

APTA – Alligator Point Taxpayers Association

Minutes of Board meeting – August 14, 2004

Meeting called to order by the Vice-President Dick Waters as President Osborne is on vacation. A quorum of Board members was present. The minutes have previously been distributed; VP Waters called for additions or corrections; Feifer moved that the minutes be accepted, Deibel second; motion passed. Treasurer's report: APTA has a CD at Wakulla Bank for \$8686.18 and total assets of \$25891.85. The transfer of assets from Gulf State Bank to Wakulla Bank should be completed this month. Feifer moved report be accepted, Houston second; motion passed.

Committee Reports

Road and Beach Erosion (Dick Waters)

No significant effect from Hurricane Bonnie. There is still the possibility that sand will be available this fall.

Development Committee (Joe Hambrose, Allan Feifer)

P&Z and BofA meetings were earlier this week and had nothing of consequence to this end of the county. A couple of e-mails concerning Fling's project switching to septic tanks but there is no evidence of any changes – a sewer treatment plant is still planned. Point Lounge project appears to be on indefinite hold.

Membership Committee (Joann Deibel)

Currently 326 members. Election ballots have been sent out.

Beautification Committee (Joann Deibel)

The Welcome Garden box has been repaired; waiting for a bill. Noted that county roadside yard debris pick-up is scheduled for every three weeks.

Communication Committee (Ann Maruszak)

No new reports. Web site is providing access to APTA news and occasionally e-mail comments come in. Quiet during the summer but still about 30 hits/day on the web site

Safety & Security Committee (John Murphy)

No report.

Water Department (Tom Vanderplatts)

Department is getting two new wells on line. Valid leases have been obtained from the state and St. Joe. Should be drilling this fall. Budget hearings in September.

Turtle Patrol (Bill Wargo)

First, thank you for the generous donations to the Turtle Fund. Secondly, we have made the transition from the nesting time to the hatching time but there is the possibility of a few new nests. The storm did have an impact but there have been some good results too.

Planning & Zoning Board Meeting (John Murphy)

There seems to be a new trend of trying to subdivide existing sub-divisions. This was not approved for Lanark Village at the latest meeting but this could be a sign of things to come.

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Ann Maruszak asked if the letter to DEP concerning the Comp Plan submission from last meeting had been drafted and/or sent. No one knew if it had been done.

Bill Kimbrough stated that our annual report for a not-for-profit corporation have been filed with the state.

Call for new business

Donna Decker gave a brief memorial for Kitty Ash, an APTA member, who died recently.

Reminder: the next two APTA meetings are Sept 4, 9am, elections and general meeting and Sept 11, 9am, regular Board meeting.

Tom Vanderplatts received a call about the “quality of the water” and while he assumed it was drinking water, it wasn’t. It concerns a report of unsafe levels of bacteria in the seawater. Lynn Monroe called the Dept of Health and finally worked her way to Bob Benson. Brought up that there ought to be a “flip sign” to indicate when the water quality for swimming is not good, especially on Bald Point which is shallow. Benson had the man from Franklin County call and he sort of downplayed it; he didn’t feel that it was very serious. He did indicate that there is a web site with water quality information; it is the State Department of Health website, and there is a “pull-down” menu for water quality reports. Further investigation reveals that the e-coli levels were “dangerously high” from July and no notification of the residents or visitors has occurred. Feifer will set up a representation of the Board of Health to speak to APTA at a future meeting.

Bill Wargo mentioned that Kim Wren, the aquatic preserve manager, would be willing to come speak to APTA. It was agreed that she be invited for the October meeting on October 9.

The issues concerning beach access were discussed. Perhaps a list could be posted on the APTA web site. The availability of walkovers for beach access could reduce beach erosion. No decisions were made.

Juanita Gibson reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming primary election.

In response to a question by Ann Maruszak concerning the county budget process, Frank Gibson pointed out that the Commissioners have just passed a \$2.9M road budget and not a dime is for Alligator Point. No request of funds was made by Commission Sanders.

Feifer asked in light of the recent deaths on the Point, if there is a help line or lifeline available. Cummins was noted that Liz Hurley has such a service and wears a call button. It was pointed out that this service is available at a reduced rate at the Senior Center.

Motion to adjourn made by Deibel, seconded by Feifer, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim R Cummins, Sec.