

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting – February 11, 2012
Alligator Point Taxpayers' Association

The Board of Directors was called to order by President Jim McCloy at 9:02 am.

Members absent: Field, Maruszak, Mitchell ; a quorum was present.

Alan Feifer gave a brief update to the manhunt currently happening on Bald Point.

President McCloy asked everyone to introduce themselves. He announced that Beth Hayes had agreed to coordinate the website.

President called for a motion to approve 12/10/11 Board meeting minutes: Sosebee moved, Feifer seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Report sent by e-mail; Motion to approve: Rogers moved, Withers seconded; passed without objection.

President's Report

All of the items of interest will be discussed later in the meeting.

Committee Reports

Membership(Heymann) – replies to the questionnaire are slowly coming in. Membership renewals are also slow.

Beautification (Withers) – March 10 clean-up day after the next Board meeting. The area along South Shoals is very ugly – can APTA do something to clean it up?

Newsletter (Rogers) – The revised newsletter has been delivered to Duraprint and is being mailed.

Website(Hayes) – (none)

Safety and Security (Sosebee) – (none)

Old Business

South Shoal – Apthorp – The County has had two meetings to discuss with DEP their order to remove the rubble in front of South Shoal as a result of the Capital City Bank lawsuit.

Osborne: Was there any discussion as to what they will put in place of the rubble? Ans: that is in negotiation.

Feifer: Talked with Pierce and DEP agrees that there needs to be an engineered solution.

Rogers: Isn't FEMA going to cover the cost? Ans: The county believes this to be so.

The county has four items they are working on: (1) The road segment is obtained and the FEMA check is in hand, (2) next is to secure the Seacon lots believed to be covered by FEMA, (3) restore the Bald Point trust, (4) deal with the rocks.

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McCloy also talked to Pierce on Thursday and they have had face-to-face meetings on these issues.

McCloy appointed a temporary committee to contact Capital City Bank and express APTA's views. Members are Heymann, Cummins and McCloy. Also Pierce commented that there is a person named Donnelly who expressed interest in obtaining the South Shoal property and restoring the campground.

Osborne pointed out that the east end of the South Shoal area, not covered by the lawsuit, is also at risk of damage during a storm.

County-wide Voting Discussion

At Ken Osborne's request a discussion of the county-wide voting proposal was held. Osborne gave a brief history and background of the topic. There is a PAC [Franklin County County-wide Voting PAC, Inc.] with Van Johnson, pres and Ken Osborne, treas. The case was made by Johnson in a presentation to the FCBCB on why the district voting is no longer needed. The non-binding vote of a few years ago showed 69% of county voters in favor of county-wide voting but the Commissioners have totally ignored it. Under county-wide election the commissioners will still need to be a resident of the district they represent. The petitions need at least 900 validated signatures to be put on the ballot. The question was asked if there is a deadline and no answer was made.

After much discussion of the topic and the difference in being favor of a referendum as opposed to being in favor of county-wide voting, a vote was held.

Vote on “preference of if APTA should support the placing of county-wide voting on the ballot.”
Secret ballot: 12 ballots - 7 yes, 5 No

McCloy passed the chair to Rogers. He stated he is very much opposed to county-wide voting. He feels that it would be irresponsible to APTA to support it. This opened a storm of comment.

Osborne: Under current procedures if the local commissioner does not want something address, then the other commissioners will not bring the subject up. With county-wide this will be less likely as all commissioners will have the responsibility.

Kimbrough: Questions what will happen with the current commissioners when this initiative fails.

Feifer: Sees this as an issue of conscience. He believes that APTA should support the community and have APTA provide financial support.

Apthorp: Has experience with the failure of single member districts and believes that county-wide voting should be beneficial overall for the county.

McCloy took back the chair.

Osborn proposed that the discussion be put on the website and decide on APTA monetary support at the March meeting. McCloy called for a vote on having the vote at the April membership meeting, motion passed 6-4.

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New Business

Comments from Center and Marie Jackson – the public access areas have a dog-poop station and the containers are full.

Kimbrough mentioned that there are a growing number of commercial signs along Alligator Drive. In the past APTA has gotten them taken down.

There being no additional business the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jim Cummins via e-mail, 3/5/2012