

MINUTES OF MEETING Monday, November 19, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Stump at 2:08PM. He welcomed everyone, then, in Stan Parker's absence, turned the meeting over to Guest Speaker Ralph Mitchell, Director of the Charlotte County Extension Service, who supplied his own joke.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Mitchell opened with a questionnaire to see how much we already knew about fertilizer. He explained the reasons for the fertilizer ordinances that several nearby communities have recently passed and talked about what Charlotte County is preparing. The object of all is to supply the nutrients needed for plantings without having excess runoff into and pollution of our waterways. He emphasized using only what is needed – soils in our area most likely contain more than enough Phosphorous. In addition, Mr. Mitchell urged us to move toward Florida Friendly landscaping, which will reduce the need for irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticides. Several helpful handouts were available, along with soil test kits and the number to call, 941-764-4340, for fertilizer, plant and pest questions.

SECRETARY/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The minutes from the last meeting were accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported a current balance of \$10,423.00.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The stepped up presence of patrolmen has had a dramatic effect on safety and reduction of theft in our area.

MSTU/BEAUTIFICATION

In Mike McClain's absence, the Chairman reported that the Little Court Drainage work will begin this spring.

MEMBERSHIP

Betty Sue Carroll reported that total membership is 420.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Betsy McCallum explained what the Manasota and Sandpiper Advisory Committee, and its arm, the Architectural Review Committee, were working on.

OTHER BUSINESS

The President announced that Bonnie Littrell would again Chair a picnic, to be held in January or February.

Once again the Mad Sam's fish sculpture has been offered to our Island. Anyone with ideas for placement or funding for installation should contact Steve Stump at 474-8363.

There was concern about the re-opening of Sunsets, probably without permits. After discussion, the membership voted to send a letter from our organization to the BCC expressing our concerns.

A question came up about ways to make this large organization noticed. The President explained that elected officials pay close attention to the percentage of residents who vote. He said we would probably have a candidate's forum for local elections in April, before the majority of snowbirds leave. He also told us that the cut-off for changing party affiliation is Dec. 30, 2007.

The next meeting will be January 15, 2008. The focus of the program will be the proposed changes in Property Taxes and Homesteading, subjects of great interest to us all.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Sue Carroll, Secretary