



Martin County
Port Salerno
Neighborhood Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
 Port Salerno Civic Center
 4950 Anchor Avenue, Port Salerno, Florida

Thursday, April 9, 2026

PRESENT

Position	Name	Term Expiration
Chairperson	Jaime Rolle Taylor	February 20, 2029
Vice Chair	Edward Olsen, Jr.	September 10, 2029
Members	Karen Worden	January 28, 2027
	Leonard Lee	September 10, 2028
	Ellen Asselin	January 28, 2027
	Jim Peck	September 10, 2028
	Casey Cass	February 20, 2029

ABSENT

Position	Name	Term Expiration
Members	George Gottuso	February 20, 2029

STAFF PRESENT

Position	Name
CRA Director	Susan Kores
CRA Program Manager	Joy Puerta
CRA Specialist	Dianne Racek
Assistant County Attorney	Frank Moehrle
County Commissioner District #4	Sarah Heard

*** Indicates a motion**

**** Indicates a vote**

***** For the record comment**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Agenda Item- 26-0747 Draft Meeting Minutes –February 12, 2026

MOTION

* M. Worden motioned to approve the proposed February 12, 2026; meeting minutes as presented

**J. Peck seconded, and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY

During the discussion, it was noted that Edward Olsen, Jr. was listed both absent and present on the meeting minutes for February 12, 2026, the meeting minutes will be corrected showing that he was absent.

COMMENTS

1. PUBLIC

C. Crowley- Emphasized the importance of active community engagement in future development and the need for properly prepared engineering plans.

J. Dial- Supports preserving community character and existing greenspace and opposes additional development. Thanks Commissioner Heard for her service and announced intent to run for County Commissioner, District 4, citing a need for new leadership and encouraging residents to act on their values.

E. Anderson- Emphasized property owner responsibility to comply with County codes and CRA overlays based on local development experience. Acknowledges County and CRA

infrastructure improvements. Supports open space, stating land should be donated with community input, and raises concerns about ongoing maintenance.

PRESENTATIONS

Agenda Item- 26-0759, OPEN SPACE PLAN

Jessica Seymour, RA, LEED AP, Principal Program Coordinator of Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council presented an overview for the Port Salerno Open Space Plan.

COMMENTS

C. Cass- What is the timeline, budget, and funding source? Who are the stakeholders and has there been community input?

J. Seymour- The plan has been underway since February 2026; it serves as a conceptual framework to identify opportunities and gather public input.

J. Puerta- Funding was included in the FY2026 CIP at the February NAC meeting.

C. Cass- Emphasized the need for meaningful community input and a realistic timeline, with CRA funds focused on core infrastructure first.

S. Kores- Both priorities can advance concurrently.

E. Asselin- I support mulch paths in lieu of sidewalks, except in high-use areas. I have maintenance concerns, including the fountain, trash along the roadsides, and Cove Rd.

J. Rolle Taylor- Natural walkways are preferred.

M. Worden- There is lack of open space in waterfront development.

J. Rolle Taylor- Development meeting code requirements is permitted.

C. Cass- Green space is important and code compliance is the longstanding standard.

L. Lee- I am concerned with long-term maintenance and sustainability of improvements.

S. Kores- CRA funds are limited to capital improvements; maintenance is assigned to County departments.

J. Rolle Taylor- We often see issues where it is not maintained.

J. Puerta- Service requests should be submitted.

J. Rolle Taylor- Not all service requests are being completed, such as tree trimming. Page 26 of the CRA plan states legally available funds may be used for projects and future maintenance.

C. Cass- I am concerned about long-term maintenance and potential drug activity.

J. Seymour- Some of the area is already public land but is not currently being monitored or maintained. Increased visibility and use may help improve oversight and reporting.

S. Kores- Long-term maintenance concerns should be elevated to the Board of County Commissioners.

J. Peck- Printed materials should be available to improve public access.

J. Puerta- Materials are available online.

J. Peck- Online access can limit participation; printed materials improve engagement.

J. Seymour- Printing can be challenging, but materials can be provided upon request.

J. Peck- Are all CRAs going to see this plan?

J. Seymour- Each CRA will have its own plan.

J. Peck- There are concerns about water flow, retention ponds, and declining water quality in the Manatee Pocket.

J. Rolle Taylor- Water quality issues are primarily related to sewer and septic systems. That must be addressed first. This is a long-term plan still in the input phase.

C. Cass- Some elements could benefit the community, but a realistic timeline and clear intent are needed.

E. Anderson- Stated the map includes areas not owned by the County and expressed concern about funding improvements on non-County land. He noted church-owned and state-owned properties where the County cannot make improvements.

T. Kogl- Asked about Dixie Highway roadway design, multimodal access, and potential impacts to nearby properties.

S. Kores- Clarifies this discussion is specific to the Open Space Plan.

C. Crowley- Stated the plan has been in place since adoption, with no requested code changes. Notes impact fees would fund improvements, with anticipated tax base increases and proposed mixed-use development including open space.

J. Dial- Raised concerns about funding responsibility and whether the project should proceed. Emphasizes prioritizing basic services and community input.

T. Anderson- Mr. Anderson emphasized protecting the area, asked about sewer service, and supports continued community involvement.

J. Rolle Taylor- The basin does flow into Manatee Pocket. Water quality is a concern. Ripple is a good example of grant funding, and similar improvements could increase community support.

J. Seymour- The goal is to improve water quality and connectivity.

S. Kores- Improved connectivity and water quality would strengthen grant opportunities.

J. Seymour- A defined plan supports future grant applications.

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item- 26-0748, PORT SALERNO – STAFF UPDATES

Joy Puerta, Community Development Program Manager, presented updates to the Committee on progress for the New Monrovia Park, New Monrovia Neighborhood Improvements, and Septic to Sewer project. She notified the community about the post office relocation and informed them that Public Works would be addressing the NAC at the October 2026 meeting regarding the improvements planned for Dixie Highway.

COMMENTS

C. Cass- When is the Annual Bahamian Festival at New Monrovia Park?

J. Rolle Taylor- October.

C. Cass- Will the park project be completed by October?

J. Puerta- Yes. That is the target date.

C. Cass- Is the sewer project limited to New Monrovia?

J. Rolle Taylor- The sewer connection begins in New Monrovia but serves all of Port Salerno.

C. Cass- Do you have a map of the 952 parcels?

J. Puerta- Yes, but it is not available tonight. The area is north of Salerno Road, between Salerno Road and Cove Road, extending throughout the project area.

E. Anderson- Raised concerns regarding code enforcement, including unlicensed activity.

C. Cass- Your District 4 Commissioner thought it would be the start of World War III, and despite staff recommendations it was allowed to go forward. Crowley's tenant has been dumping garbage on the property.

S. Kores- Write your commissioners, come to the commissioners' meetings, and express your concern.

J. Rolle Taylor- The New Monrovia signs are deteriorating. The rope is coming loose, and the border underneath is peeling. One sign is located on Cove Road and the other is closer to Ebbside Avenue.

J. Puerta- The contractor responsible for signage will be contacted for repairs.

J. Rolle Taylor- The Old School site could be considered as a potential location for the post office.

C. Cass- Residents are encouraged to engage their neighbors and bring them forward to provide input if they want a voice in community decisions.

ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Recorded and prepared by-

Dianne Racek, CRA Specialist

Date

Jaime Rolle Taylor, Chair

Date

This document may be reproduced upon request in an alternative format by contacting the County ADA Coordinator (772) 320-3131, the County Administration Office (772) 288-5400, Florida Relay 711, or by completing our [accessibility feedback form](http://martin.fl.us/accessibility-feedback) located at martin.fl.us/accessibility-feedback.