

Alligator Point Taxpayers Association

July 10, 2004

Minutes

APTA President, Ken Osborne, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM Saturday July 10, 2004.

Ann Maruszak, substituting for Jim Cummins who was out-of-town, read the Minutes for June 12, 2004. Don Munroe made the motion to accept the Minutes, second by Bill Kimbrough followed by approval by the Board. Motion Carried.

Bill Kimbrough read the Treasurers Report. It was noted that after this meeting, the Treasurers report will be posted on the APTA web site and will not be read at future APTA meetings. Allan Feifer made a motion to accept the Treasures Report, second by Westi Jo deHaven followed by approval by the Board. Motion Carried.

Ken Osborne asked the Board for approval to pay the attorney's fees for work conducted on the behalf of APTA on the "South Shoal Village" project. Ruth Hambrose made a motion to approve, the motion was second by Joann Deibel followed by approval by the Board. Motion Carried.

Ken Osborne noted that the fees associated with the "South Shoal" issue will probably be typical for similar issues that will come up in the future. Allan Feifer suggested that we could expect to retain a lawyer to address issues APTA may want to pursue regarding the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan.

Annual Election

Ken Osborne described the nomination/election process. Don Monroe, Chair of the Nomination Committee, read the list of candidates for APTA Officers and for APTA Board Members. Osborne then asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations were offered. Westi Jo deHaven made a motion to close the nominations and to accept the list of nominations provided by the Nomination Committee. Allan Feifer second the motion followed by Board approval. Motion Carried.

Next, the Election Administration Committee was established consisting of Karen Waters, Juanita Gibson, Joann Deibel, Don Monroe, Westi Jo deHaven and Paul Parker. Don Monroe will serve as Chair. Ann Maruszak made a motion to accept the nominees for the Election Administration Committee followed by a second by Bill Kimbrough. The Board approved the motion. Motion Carried.

The Board approved expending funds to pay for preparing and mailing out ballots.

Committee Reports

Beach and Erosion

Dick Waters, Chair, had no new information to share.

Development Committee

Joe Hambrose, Chair, stated that the County Commission approved "South Shoal Village".

A property owner past the Alligator Point Yacht Basin withdrew their request at the P&Z meeting to get approval to place two houses on one lot.

Hambrose stated the need to initiate an APTA Legal Fund.

Osborne stated that the Franklin County Board of Adjustments will most likely become an advisory board to the Franklin County Commission who will make final decisions regarding requests for variances.

No one representing the residents of Carousel and Carnival Lane made any statements at the meeting regarding their concern about the removal of beach access in their area. It was thus concluded that no further action is anticipated.

Communications Committee

Ann Maruszak, Chair, called for articles for the upcoming newsletter and stated that she would contact editor, 'beth Hayes, to get a status report.

Membership

Joann Deibel, Chair stated there were approximately current 317 members, but that she would get with Jim Cummins when he returns to the Point to bring the membership list up-to-date.

Safety

John Murphy, Chair, lead a discussion to explore ideas for enforcing the speed limits on Alligator Drive. Murphy asked for comments regarding speed bumps and noted that Franklin County removed a speed bump previously placed in Apalachicola due to liability issues. Maruszak stated that she had explored speed enforcement options available though the Florida Department of Transportation and was told that the best option for Alligator Point is to work with our deputy to enforce the speed limit.

Beautification

Joann Deibel, Chair, noted that two corners of the retaining box have had the railroad timbers moved out of position and that the box needs repair. The job needs to be hired out because of the weight and the construction method used. Don Monroe made a motion to expend up to \$500 to repair the box followed by a second by Ruth Hambrose. The Board approved the motion. Motion Carried.

Franklin County Comprehensive Plan

Ken Osborne stated that ABARK, 1000 Friends of Florida and Don Ashley intend to file suit against the current version of the Comp Plan. The Department of Community Affairs who is reviewing the Comp plan written by the county has asked the county to supply additional information.

Osborne discussed the importance of determining where Alternate 98 will intersect current 98. He stated that Billy Buzzet, with St. Joe said that the new 98 would intersect the current 98 somewhere between the bridge and CR 370. Osborne stated that we must be careful to monitor the placement of the road as it will have a critical effect on the Alligator Point communities.

Osborne also stated the need to limit density in the Comp Plan so that we do not become another Destin.

Karen Brodeen, an Alligator Point property owner, introduced herself and offered advice as to actions APTA and property owners could take to express their interests relative to the Comp Plan. She stated that letters should be sent to local government between the time the Comp Plan was transmitted to the Department of Community Affairs and when the Comp Plan is adopted in order to establish "standing". In other words letters should be sent now. Osborne stated that this month (July) he would send a letter to the Franklin County Commission, the County Planning Department and the Department of Community Affairs.

Brodeen suggested that APTA cultivate a relationship with the DCA planner and attorney who keep track of all aspects of the adoption of the Franklin County Comp Plan. The planner's name is Jeffery Bielling (407-4545; jeff.beilling@dca.state.fl.us).

Bill Kimbrough interjected that he is filing papers with the Department of State to continue APTA's designation as a business entity. These papers must be filed by September 8th.

Commissioner Sanders

County Commissioner Cheryl Sanders was not present due to the fact that Ken Osborne only plans to invite her to attend when there is a need for discussion.

AP/ST. Teresa Volunteer Fire Department

Ken Osborne asked Westi Jo deHaven, a member of the Alligator Point/ St. Teresa Volunteer Fire Department for scheduled time on the Fire department's agenda to discuss several potential issues including moving the fire station, the ownership of the fire station and meeting space. Osborne

expressed the desire to work together on these issues with the Fire Department.

Ken noted that he will not be able to attend the next APTA meeting scheduled for August 14, 2004, but will preside over the September 4th meeting.

AP Water Resources

Tom Vanderplatts, president of the Water Board stated that St. Joe has offered the Board an agreeable lease.

He further stated that district boundaries may be expanded, but that the state legislature must approve any expansion. The Water Board is interested in comment from property owners regarding the possible expansion. Westi Jo asked Vanderplatts if water is available to supply the needs of the proposed expansion area.

Several options for supplying water to the AP Water District are under consideration and were discussed at the meeting.

Tom stated that the Point fared well during the July Fourth Holiday and people are for the most part complying with the water restrictions.

Vanderplatts stated that Bald Point State Park will not allow the Water Board to dig additional wells on their property. The Water Board's lease with the park expires in 2016. Discussion took place regarding the Park's stance on this situation and what other options are available to dig new wells. Discussion also took place regarding the water-related fees typically charged to the Park. A motion was made by Westi Jo deHaven for Ken to send a letter to the Governor with a copy to Cabinet Director, Kent Perez. The motion was second by Joann Deibel and approved by the Board. Motion Carried.

Interested parties should attend Water Board meetings to learn of these issues in greater detail and to offer comment.

The next Water Board meeting is Saturday, July 17 at 10:00AM at the Firehouse.

Sea Turtle Report

Bill Wargo stated that he recorded the 28th turtle crawl of the season last Saturday morning. So far this season, crawls have concentrated between Gulf Shore Boulevard and Carnival Lane. Crawls are now taking place more westward now.

A Sea Turtle presentation with joint participation by Bill and the State Park will take place July 24 at 10:00 AM at the Sunrise Pavilion at Bald Point State Park.

The 1st hatching is expected around July 24. Bill further stated that volunteers can be identified by their t-shirts and also by cards placed on the automobiles.

Bill noted that he has received permission to place light shielding on the upland side of nests. This will help the hatchings from being disoriented by light.

The Sea Turtle fund is in need of donations. Donations can be made out to APTA with a note that the money is designated to the Turtle Fund.

When asked about the availability of grants to help fund the Seat Turtle Program, Bill stated that he is on the lookout for grants but that most he has seen are geared towards research.

End of Meeting

Osborne stated that property appraisals in our district have risen 93% this year. This will be reflected in the County's budget and in property tax bills. You can buffer property tax increases by having homestead exemption on your property. Currently the tax on such property can only be raised a maximum of 3% per year.

Osborne asked if there was any new business and then entertained a motion to adjourn. Allan Feifer made a motion to adjourn, Bill Kimbrough second and the meeting ended at 10:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted by Ann Maruszak substituting for
Jim Cummins, Secretary

Minutes Approved by the Board on August 14, 2004