outlined in the memo. When considering future County requirements for projects requiring stormwater treatment, the Conservancy recommends the County retain the current Land Development Code requirements for treating stormwater, in addition to any proposed requirements.

B. Update members on projects

None

IX. Subcommittee Reports

None

X. Council Member Comments

Staff was requested to notify EAC members when the Proposed Fertilizer Ordinance is considered by the Board of County Commissioners.

XI. Staff Comments

A. Update members on projects


None

XII. Public Comments

None

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 12:08 PM.

**COLLIER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**



Chairman, Dr. Judith Hushon

These Minutes were approved by the Board/Chairman on June 1, 2011
as presented _____, or as amended .