

The Community Council of Lehigh Acres Council Aug 16th, 2010 Minutes

Call to Order

On, Aug 16, 2010, the meeting of the Lehigh Acres Community Council was called to order at Living Waters Christian Fellowship Church, 500 N. Sunshine Blvd. Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971, at 6:35 PM by President Damon Shelor, presiding, Gary Warchol gave the invocation. Damon Shelor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

President Shelor announced that a quorum was present.

Members present included Damon Shelor, Diane Champion, George Szymanski, Mohamed Yasin, William Nottling, Jere Carrick, Tami Baker, Dendle Miller, Gary Warchol, Mike Anderson, Larry Gutridge, Rick Anglickis, Bill Martin, Beth Love, Ahmed El-Gendy, Robert Saul, Barbara Kerby, Dave Raba (sp?) for Debbie Derums, Blair Stitt Aston Dias, Carl Moore, Don Poidevin, Ron Gogoi and Orville Hall. Members excused included Willard Baker, Karen Makowski, Edd Weiner and Linda Carter. Members absent were Michael Cook, Ralph Hemmingway, Jeff Spiro, Keith Butler, Rose Oliverio, Mike Bonacolta, Hospital Representative, Community Services Rep, Carlo Lane, Patrick Dawson, , Keith Freeman and Stanley Stine. Guests included Basil Miller.

The proposed agenda was approved with changes on a motion by Gary Warchol, seconded by Bill Martin. The motion passed.

Citizen Comments

President Shelor asked for any Citizen comments on the agenda items. There were none.

Guest Speaker

Bo Turbeville spoke about the Organization that was previously know as Weed & Seed. Bo was a past President of the Chamber of Commerce as well as past Chair of the LACPC. The organizations main goal is to get Law Enforcement and Social Services working together to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for all residents. There is new funding opportunity through the Edward Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program. Bo showed us slides showing the huge growth that Lehigh Acres went thru from 1999 to 2004 to 2009. Many community partners include the BOCC, FGCU, LCSO, and DEA, local churches, businesses and residents.

Subcommittees include:

- Law Enforcement – all crimes are down in Lehigh Acres
- Community Policing – Includes LCSO and Neighborhood Watches. In 2008 there were only 8 Neighborhood Watches. In 2009 there were 20 and in 2010 there are 60.
- Neighborhood Restoration – Improving economic and social conditions – In 2009 there were 6 cleanups with 258 volunteers and they removed 10.4 tons of trash. In 2010 so far there have been 3 cleanups with 533 volunteers and they collected

14.47 tons of trash. There are three more cleanups scheduled for Sept 25, Oct 23 and Nov 13.

- Prevention/Intervention/Treatment- Focuses on Social Services – Youth Voice and Neighborhood Stabilization. Looking for Workforce Housing and rehabbing of existing homes.
- Community Involvement- The success of the Initiative will be determined by the level of Community involvement.

Larry Gutridge suggests that the Community Council stand behind this program and with our endorsement; it will have more clout with the BOCC and the public.

Damon Shelor let us know that Principal Davis of East County High is starting a leadership program at his school.

George Szymanski says future clean ups are all in the Westminster area.

Bill Nottling noted that he is the person who does the evaluation of what areas need to be cleaned up and how many volunteers are needed.

Everyone thanked Bo for giving us insight into what they do.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 19th meeting were reviewed. No Changes were made. Motion to accept Rick Anglickis, Second by Jere Carrick. Motion passed.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Balance as of July 31 is \$2128.95 with \$90.00 outstanding. Motion to approve by Rick Anglickis. Second by Gary Warchol. The motion passed.

Presidents Comments

President Shelor's comments included:

Jere Carrick will check with Community Services about Pam Kaye's replacement.

Committee Reports

First Vice President

-Code Enforcement- 1059 cases reported in July, 364 were closed. There were a total of 186 cases in the Westminster area and 150 cases in Zone

-Beautification- Dates were discussed above. Please contact George Szymanski if you would like to volunteer.

-Roads and Transportation – Ron Gogoi passed out packets that showed to 2035 Long Range Plan

-Parks and Rec- Dave Raba reported that summer camp had ended on Aug 13th and was well attended. Also, there is a Teen Dance on Aug 21st.

Second Vice President

- Bylaws and Elections- Everyone thanked Beth Love and her committee for their work. Beth is posting the applications and ads in the news-papers for elections. Ballots will go out in November.

- Publicity –Damon Shelor commented that Karen Makowski is doing a great job.

- Youth Activities – Don Poidevin is meeting with the Principals to get kids involved in more Community Events. Orville Hall offered St. Anselms Church as a possible meeting spot.

Unfinished Business–

- **Lehigh Acres Comprehensive Planning Corp.**

The July 24th meeting was attended by approx 150 people. . The LACPC has decided to not disbanding since they are recognized at the “go to” entity by the County and Developers. Instead they are rewriting their mission statement and becoming a Public Organization. The Community Council could still be the Advisory Board to work with the LACPC on future projects. More discussion will occur.

- The Candidate Forum - Aug 5th we had 58 Candidates participate and there were approximately 150 people that attended (250 in all). Candidates said they enjoyed the opportunity to speak before us and they thank the Comm. Council for having the event.

New Business –

Council Elections 2010 – Notices are set to go in the newspapers the end of Aug and the middle of Sept. In October the Ballot locations will be posted and ballots will be in the newspaper. These are also available on the web-site.

Seven Seats are up for election. Those seats include: Rick Anglickis, Edd Weiner, Alston Dias, Carlo Lane, George Syzmanski, Keith Butler and Mohammed Yasin.

Citizens Concerns for the good of the community – Lt. Latham said that they received a \$44,000 grant last year and will receive \$175,000 spread out over 3 years. This will be used mainly for manpower for narcotics division, burglary and juvenile repeat offenders programs. A Portion will also go towards events like the Teen Dances and JAM (Juvenile Access Management) Officers

Board Member Comments – Barbara Kerby has been having a “back to school drive” where people are able to drop off school supplies for under-privileged children. She has not had much participation and asked for our help.

Also, the lift station at Homestead and Delaware is finally complete.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM