

Jan 8, 2008 General Meeting Minutes • Greater Pine Island Civic Association

The Meeting was opened by President Cathy Hendrickson at 7:00 p.m

Under Old Business Cathy Hendrickson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December general meeting. Motion was made by and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

President Hendrickson then asked Treasurer Bill Mantis for a Treasurer's report, which he then gave (attached), and a motion was made and seconded to approve the report as given, motion passed.

At this time President Hendrickson reminded the audience about the upcoming Nature Care Fair to be held at the Berreitter Photography Studio in St. James City on Saturday beginning at 11 a.m..

She then introduced Patricia Di Piero from Lee County who gave a presentation on the new watering restrictions and rules and how they will work.

Bill Mantis then introduced Joan and Warren Bush, Master Gardeners and members of the Florida Native Plant Society who gave a presentation on the use of drought tolerant, hardy native plants in landscaping rather than using turf grasses and exotics.

Phil Buchanan then gave the membership an update on what has happened so far with enforcement of the destruction of Willow Lake. South Florida Water Management District has determined that approximately six acres of wetland was destroyed, has levied a fine of over forty thousand dollars, and will require restoration of some kind. The Army Corps of Engineers has also found the same amount of destruction but has not yet announced any penalty to be imposed.

A member of the audience asked where the farmworker housing project stood. Dr. Buchanan explained that the second application for a "special zoning exemption" was found by the county to be "insufficient" and will have to be re-filed by the Treeco people. He also pointed out the petition going around at the present time would be of little, if any, use to the zoning hearing master when the issue comes before him or her, and that the only sure way to have your voice heard on the farmworker housing proposal is to attend that hearing and go on the record at that time, should it ever get that far.

President Hendrickson then asked if there was any other new business. With none being brought up, she asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22.

Dave Lukasek
Secretary