



Martin County

Golden Gate Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, October 6, 2025

PRESENT

Position	Name	Term Expiration
Chairperson	John Gonzalez	April 23, 2026
Vice Chair	Jeff Gregory	January 28, 2027
Members	Alicia Hill	May 5, 2029
	Saadia Tsafarides	September 11, 2029

ABSENT

Position	Name	Term Expiration
Members	Brad Tanzer	September 11, 2029
	Stephan Mark Capps	September 10, 2028

STAFF PRESENT

Position	Name
CRA Director	Susan Kores
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: 26-0147 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES– AUGUST 4, 2025

MOTION

* J. Gregory motioned to approve the proposed August 4, 2025; meeting minutes as presented

**S. Tsafarides seconded, and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY

COMMENTS

1. PUBLIC

Deputy Angelico- Gave an update on e-bikes and possible local ordinances that may be passed for enforcement, and public safety.

PRESENTATION

Agenda Item: 26-0148 GOLDEN GATE - BIRCH PLAZA DEVELOPMENT

Holly Mathers with Mathers Engineering Corporation presented plans of Birch Plaza Development.

COMMENTS

S. Kores- Can you give some additional details on the parking?

H. Mathers- Since there is already a two way, vehicles will enter, turn, and follow the arrows to exit one way, with angled parking designed for easy backing out and smooth traffic flow.

S. Kores- How big are the apartments?

M. Watson- 800 square feet.

S. Tsafarides- Will there be a storefront?

M. Watson- There could be a small office or takeout deli.

J. Puerta- What is the architectural style?

M. Watson- Contemporary.

J. Puerta- What is the frontage type?

J. Sinnott- Storefront.

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 26-0149 GOLDEN GATE - GOLDEN GATE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Uyen Dang, Principal with DDEC presented additional typical sections for this project, 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 concepts for potential grant purposes.

COMMENTS

S. Kores- Can you describe an F Curb and Valley Gutter?

U. Dang- A Valley Gutter is a V-shaped channel next to grassy areas that directs stormwater across the street. An F Curb is a raised, vertical curb about 6 to 8 inches high, shaped like an 'F', and prevents vehicles from driving over. Both are typically two feet wide.

S. Kores- We understand parking is a major concern in our neighborhood. We are committed to maximizing parking availability and want to hear from the community to help alleviate this issue.

J. Gonzalez- Does the landscaping take parking spaces away?

U. Dang- Not usually, because landscaping is typically done at intersections where parking is not allowed. There are many ways to design it depending on constraints.

S. Kores- You want shade trees, better drainage, and areas where water can drain in, not more impervious sidewalks.

S. Tsafarides- I am concerned about double-parking.

U. Dang- Our intent is to create order, with parking on both sides.

S. Tsafarides- I do not think parking on both sides is good idea.

S. Kores- Why not?

S. Tsafarides- Because people will be walking all over.

J. Gonzalez- Homeowners may be upset if part of their property is taken, even if it's within the right-of-way.

A. Hill- For example, I have a sprinkler system that would need to be moved. This would cost me. Other homeowners will share that concern.

U. Dang- Those costs are usually baked into the project's capital cost.

J. Gonzalez- How will the county address homeowners' concerns about losing part of their property, even if it's within the right-of-way?

S. Kores- While challenges are inevitable, the community and the Neighborhood Advisory Committee have consistently emphasized the need for increased parking. The county reports that vehicles are parking in drainage ditches, leading to flooding issues.

J. Puerta- In a staff meeting, one idea was to designate parking on both sides to prevent parking in swales. Do you want parking?

J. Gonzalez- I agree, parking should be on both sides.

J. Puerta- Where should parking be on Golden Gate — east side or west side?

S. Kores- We want to hear what the community wants.

J. Gonzalez- Curb and gutter would be the most expensive option.

J. Puerta- If we get a grant (around \$30–35 million), we could remove the swale and put drainage underground.

J. Gonzalez- Would this be built in phases?

J. Puerta- Yes — the grant is the goal. The contractor would follow a phasing plan.

U. Dang- This will be a multi-year project.

S. Tsafarides- Is it possible to put a cul-de-sac on my dead-end street?

U. Dang- We don't have enough right-of-way. To make a turning radius, we'd have to buy the last two properties.

J. Gonzalez- We still want on-street parking and proper drainage. Most people here are in favor of curb and gutter.

S. Tsafarides- I agree.

Further discussion took place between NAC members, staff, and the presenter on parking, overall design of the various cross sections, the build grant, and the gateway feature.

Agenda Item: 26-0151 GOLDEN GATE - LANDSCAPE VISION PLAN UPDATE

Joy Puerta presented an update on the Landscape Vision Plan and announced the upcoming Golden Gate Fall Fiesta Event.

COMMENTS

A. Hill- Is this landscaping intended for the median?

J. Puerta- Yes — both the median areas and side streets will be landscaped. There's also a pocket park as part of the plan, where everyone will get to choose elements like the name and the type of landscaping that fits Golden Gate.

A. Hill- Are there any low maintenance plants or trees that are suitable?

J. Puerta- We already have some irrigation in place to reduce maintenance, and we're in discussions with field ops about expanding it to other areas.

Agenda Item: 26-0150 GOLDEN GATE - EL CAMINO UPDATE

Joy Puerta presented an update on El Camino.

COMMENTS

1. PUBLIC – none
2. MEMBERS-none
3. STAFF-

S. Kores- Gave an overview of the Golden Gate Redevelopment Plan, explaining its importance, the process of project initiation within the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), including the landscaping project, and where to access the plan.

J. Gonzalez- Can you print one for Saadia?

ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Recorded and prepared by:

Dianne Racek, Community Development Specialist

Date

John Gonzalez, Chair

Date

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