

Minutes November 6, 2007 General Meeting.

President Cathy Hendrickson called the meeting to order at 7:05. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all. Attendance was around 150.

President Hendrickson asked for a motion to amend, correct or approve the minutes of the October general meeting which had been passed out in advance. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written and motion carried unanimously.

She then asked for the Treasurer's report. Treasurer Lytle gave a brief report on the state of the Treasury.

President Hendrickson then introduced Kathy Malone of Matlacha who spoke on the proposed "Landscape and Fertilizer Management Practices Ordinance" which would require some personnel of the larger lawn maintenance companies such as Tru Green and Chemlawn to get training and certification in the use of the chemicals used in their businesses. There is currently no certification required of landscape maintenance personnel. The purpose of this is to educate the personnel using these chemicals in order to prevent these chemicals from being accidentally dispersed into our waterways, the leading cause of pollution of our estuary system. Malone asked for a resolution from the GPICA general membership asking our elected county officials to pass a strong ordinance, such as that requested by the Sierra Club, governing use of these chemicals by landscape maintenance companies. A motion was made and seconded to do so and unanimously approved. A resolution will be written and passed on to the appropriate officials.

Vicky Werner asked if there were any government programs giving incentive to homeowners to xeriscape in lieu of having turf lawns. Ms. Malone stated that there were some municipalities offering as much as \$1500 in tax credits to xeriscape in order to save water and lessen the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It may be something that the GPICA will look at helping to promote in the future.

Phil Buchanan was introduced and began his report by discussing the Willow Lake wetland destruction issue. The Treeco "Farmworker Housing" special exception application and the subsequent destruction and leveling of the Willow Lake wetland area was discussed and explained at length. Details of what has happened and what has been done about it so far appear on the GPICA web site and will not be duplicated here. However, Dr. Buchanan's description of how some governmental agencies are treating this issue raises concerns that it may once again be another example of destruction of wetlands or other sensitive environments and subsequent fines being considered just a "cost of doing business" by the developer. There were many demands by members to call on authorities to severely deal with this destruction. A motion was made and seconded calling for a resolution by the GPICA asking elected and enforcement officials to require full restoration of Willow Lake to its status as described by the 1990 study done by Southern Biomes and to levy heavy fines and any other appropriate criminal penalties as a means to prevent future wetlands destruction by others in our county and state. It passed unanimously.

Dr. Buchanan reported on several other issues including the Bocilla Seaport Marina, the Main Street sewer line proposal by the same developer and the so-called "nature preserve" down near Pine Island Cove which, again, the same developer has proposed and wishes to get taxpayer help in funding. The latter appears to be little more than a park/playground for his proposed housing development right next door.

He gave the status of the current suit by growers against the Pine Island Plan and opined that a motion to dismiss the lawsuit would be granted. There still would remain one lawsuit claiming a Bert Harris violation by one palm grower, but that suit is also likely to fail if the county stands firm.

President Hendrickson then announced that under Old Business there would be a Nominating Committee report. Dave Lukasek announced that there were six new director candidates being recommended by the committee. They are; Kathryn Aldridge, Patsy Anderson, Brian Griffin, Christine Kneeland and Dave Lukasek.

President Hendrickson then discussed, under New Business, that the Board was recommending that the term limits for Board members in the Bylaws be struck. That issue will be voted on by the general membership at the December meeting.

The 50/50 ticket was drawn and \$40 awarded to the winner.

Kathy Malone announce that the RGMC (Responsible Growth Management Coalition) annual dinner meeting is to be in January and tickets are available on their web site (www.rgmcswf.org). This is the organization that Gene and Ellie Boyd started. The Boyds were instrumental in the original Pine Island Plan in the late 1980s and Ellie Boyd and the RGMC were very helpful in the fight for the current Pine Island Plan started in the late 1990s and finally fully implemented a year or so ago.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 8:35.