

COTS meeting: September 21, 2018

Spanish Point: 3 pm

Following the agenda prepared by Elaine Trentacoste the following items were reviewed and discussed by the group.

Board of County Commissioners Meeting: September 11, 2018

Elaine Trentacoste (Facilitator for COTS) and Jill Schwartz attended the morning session fully expecting the final vote on the “temporary” Bay Street sidewalk to be on the agenda...as Spencer Anderson informed us in August. However, it was not and is now expected to be on the October 9th Board of Commissioners meeting (again in Venice). Spencer did later advise Elaine that it would not be identified as an agenda item “Bay Street”, but be included with another item. Todd Logan (Old Osprey) and Ron Grinnell (Rivendell), representing COTS, currently plan to attend the 10/9 Commissioners thanking the Commissioners for action on the Bay Street sidewalk initiative. Both Todd and Ron instrumental in “herding” this initiative through County government for a successful start to solving the pedestrian/cycling safety concerns on Bay Street.

Pursuant to this, Elaine (Willowbend) pointed out that on September 11th the Commissioners pursued a lengthy discussion on **Item #40 Planning and Development Services** in which approval was given to waive the requirement for a sidewalk along Keyway Road in Englewood. It would have been a “partial” sidewalk and useless, the construction amount was put into the “sidewalk fund” by FPL. Commissioner Hines then spoke at length that the County should NOT continue to build sidewalks that start and stop and do not serve pedestrian needs (he pointed out Old Venice Road and Bay Street). Furthermore, he said the County should not approve “temporary” sidewalks that would be torn up at a later date a complete sidewalk plan is budgeted. Commissioner Alan Maio concurred. (by the way he is not District 5 Commissioner..newspaper always errors on this)

Elaine and Jill both then wondered if the partial sidewalk Spencer Anderson said would be easily approved would come to pass. When Elaine had the opportunity to talk to Spencer later in the week, he reassured her that since the Bay Street partial sidewalk is an “operational exchange” he sees no reason why it would not pass.

Item #34 Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources presented a conceptual plan for a Dog Park at the Bay Street Park. It will be a 1 acre dog park and the plan is to expand the parking lot by 15 spaces. As a sidewalk is probably important for this project, it further secures the sidewalk COTS is advocating for nearer the Trail Head. The cost of the Bay Street Dog Park is projected to be \$500,000 and will come from Park Impact Fees (\$245,000 from North County and \$245,000 from South County).

The only other item relating to our COTS concerns (for transportation safety) in the Bay Street/Old Venice Road area of Osprey was **Item #52 Planning and Development**. This item referred to the

amendment to the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Osprey Revitalization Plan. This amendment was to allow for Bay Acres to continue from US 41 to Old Venice Road. The amendment was withdrawn by the petitioner. The Road reverts to being a “conceptual road”, meaning may be revisited at a later date.

PUBLIC TRAFFIC/SUMMER SURVEYS

Dot Prose (South Bay) submitted a form with photography of a problem/traffic concern which became more pronounced with the opening of the New Publix at Blackpoint Road/US 41. Experienced herself, Dot explained that traffic exiting the shopping plaza and in the right turn lane at Blackburn Point Road traffic light, has difficulty turning on the green light if a SCAT bus is loading at the bus stop which is close to the intersection. There is far more traffic now going South so cars turning right onto US 41 from BBP Road often do not have the option to merge into left lane if a bus is stopped.

Jill Schwartz (Willowbend) commented she has seen similar problem as more North traveling traffic is now using the left turn arrow at the intersection to execute a U turn to go South. Larger pick up trucks, delivery trucks, etc. Do not have enough room for the U turn on the green arrow if a bus is loading. She is to fill out a summer survey form and give to Elaine.

Discussion about the cross traffic at Blackburn Point/US 41 followed. There may be a timing conflict with the traffic light for drivers exiting Old Venice Road and wanting to turn left onto US 41 and those at Blackburn Point having the Green light to go straight across US 41 to Old Venice Road. There is no “left turn yield” sign at Old Venice Road. Left turn yield is a general rule of the road, but with the increased traffic a sign may be necessary. Further investigation on the traffic light timing is needed. Bob and Connie Bowles (The Arbors) to pursue.

These 3 items are **FDOT relevant**, not Sarasota County. Elaine to pursue when she has all information. She stated her contact at FDOT concerning transportation hazards, concerns, etc is very responsive.

TODD LOGAN (old Osprey) WILL BE THE COTS REPRESENTATIVE FOR REPORTING TO THE COUNTY THE NEED FOR OSPREY ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS (i.e. Bay Acres Needs Restriping)

Elaine informed the group that we can contact the county under “Connect with Us” to make requests for investigation of County Roadway issues including streets (not just county roads) and sidewalks.

COTS began (week of 9/23) **the weekly roadway construction report** from FDOT and Spencer Anderson. It will be condensed as it usually runs 6 pages and includes every roadway in Sarasota County. FDOT includes Manatee county. The full report can be viewed by anyone, and COTS can forward to those who request the full report instead of the condensed version.

The group wants to establish a monthly meeting date. As Spanish Point allows us to meet at **no cost**, we should have the consideration to give advance notice of our meetings. The group consensus: 3rd Monday of the Month. Group looked at calendar to see if 2nd Monday, prior to County Commissioners meeting the 2nd Tuesday of the month would work, but there were government holiday conflicts.

Discussion then followed on how to support Spanish Point in appreciation of having a meeting room. Their major benefit is November 16, 2018. Tickets are \$175 for an individual, however, as the date draws nearer, they may be in need of volunteers. Joining Spanish Point (\$60/individual) is also support for Spanish Point to remain vital and important to our community. The property is owned by Sarasota

County. It is waterfront and pristine “old Florida” with historical structures. But, it is also valuable land to the County.

Discussion of Website: We must buy the domain to have a Website. It is not a significant amount of money, but involves monthly payment for upkeep. It was decided this decision would wait until after the New Year.

COTS supporter William (Bill) Statz (Park Trace) is moving out of the area...please remove him from any COTS or personal email list you may have to contact him concerning COTS activities. By the way, including your phone number on the COTS contact list is completely optional.

Meeting adjourned about 4:45 pm with a deluge of Florida rain, complete with lightening and thunder, preventing a dash to the parking lot. We adjourned to gift shop and 4 of us bought umbrellas on sale at 50% off the markdown. Best \$8 spent!! The Spanish Point Gift Shop is undergoing renovation and will have new marketing and purchasing, so check it out periodically!!

Submitted by Jill Schwartz (I will be composing the Summary Notes following all of our meetings)

ATTENTION COTS PARTICIPANTS: IF YOU LIVE IN A COMMUNITY THAT HAS A NEWSLETTER (DIGITAL OR PRINTED) ACCESSIBLE TO HOMEOWNERS PLEASE FORWARD THE MEETING SUMMARY TO THE EDITOR OF THAT PUBLICATION. WHETHER ALL OR PART OF THE INFORMATION IS USED THE MORE OSPREY RESIDENTS WE CAN KEEP INFORMED THE MORE EFFECTIVE OUR EFFORTS FOR **COALITION FOR OSPREY TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.**