

DPQJ-1

12-03-19

**From:** Carol Ann <[bonbinifromcal@aol.com](mailto:bonbinifromcal@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2019 9:46 AM  
**To:** Comish <[Comish@martin.fl.us](mailto:Comish@martin.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** Parkwood Wetlands

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Once again the wetlands are under attack. We who care about the environment, saving wetlands and saving the Comprehensive Plan have to constantly keep monitoring the BOCC for one entity. We already came before you in the past to explain the value of wetlands, both large and small. We explained how they can be connected underground as well as be separate. Wetlands help to prevent flooding. They help filter water of nutrients that enter from runoff from fertilizers for example. They provide a habitat for birds and animals. The BOCC voted not to allow the destruction of the small wetlands as proposed by a developer. I'd like to go back and find my notes on wetlands to be sure I've stated all their benefits. I don't have time as I just found out about the meeting on Tues. Dec. 3 regarding the Parkwood setback elimination. Please do not eliminate the setback requirements for the homeowners who don't care about wetlands and ignore the rules regarding them. It's stated that they built decks, pools or other structures within the setback which was to be 25 feet. Now we have to fight homeowners as well as developers who think the rules don't apply to them? If citizens think they can get their way by simply disobeying the Comp Plan then they will continue to violate it. It's not right to allow those homeowners to continue with their structures by eliminating their setback area. Then the remaining homeowners whether they are adjacent to a wetland or not, will be allowed a 15 foot setback vs. a 25 foot setback. That's not appropriate. PLEASE STOP ALLOWING THE WETLANDS TO BE ATTACKED, ELIMINATED OR DIMINISHED.

I would come speak at the meeting but the e-mail will have to suffice this time.  
Carol Ann Leonard

**From:** Dick Landrum <[Dick@landrumsoftware.com](mailto:Dick@landrumsoftware.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2019 7:13:13 PM  
**To:** Comish <[Comish@martin.fl.us](mailto:Comish@martin.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** NO to amendment modifying PUD agreement for 25 foot setback

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Commissioner:

I strongly disagree with allowing an amendment to Parkwood's PUD zoning agreement. The political atmosphere in our country for the past three years has been:

- Ignore Rule of Law.
- Try to get away with everything you can.
- Damn the environment, the Clean Water Act, The Clean Air Act...

We should be better than that in Martin County. Rules are rules throughout the County, even in HOAs. The violators should be made to remove the violating structures and return the land back to its original condition.

We must not continue to chip away at our Comprehensive Plan. Let's start spending more time and energy figuring out how we will deal with coastal flooding, and start doing something about it. Encroaching on wetlands will certainly not be a good policy for keeping our heads above water. We need to join the proactive communities and set the best example for how to deal with climate change.

Sincerely,

Dick Landrum  
2949 SW Cornell Ave.  
Palm City, FL 34990  
[Dick@LandrumSoftware.com](mailto:Dick@LandrumSoftware.com)

(772) 249-7408

Supporting documentation-

Agenda Item DPQJ-1 proposes an amendment to the Parkwood Planned Unit Development Zoning Agreement to eliminate a required 25-foot setback from wetlands adjacent to platted lots.

**The wetlands setback has been in place since the subdivision was established 35 years ago. But in recent years, some homeowners constructed decks, pools or other structures within the setback, prompting the Parkwood Homeowners Association to seek help from the County this year for a few homeowners who couldn't or wouldn't follow the wetlands setback requirement.**

Staff asked the Commission to address the problem by simply eliminating the wetlands setback, and the Commission majority agreed, directing staff to draft an amendment to the PUD Agreement. A rear setback of 15 feet will remain for all lots in the subdivision, regardless of whether the lots are adjacent to wetlands, but **the amendment makes no effort to protect wetlands except for the original language which prohibits alteration or construction within the wetlands.**

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Dec. 2, 2019

Board of County Commissioners

RE: Agenda Item DPQJ-1, Dec 3, 2019

Good morning.

My name is Jon Page. I speak as a resident of Martin County and on behalf of the Martin County Democratic Caucus, addressing Agenda Item DPQJ-1 which proposes to eliminate a required 25-foot setback from wetlands adjacent to platted lots in Parkwood.

I have not been able to visit the area in question.

But a **wetland buffer** is a setback area between a **wetland** and any upland development.

All wetlands, no matter how small, are essential. They:

- help control flooding and reduce damage from storm surges;
- trap sediments and pollutants;
- help to recharge groundwater;
- can lessen dangers of flooding;
- in tidal zones they provide nurseries for shellfish and fish.

They also serve as habitat for birds, amphibians, and other wildlife and provide scarce natural areas in urban and suburban environments.

**Buffers can screen light, noise, domestic pets, and human presence from wetlands and their wildlife.**

Attention to these functions is essential to governance of the community's land uses, public health, safety, and welfare.

**One of four stated policies in the Comp Plan's 2020 Vision for a Sustainable Martin County is 'no wetlands impacts'.**

**The 25 foot setback from wetlands adjacent to platted lots in the Parkwood Planned Unit was established 35 years ago.**

But - **again**, property owners ignore our Comp Plan designed for the preservation of Martin County's ecology and beauty - for the sake of their individual interests.

**Requesting these changes infringes upon the rights of the rest of us to preserve the safety and beauty of our environment.**

Commissioners -

Why are you condoning these violations of county regulations?

Why did Parkland's HOA allow these violations?

How, in good conscience, can you **retroactively** approve these violations?

**The writers of our Comprehensive Growth Plan acted as stewards of our land and water, providing regulations with exceptional justification.**

**But the majority on this commission have not added to our Plan; rather, they seek to diminish it.**

*Our natural beauty is endangered – as is our reputation and, with the perils of Climate Change, our sustenance.*

In closing, I will once again quote from the Filkins' adaptation of Elegy for the Sunshine State from the New Yorker in 2017:

**"If you grow up in Florida, you watch the natural world around you disappear. It's just a fact you live with. The verdant, miles-long stretch of dune and palm, rustling to the beat of the waves? Paved over. The brackish stream that flows from ocean to intercoastal, giving life to manatees, alligators, and tarpon? Turned into a parking lot."**

This is what we are becoming, violation by violation.

cc: Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator  
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