

## **Minutes of the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 Greater Pine Island Civic Association meeting**

Anna Stober, vice president, opened the meeting. As there were no minutes from the previous meeting available and the Treasurer was absent, a motion was asked for to waive the reading of the minutes and the Treasurer's report. Motion made and seconded and passed unanimously.

Anna Stober introduced board member Bill Mantis. Bill introduced the evening's speaker, Planner Bill Spikowski, who was the Association's Planner since 1969 and was in large part responsible for writing the Pine Island Plan now in effect. Mr. Spikowski had been a contractor in Evanston, Illinois after graduating from Northwestern University there. He moved here with his wife in 1977 full time. In 1982 Bill, as a private citizen, helped to write the first Land Use Plan. A year or so later he became a Planner for the county and helped to formulate the 1989 Pine Island Plan from a staff position. He has been in private practice as a Planner since 1997. There is a wealth of information on his web site on not only the Pine Island Plan, but on other historical facts regarding growth in our area.

Bill Spikowski discussed the history of Pine Island since he has known it over twenty years ago and how growth management was developed in Lee County. He discussed the history of the award winning Pine island Plan. He alerted members to the threat by the mining industry to develop huge rock mines in the southeast part of the county unless something is done to allow local control over such mines. This may be an issue that the Association needs to weigh in on sooner or later. He suggested that individuals might want to write legislators with their opinions on this issue.

A question and answer period ensued. Concern was voiced about the proposed low cost farm worker's housing complex as simply adding another 148 units of low income housing in an area that doesn't need anywhere near that much. A resident of Pink Citrus then expounded for some ten minutes on how the current owners of Pink Citrus are raising rents excessively and, in general, not treating the tenants well at all in that park. It was suggested that those owners might want to drive the tenants out in order to build a like number of stick built units. It was suggested that someone contact the ACLU or similar entities since it was not the business of the GPICA to get involved in landlord-tenant disputes in any way.

Discussion of beautification of Pine Island Center ensued and it was suggested that a committee be formed to investigate this.

Bill Mantis gave an update of the Bocilla Seaport Marina project. It was suggested that people contact the South Florida Water Management District directly to voice their opinion as to whether this mammoth project should be approved. A link will be placed on the web site for that.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at about 8:30 p.m..

Dave Lukasek for Vicky Werner