



Martin County

Golden Gate Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Cassidy Center at Lamar Howard Park
2895 South East Fairmont Street, Stuart, Florida

Monday, August 4, 2025

PRESENT

Position	Name	Term Expiration
Chairperson	John Gonzalez	April 23, 2026
Members	Stephan Mark Capps	September 11, 2028
	Alicia Hill	May 5, 2029
	Saadia Tsafarides	September 11, 2025

ABSENT

Position	Name	Term Expiration
Vice Chair	Jeff Gregory	January 28, 2027
Members	Brad Tanzer	September 11, 2025

STAFF PRESENT

Position	Name
CRA Program Manager	Joy Puerta
CRA Specialist	Dianne Racek
Assistant County Attorney	Frank Moehrle

* Indicates a motion

** Indicates a vote

*** For the record comment

CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Agenda Item: 25-11195 Draft Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2025

MOTION

* J. Gonzalez motioned to approve the proposed May 15, 2025; meeting minutes as presented

**A. Hill seconded, and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY

COMMENTS

1. PUBLIC

- None

PRESENTATION

Agenda Item: 25-1196 HUMAN SERVICES - WATER AND SEWER ASSISTANCE

Julie Stellatos, Housing Program Coordinator with Martin County Human Services presented opportunities on water and sewer connection assistance.

COMMENTS

J. Gonzalez- How many of these grants are available? Is the number technically unlimited?

J. Stellatos- Funding levels vary from year to year, and at least 75% of each year's allocation must be used for rehabilitation projects, including water and sewer hookups.

Agenda Item: 25-1197 GOLDEN GATE - RESILIENT MARTIN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.

Amy Eason, Environmental Resources Engineer with Martin County Public Works, presented Resilient Martin and the exposure risk of Martin County through a Vulnerability Assessment, and its effects on the local communities throughout Martin County. This assessment includes sea level rise, storm surge, rainfall, and combination flooding as well as exposure, vulnerability, adaptive capacity, and sensitivity thus allowing for recommendations, community engagement, and planning.

COMMENTS

A. Hill- Do the graphs take growth and new development into account?

A. Eason- The graphs focus on current conditions and sea-level rise. Growth and development impacts will be modeled in the integrated watershed plan, using land use and zoning data.

J. Gonzalez- What is a living seawall, and how is it different from the seawall at Bathtub Beach?

A. Eason- A living seawall incorporates specially designed concrete shapes that mimic coral structures. This encourages marine life to grow on the wall and helps reduce wave energy naturally. In contrast, the seawall at Bathtub Beach is a traditional buried seawall located beneath the dune, primarily serving as a physical barrier to protect the shoreline.

S. Capps- How fast is sea level rising—does it ever slow down or cycle downward?

A. Eason- Sea level naturally goes up and down at times, but the overall trend is a steady increase, with no signs of slowing. The rate of rise may even accelerate in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 25-1198 GOLDEN GATE - GOLDEN GATE LANDSCAPE VISION PLAN UPDATE

Joy Puerta presented the Committee on the progress for the Golden Gate Landscape Vision Plan.

COMMENTS

A. Hill- Who is responsible for repairing the sunken crosswalk on Indian Street, located adjacent to the usual parking spot of the tortilla van?

J. Puerta- Capital Projects is managing the repair.

Agenda Item: 25-1199 GOLDEN GATE - GOLDEN GATE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Yuen Deng, Principal with DDEC presented initial design ideas, which include sidewalks/pathways, landscaping, on street parking, trees, lighting, traffic calming and road repaving. CRA staff, with the assistance of our consultant, is exploring preliminary concepts for potential grant purposes.

COMMENTS

S. Tsafarides- What is a mini roundabout?

Y. Deng- A mini roundabout is a compact, circular intersection designed to enhance traffic safety and calm vehicle speeds, particularly in residential neighborhoods. It uses a low-profile or mountable central island that fits within the existing roadway.

S. Tsafarides- Is there a specific location where you propose installing a mini roundabout?

Y. Deng- Based on comprehensive traffic studies and data analysis, the intersection of Jefferson and Evergreen has been identified as an appropriate location for the installation of a mini roundabout. Implementation at this site is expected to effectively reduce vehicle speeds, improve traffic flow, and enhance pedestrian safety, all with minimal infrastructure modifications.

A. Hill- If existing sewer lines are located between the roadway and the sidewalk, will they require relocation to facilitate the installation of curb, gutter, and the regrading of swales?

A. Eason- Sewer mains are typically installed at depths of at least 36 inches below grade, whereas swales are much shallower.

J. Puerta- We are presenting several cross-section options and would greatly appreciate your feedback. Please review the materials using the QR code provided and share your input.

S. Tsafarides- I believe the cross-section options should prioritize sidewalks rather than additional parking, as parking challenges are likely to persist regardless of the option selected.

J. Gonzalez- Given the earlier discussion about flooding and stormwater, I'm concerned that the proposed work could potentially impact the sewage drainage system. How will these impacts be addressed?

Y. Deng- During the detailed design phase, we will coordinate with utilities and relevant county departments—such as public works, environmental services, and transportation—to minimize disruptions and mitigate any concerns, ensuring proper integration of the curb, gutter, and swales.

COMMENTS

1. PUBLIC – none

2. MEMBERS

S. Tsafarides – Could you provide an update on the status of the building code violations on Fairmount Street?

Deputy Garduno- All items cited in the violation have been removed as requested.

S, Tsafarides- What is the anticipated timeline for installing the fencing around the stormwater treatment area?

J. Puerta- I will coordinate with Public Works to obtain a status update on the fencing installation and report back accordingly.

3. STAFF-none

ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Recorded and prepared by:

Dianne Racek, Community Development Specialist

John Gonzalez, Chair

Date

Date

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