

Regular Workshop – June 17, 2013  
Agenda Item 11

**Agenda Item:** Discussion Regarding Continuation of Gulf of Mexico Drive Sign Removal Efforts

**Presenter:** Town Manager

**Summary:** Commissioner Duncan requested the Commission hold discussion regarding continuation of efforts for removal of unnecessary signage along the Gulf of Mexico Drive right-of-way. He recommends the Commission appoint a committee to investigate opportunities for further reduction of signs on Gulf of Mexico Drive.

**Attachments:** 6-11-13 Memo, Manager to Commission;  
2-17-11 Regular Workshop Meeting Minutes;  
5-26-11 Regular Workshop Meeting Minutes;  
6-6-11 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Recommended Action:** Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

## MEMORANDUM

Date: June 11, 2013

**TO:** Town Commission  
**FROM:** Dave Bullock, Town Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Discussion Regarding Continuation of Gulf of Mexico Drive Sign Removal Efforts

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At the September 23, 2010 Regular Workshop Meeting the Town Commission authorized the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board to create a committee to work with representative from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Town staff. The assignment was to determine which FDOT signs located on the Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) right-of-way were required and which were optional. The intent of this effort was to reduce the proliferation of unnecessary signage and reduce the overall inventory of signage along GMD. The findings and recommendations were presented at the February 17, 2011 Regular Workshop Meeting for Commission consideration. (Minutes attached).

The Town Commission continued this effort with adoption of Ordinance 2011-17, regulating parking in the GMD right-of-way, which allowed the FDOT to finalize the comprehensive signage plan for the GMD corridor. Discussion of the Signage Plan was held at the May 26, 2011 Regular Workshop Meeting and adopted at the June 6, 2011 Regular Meeting. (Minutes attached)

Commissioner Duncan has requested that the Commission consider appointing a citizens committee to investigate opportunities for further reduction of signs within the right-of-way along Gulf of Mexico Drive. This item has been placed on the June 17, 2013 Regular Workshop Meeting for Commission consideration and staff direction.

9. Request from Longboat Library Board to Address Town Commission - Continued

- phone system options
- grounds maintenance
- consideration to incorporate the Library into the Sarasota County Library system.

**There was consensus to have Town staff to research the options available relating to the Longboat Key Library requests.**

8. Discussion Regarding Reduction or Relocation of FDOT Signage - Continued

Mayor Spoll advised that FDOT representatives had not arrived and the Commission would continue with the published agenda pending arrival. (See item later this meeting.)

10. Request from Sarasota Bay Watch to "Adopt" Sister Keys

The Town Commission received correspondence from Sarasota Bay Watch regarding a proposal to "adopt" Sister Keys for organized clean-ups and to partner with the Town for enhancements to Sister Keys. Mayor Spoll requested that this item be placed on the February 17, 2011 Regular Workshop Meeting for consideration. Recommended Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

Following comments by Town Manager Bruce St. Denis, Mr. Rusty Chinnis, President of Sarasota Bay Watch, gave a slide presentation on Sister Keys reflecting past and present conditions on the island.

**There was consensus for Staff to work with Sarasota Bay Watch relating to the "Adopt an Island" program.**

8. Discussion Regarding Reduction or Relocation of FDOT Signage - Continued

The Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board Subcommittee and representatives of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) were tasked with review of the current sign inventory along Gulf of Mexico Drive. Their findings and recommendations regarding the number and frequency of signage will be presented for Town Commission consideration at the February 17, 2011 Regular Workshop Meeting. Representatives of FDOT will be seeking Commission direction prior to development of a comprehensive FDOT signage plan. Recommended Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

Following comments by Mayor Spoll, Planning, Zoning, and Building Department Director Monica Simpson provided background information on the Subcommittee meetings relating to the removal or relocation of signage on Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) and introduced FDOT Representative Keith Slater, P.E.

Mr. Slater presented an overview of the recommendations from FDOT and advised on seven "hot spots" on Longboat Key and options for signage in those locations.

Discussions were held with Ms. Simpson and Mr. Slater on the following topics/issues:

- proposed signs required
- anticipated Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) update

8. Discussion Regarding Reduction or Relocation of FDOT Signage - Continued

- number of signs on other barrier islands
- retaining signs along the Longboat Key Golf Course on Gulf of Mexico Drive
- utilization of audible markings along the bicycle lane
- required minimum size for a bicycle lane (four feet in State of Florida for repaving projects and five feet for new construction)
- lack of an educational program for bicycle riders
- characterization of Gulf of Mexico Drive as a rural roadway
- standards for marking bicycle lanes
- location of the seven "hot spots" on Longboat Key
- utilization of ½ mile versus one mile interval for placement of signs.

The following individuals commented on the removal of signage on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Discussions were held throughout speaker presentations:

Ms. Arlene Skversky, Gulf of Mexico Drive  
Mr. Paul Skversky, Gulf of Mexico Drive  
Mr. Joe Mochio, Ketch Lane, Town Representative on the Sarasota County Bicycle-Pedestrian-Trail Committee  
Mr. Larry Grossman, St. Judes Drive North  
Ms. Christine Prokosch, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East, Bradenton  
Mr. Steve Bayard, Mariners Way, Cortez  
Mr. Ed Levins, Osprey Avenue, Sarasota  
Mr. Paul Tobio, Dolphin Street, Sarasota

Mr. Slater commented on the utilization of different types of signs to create awareness of bicycle riders and traffic requirements and advised he could not install a sign not included in the MUTCD adopted by the State and noted that additional signs would result if the Town elected to add signs not in the MUTCD. Upon inquiry, Mr. Slater noted the type of paint markings to be utilized on the pavement and the reflectivity of the paint.

Mr. Rusty Chinnis, Longboat Drive East, commented on the correct utilization of the bicycle lane.

Mr. Walter Hackett, Buttonwood Drive, inquired and Mr. Slater noted his recommendation for the placement of signs.

Mr. Tom Aposporos, President of the Longboat Key, Lido Key, and St. Armands Key (LLSA) Chamber of Commerce, advised that the LLSA Chamber would prepare a pamphlet relating to roadway and bicycle laws.

Mayor Spoll read an excerpt from the MUTCD relating to the placement of signs and the effect of having too frequent signs.

Subsequent to individual comments, Ms. Simpson advised that today's consideration was focused on the bicycle signage only.

8. Discussion Regarding Reduction or Relocation of FDOT Signage - Continued

**There was majority consensus to support the recommendation of the FDOT for placement of signs every one mile with placement of additional signs at the identified seven "hot spots."**

**RECESS:** 2:50 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Note:** Town Attorney David Persson left the meeting at 2:50 p.m. and Assistant Town Attorney Kelly Martinson arrived at 2:50 p.m.

11. Nuisance Wildlife / Animal Control Issues

At the January 20, 2011 Regular Workshop Meeting Town staff and the Chief of Manatee County Animal Services Division addressed the Commission regarding methods used by local island municipalities to address nuisance wildlife / animal control issues. The Commission forwarded this item to the February 17, 2011 Regular Workshop Meeting for further consideration. Recommended Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

Following comments by Town Manager Bruce St. Denis, Public Works Director Juan Florensa reviewed conversations with representatives of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and noted that the FWC does not handle the trapping of wildlife and would refer callers to local wildlife trappers and offered suggestions to prevent nuisance issues.

Commr. Brenner commented on the local issues and suggested that Staff follow up with the FWC to see if they have any options for communities.

Commr. Larson noted the issues faced by residents and Mr. Florensa advised that FWC has indicated that native wildlife would be difficult to eradicate completely.

**There was majority consensus to direct Staff to follow up with FWC on programs initiated by other communities**

12. Proposed Ordinance 2011-11, Application for Change of Street Name

An application has been submitted by Collier-Walker Real Estate Holdings, Ltd., seeking a street name change from Triton Avenue to Triton Bend. The Town Attorney has drafted proposed Ordinance 2011-11 for Commission consideration at the February 17, 2011 Regular Workshop Meeting. Recommended Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

Following comments by Town Manager Bruce St. Denis on the application, Mr. Calvin Boehm, Neptune Avenue, commented on the proposed street name change.

Public Works Director Juan Florensa advised that Staff could add a sign at the East end of Triton Bend and Neptune Avenue.

Mr. Walter Hackett, representing Collier-Walker Holdings, noted the existing signage on Triton Avenue and Neptune Avenue.

**CONSENT ITEMS** - Continued

**9. Proposed Resolution 2011-19, Providing for Emergency Authorization for Town Manager**

Hurricane season occurs during a time when many of our residents, including Commissioners, are away. Resolution 2011-19 provides methods to obtain a quorum or gives the Town Manager authority to expend funds and take emergency action in the event a quorum of the Commission is not available. Recommended Action: Approval of the Consent Agenda will forward Resolution 2011-19 to the June 6, 2011 Regular Meeting for formal action.

**10. Redistricting Commission District Boundaries**

In accordance with the Town Charter, Article II, Section 1, Commission Districts, an update and audit of the Town's registered voters has been completed to determine whether the number of registered voters in any Commission district exceeds the number of registered voters in any other district by 20%. The audit reveals that redistricting is not required for the current year. Recommended Action: None, informational only.

**There was consensus to pull Items 6, 7, and 8 from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion. (See items later this meeting.)**

**There was consensus to close and approve Consent Agenda Items 9 and 10 in accordance with Staff's reports and recommendations.**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**11. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) Signage Plan**

The Town Commission's adoption of Ordinance 2011-17, regulating parking in the Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) right-of-way allowed the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to finalize the comprehensive signage plan for the GMD corridor. FDOT representatives will present the plan to the Commission for consideration. Recommended Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

Planning, Zoning, and Building Director Monica Simpson reviewed past Commission action and introduced FDOT Representatives Keith Slater and Matt Lever.

Mr. Slater provided an overview of FDOT's recommendations relating to signage on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Upon inquiry, Mr. Lever commented on the current location and proposed removal of "no parking" signs.

Commr. Duncan noted concerns relating to the parking availability for the new Church and Mr. Slater advised that concerns expressed had been forwarded to the Town's Police Department to ensure enforcement during and after completion of construction and discussed the timeframe for the removal of the signs.

**Subsequent to discussion, there was consensus to accept the FDOT Signage Plan for Gulf of Mexico Drive and to forward for formal action.**

21. Appointments to Town Boards and Committees - Continued

Following comments by Mayor Brown on the process for appointment, Town Clerk Granger proceeded with a roll call for the appointment to Seat 5 on the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA), as follows:

Mayor Brown cast a ballot for Mr. Thomas Bijou.  
Vice Mayor Brenner cast a ballot for Mr. Thomas Bijou.  
Commr. Younger cast a ballot for Mr. Thomas Bijou.  
Commr. Larson cast a ballot for Mr. Thomas Bijou.  
Commr. Duncan cast a ballot for Mr. Thomas Bijou.  
Commr. Zunz cast a ballot for Mr. Thomas Bijou.  
Commr. Lenobel cast a ballot for Ms. Jean White.

**Mr. Thomas Bijou was appointed to Seat 5 on the ZBA to serve a partial term, expiring on May 9, 2012.**

Town Clerk Granger proceeded with a roll call for the appointment to Seat 1 on the Code Enforcement Board (CEB), as follows:

Vice Mayor Brenner cast a ballot for Ms. Jean White.  
Commr. Younger cast a ballot for Ms. Jean White.  
Commr. Larson cast a ballot for Ms. Jean White.  
Commr. Duncan cast a ballot for Ms. Jean White.  
Commr. Zunz cast a ballot for Ms. Jean White.  
Commr. Lenobel cast a ballot for Ms. Jean White.  
Mayor Brown cast a ballot for Ms. Jean White.

**Ms. Jean White was appointed to Seat 1 on the CEB with a term expiring on May 8, 2013.**

22. Appointment of Members to the Finance Committee as a Subcommittee of the Town Commission

At the May 26, 2011 Regular Workshop Meeting there was consensus for creation of a Finance Committee to be advisory to the Town Commission. The Town Commission will appoint members to serve on the Finance Committee at the June 6, 2011 Regular Meeting. Recommended Action: Pending discussion, formalize Town Commission appointments to Finance Committee.

**Commr. Younger nominated Commr. Larson. Commr. Duncan nominated Vice Mayor Brenner. Commr. Larson nominated Commr. Duncan.**

**As no further nominations were made, Vice Mayor Brenner and Commrs. Larson and Duncan were appointed to serve on the Finance Committee.**

6. FDOT Gulf of Mexico Drive Signage Plan - Continued

The Town Commission's adoption of Ordinance 2011-17, regulating parking in the Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) right-of-way allowed the FDOT to finalize the comprehensive signage plan for the GMD corridor. At the May 26, 2011 Regular Workshop Meeting FDOT representatives presented proposed modifications to the signage plan to the Commission. Those recommendations are placed on the June 6, 2011 Regular Meeting

6. FDOT Gulf of Mexico Drive Signage Plan - Continued

Consent Agenda for formal action. Recommended Action: Approval of the Consent Agenda formalizes Commission approval of the FDOT GMD Signage Plan.

Commr. Duncan noted concern with the limited parking areas during the Christ Church Sunday services and possible overflow into the neighborhood and requested that adequate signage be provided on right-of-way relating to the "No Parking" restrictions.

Police Chief Al Hogle noted previous discussions with Church officials, advised that the Church has agreed to hire off-duty Police Officers to provide no parking enforcements, and noted that the Police Department has temporary signs that will be utilized during the services. Chief Hogle advised that if the matter becomes an issue, he will advise the Town Manager for further action.

**Vice Mayor Brenner moved to approve the FDOT Gulf of Mexico Drive Signage Plan. The motion, seconded by Commr. Younger, carried by a 7-0 roll call vote, as follows: Brenner, aye; Younger, aye; Larson, aye; Duncan, aye; Zunz, aye; Lenobel, aye; Brown, aye.**

23. Other Business

Town Manager Bruce St. Denis advised that Sarasota Board of County Commissioners will be considering redistricting and advised that the City of North Port had submitted proposed revisions to the County's plan. Town Manager St. Denis requested direction as to Staff or Commission attendance at one of the scheduled public hearings to present the Town's position.

Town Clerk Trish Granger provided an overview of the County's versus the City of North Port's proposed district boundaries separating Longboat Key from other island communities, advised of statutory requirements for Districts to be contiguous, and noted the Sarasota County public hearing schedule to consider the District boundaries.

Mayor Brown inquired as to attendance conflicts due to the Commission schedule and Town Manager St. Denis advised that a Staff member could attend to present the Town's position.

Vice Mayor Brenner noted that he had sent correspondence acting individually and commented on the responses received from the Commissioners. Individual comments followed on the options available to the Sarasota County Board of Commissioners with statutory restrictions relating to contiguous boundaries for Districts.

**TOWN COMMISSION COMMENTS**

A. Public Works/Transportation

Commr. Younger commented on the editorial comment from Sarasota Herald Tribune writer Jim Brown relating to traffic circles.



**End of Agenda Item**