

## **Feb 5, 2008 GPICA General Meeting Minutes**

President Hendrickson opened the meeting at 7:03 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and a motion was asked for to approve the general meeting minutes from the January meeting. Motion made, seconded and approved with no changes.

Bill Mantis then gave the Treasurer's report (copy attached). Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report.

Bill Mantis then introduced the guest speaker, John Kiseda, from the Lee County Parks department. Mr. Kiseda's topic was on how to lessen our environmental footprint. He also discussed resources which are available on this topic and explained a bit about the ecotourism project in Lee County, about the importance of Smart Growth and the need for the involvement of citizens of Lee County to help keep the county a livable environment. After a question and answer period at the end of his talk, President Hendrickson thanked Mr. Kiseda on behalf of the membership.

Phil Buchanan then discussed the hearing on the Masters Landing development and the fact that a decision will be made in a couple of months, then it will go to the Commissioners.

He then discussed the approval by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in the form of a consent decree to allow the Ceitus boat lift to be removed, allowing polluted waters from miles of freshwater canals in Northwest Cape Coral to connect directly to Matlacha Pass. More will be announced on this at the next meeting.

Under new business, Chris Kneeland announced that, at the march meeting, Kami Corbett, attorney for Treeco, will be making a presentation to the GPICA membership. She asked for suggestions for future speakers and stated that Ken Wilkinson, Property Appraiser, will be on the list at some point.

Brian Griffin, co-chair of the Smart Growth Committee, announced that the subject of mansionization will be addressed by the Smart Growth Committee. He stated that the Committee had strengthened the Fertilizer Ordinance in an effort to protect the watershed from pollution runoff. He announced some proposed changes to the Lee County Charter including a proposal to make the office of Supervisor of Elections a non-partisan position. There were not sufficient votes to have the other county elected positions such as Sheriff and Clerk be non-partisan as well. The Charter Committee also proposed single member voting districts, but, since the current commission can approve or disapprove of any proposed change to the charter, it is assumed that issue will fail. He discussed potential merger of three of the independent fire districts in the county. He also opined that, due to the cutback in revenue to the county, that they are likely to cut funds for environmental purposes and land acquisition and asked that we pressure the commission to not cut these funds but to cut the fat from government.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10

Submitted by Dave Lukasek, Secretary