

# Alligator Point Taxpayers Association

## Board of Directors Meeting

The March meeting of the Alligator Pt Taxpayers Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Sam Rogers at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 12, 2011, at Mission by the Sea Church on Alligator Drive.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Statement in the February minutes by Steve Fling regarding Commissioner Smokey Parrish's commitment to provide an ambulance to Alligator Pt was revised. Motion by Jim Cummins, seconded by Allan Feifer to accept the minutes of the February 12<sup>th</sup> Board Membership meeting as corrected, adopted without objection.

### **Approval of Treasurer Report:**

Motion by Ken Osborne, seconded by Jim Cummins to accept Treasurers report adopted without objection. Current balance is \$41,711. Treasurer Kimbrough informed the Board that the CD will be up for renewal in April.

President Rogers welcomed Auxiliary Deputy Stephen Glazebrook to the meeting. Glazebrook lives at the Point and patrols the area on behalf of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. In a brief discussion of new speed limits on Alligator Drive, Steve Fling asked if the 25 mph zone could be extended to include the stretch between South Shoal and the "S" curve. Jim Cummins felt the existing speed limits should first be monitored for their effectiveness, and then determine if a lower limit is warranted. Eddie Sosebee will check current signage to confirm updates have been made.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership** – Jim Cummins reported 2011 membership renewals currently stand at 210. There has been good response from past members. Cummins will create a list of 2010 members who have yet to renew. Cummins is continuing to work towards developing an email list of all members. Allan Feifer suggested "Constant Contact" as a possible service. Ann Maruszak reminded Cummins that Bunky Atkinson is a "complimentary" member of APTA.

**Water report** – Ken Osborne reports the APWRD is hosting an open house on March 19.

President Rogers recently sent a letter to FWC regarding Matt Taylor's problem with a bear.

Bucky Mitchell prepared a chronology of the black bear situation in Florida since 1915. In 1994 bear hunting was discontinued in the state. A law was enacted in 2008 prohibiting anyone to feed or allow their garbage to be accessible to bears.

In an email to President Rogers, Sarah Barrett of FWC noted recent success in dealing with Marvin Heymann's bear problem. She also contacted Matt Taylor who was upset by Alan

Knothe's (FWC district bear coordinator) response to his complaint. Mr. Knothe has since left FWC for another position. Once a replacement is named, President Rogers plans to send them an email apprising them of the current bear situation at Alligator Pt. Mr Taylor has recently acquired a bear-proof garbage can, and that has solved his bear problem, at least for the time being.

Ken Osborne feels too many accommodations are being made for the bears. He supports the removal of any bears found within the residential areas. He is also concerned the presence of bears may have an adverse affect on property values. Allan Feifer would like to see a local ordinance requiring property owners to take basic steps aimed at discouraging bears from associating residences as sources of food. Jim Cummins agreed, but added that once those steps are taken, then FWC should do their part in removing any bears which continue to frequent residential areas. This sentiment was expressed by President Rogers in a February letter to FWC.

President Rogers believes bears are a "fact of life" in this area and would like to take the following actions: 1) send a letter to all property owners regarding the laws relating to feeding bears, directly or indirectly, and steps they can take to alleviate the problem; 2) send a letter to all local real estate companies managing rental properties on Alligator Pt. asking them to require bear-proof garbage cans of all their clients; 3) ask Franklin County for more frequent inmate visits to collect roadside debris; 4) ask FWC to hold true to their pledge to issue warnings/fines to non-compliant property owners. Osborne doesn't favor any additional mailings. He prefers we lobby the legislature to reduce the emphasis on bear protection, and concentrate more on public safety. Jim Apthorp supports President Rogers' recommendations. He feels attempts to change current laws are futile. Eddie Sosebee agrees, believing APTA should pick their battles wisely. He supports APTA doing what it can to try to resolve the situation.

President Rogers received a reply from Clerk of the Court, Marcia Johnson regarding his inquiry on the status of the Bald Pt Trust Fund. Johnson says no money has been borrowed from the fund, and the current balance is \$417,614.22. Commissioner Cheryl Sanders adds that the only instance in which money was borrowed was to fund the beach renourishment study, and that money was subsequently repaid.

There was some confusion regarding recent discussions on an additional ambulance.

President Rogers was told that the Franklin County Commission is awaiting a business plan from Steve Fling on the operation of an ambulance dedicated to Alligator Pt. As previously stated, Chairman Parrish supports supplying Alligator Pt. with its own ambulance. Fling currently proposes a staff of 4 EMTs serving 24-hour shifts. They would work in conjunction with the Alligator Pt Volunteer Fire Department first responders. The EMTs would receive a combination of "on call" and full-time pay. Fling is unsure if volunteers would receive any pay. He is also uncertain if the AP ambulance would be required to provide service to other areas of the county. Fling will submit a plan, supported by APTA, to the county commission.

Fling also informed the Board that Weems Hospital has hired a new ambulance director, Tim Andrews. Renee Brannon is the new dispatch coordinator for FCSO.

President Rogers created an ad hoc committee to work with Fling on the ambulance project. Appointees to the committee are Jim Cummins and John Murphy.

Motion by Jim Cummins, seconded by Allan Feifer that the meeting be adjourned, adopted without objection. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Murphy, Secretary

*Officers and Directors absent: Joe Hambrose, Marvin Heymann, Jim McCloy, Dick Waters and Barbara Withers.*

**Officers**

***Sam Rogers President, Eddie Sosebee 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president, Joe Hambrose 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, John Murphy Secretary,  
Bill Kimbrough Treasurer***

**Board of Directors**

***Jim Apthorp, Jim Cummins, Allan Feifer, Harper Field, Marvin Heymann, Jim McCloy, Bucky Mitchell,  
Ken Osborne, Dick Waters, Barbara Withers***