



**Martin County
Golden Gate
Neighborhood Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**Cassidy Center at
Lamar Howard Park**
2895 SE Fairmont
Stuart, FL

Monday, February 1, 2021

PRESENT

Position	Name	Term Expiration
Chairperson	Jackie Vitale	January 28, 2023
Vice Chair	Cynthia Ramsey	January 28, 2023
Members	H.F. Hirsch	September 11, 2021
	Mariann Moore	September 10, 2024
	Rebecca Hartman	September 11, 2023
	Saadia Tsafarides	September 11, 2021
	Deborah Stasevich	April 23, 2022

STAFF PRESENT

Position	Name
CRA Project Manager	Joshua Mills
CRA Development Specialist	Jana Cox

* 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: 21-0371 Draft Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2020

MOTION

* C. Ramsey motioned to approve the proposed December 7, 2020 meeting minutes as presented

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

COMMENTS

1. PUBLIC - none
2. MEMBERS

- R. Hartman – It was beautiful that we had a lot of input at the last NAC meeting, it was very productive. On another note, have we addressed the COVID concerns in Golden Gate?
- J. Mills – We have access to this information, and I will start bringing updates to the NAC meetings.
- S. Tsafarides – Commissioner Hetherington apologized that she cannot be here tonight.
- J. Vitale – I would like to thank you for trusting me to chair this committee and would like to try a new way of communication within this meeting. If you want to speak, please turn your name plate upright and I will call on you. This should eliminate talking over one another and make the meeting run smoothly.
- J. Mills – We will have our county attorney representative Elizabeth Lenihan attending our next meeting, April 5th, to go over Florida Sunshine Laws, conflict of interest, and rules of procedures.

- S. Tsafarides – I am grateful to the MCSD for changing the dead-end roads. I would like to make a motion to have a letter of appreciation sent to Scott Shiner to go on their record.

MOTION

- * S. Tsafarides motioned to have a letter of appreciation sent to MCSD
- ** H. Hirsh seconded, and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY

3. STAFF

- J. Mills – Updates:
 - Sewer installation will be mobilizing soon, and the project will be underway.
 - DOT has expedited the agreement for Dixie Highway and bids should be going out soon.
 - Camino Trail is in the 60% design stage and we will bring a presentation to our next NAC meeting.
 - The Cassidy Center ribbon cutting/grand opening will be March 2, 2021 at 10:00 am if you want to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item: 21-0373, Golden Gate Sidewalk Extension

Josh Mills, CRA Project Manager presented the sidewalk connection on Indian Street.

- R. Hartman – That road floods correct?
- J. Mills – Yes, this is correct, and should be fixed as part of the Indian Street refurbishing project.
- J. Vitale – How much will this cost?
- J. Mills – The cost was liberally estimated at \$15,000, so it's possible it could come in less.
- S. Tsafarides – Who is this sidewalk going to serve?
- J. Mills – It will serve the Golden Gate community.
- R. Hartman – I encourage this committee to approve this for school bus safety and children waiting in this area.
- J. Vitale – I agree, so many people take this route and use these sidewalks.

MOTION

- * C. Ramsey motioned to approve the Golden Gate Sidewalk Extension
- ** M. Moore seconded, and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY

Agenda Item: 21-0372 Golden Gate Neighborhood Enhancement Projects

Josh Mills, CRA Project Manager facilitated a brainstorming session asking NAC members for ideas.

- S. Tsafarides – We desperately need street lighting in Golden Gate.
- D. Hartman – I concur with this. We need lighting and to control fast driving in Golden Gate.
- J. Vitale – Do we want to consider different types of traffic calming in Golden Gate? What about traffic calming that involves medians and landscaping?
- J. Mills – We can initiate a traffic study with our Public Works Department and see if the calming is warranted and what forms of traffic calming would suit the community best.
- S. Tsafarides – The streets of Golden Gate are very narrow especially Fairmont.
- J. Vitale – Are you suggesting widening these streets?
- J. Mills – I will check into it.
- J. Vitale – One thing that I would like to see addressed is the trash issue in Golden Gate. We need a public education program perhaps a YouTube video in English and Spanish that shows what is recyclable and what is not. I would like to see special receptacles incentivizing people NOT to throw plastic bottles on the ground. Has anyone seen these types of programs used in other communities?
- E. Fitzgerald – We have been trying to go after some landlords making them follow the rules for trash.
- R. Hartman – Are we connected in our streets? What I mean is that the connectivity of our people in Golden Gate is important.
- M. Moore – The streets in Golden Gate are in alphabetical order and there is only one street that does not connect. The dead-end streets are beautiful.

- J. Mills – For the lighting, we would have to work with our Public Works Department to get this done. I will check into it and report back to this committee.
- M. Moore – Can we save money on traffic calming by tapping into the sewer project and doing it at the same time?
- J. Vitale – I agree, two birds with one stone.
- J. Mills – That makes sense.
- S. Tsafarides – Just so you know we have passed on resurfacing the streets of Golden Gate many times because of the sewer project.
- J. Vitale – Josh, can you put pressure on Public Works to work together on this?
- J. Mills – It depends on the phase of the project and if plans have been stamped and approved. It might be too late to make changes, but I will absolutely ask and see what can be done.
- D. Stasevich – I suggest no benches in Golden Gate. It attracts people to hang out. Golden Gate is very cultural, and diversity needs to be addressed with community involvement.
- H. Hirsh – The thing about the people who live in Golden Gate is that they are scared to come out.
- M. Moore – Most of the landlords do not live here and they could care less. All they care about is their rent money.
- J. Vitale – I would like to see a targeted campaign reaching out to our Latino community as we want their input.
- D. Stasevich – We need to do something cultural. An idea that comes to mind is the manatees that go under the bridge near St. Lucie Blvd.
- S. Tsafarides – The bridge is not in the CRA.
- J. Mills – The bridge is in the CRA. I have been working on a project for new signs in Port Salerno, and this is a great place to do something like that project – a Welcome to Golden Gate sign.
- J. Vitale – I like this idea. I can vision big manatees that people paint and make it a cool mascot. We could come up with lots of ideas and we are just brainstorming. Josh, do you see anything that is too complicated at this point?
- J. Mills – No, I like the things you have presented so far. The most doable is the Welcome to Golden Gate sign and adopting the manatee theme. Port Salerno has the pelican theme, Jensen Beach has the pineapple theme and having a theme for Golden Gate is a good idea.
- D. Stasevich – Is placing striping on our streets a good idea for traffic calming?
- J. Mills – Each street crossing of the Camino Trail will be a raised crosswalk with proper alerts letting oncoming traffic know it is a pedestrian crossing.
- D. Hartman – One last thing that I always want to include is that we need trees wherever possible. The community needs shade.

COMMENTS

1. PUBLIC

- Annette (Cookie) Jones – We have lots of things going on in Golden Gate for the kids. The nice new community center is an integral part of the community providing a place for younger kids as well as the teens.

2. MEMBERS

- M. Moore – What is the status of the junk cars?
- J. Mills – It is an uphill battle and we are learning the hard way regarding approving these types of projects. Irene is dedicated to making this right and communicating with the owner.
- D. Stasevich – I frequently work with the renters in Golden Gate, most of them have lived here for over 15 years, and they do feel ownership for this community and care about what happens here.
- S. Tsafarides – Josh knows we have a landlord with over 40 units who contributes to the trash issue. Could we send a letter to this landlord from the magistrate? We have done this before, and it helped.
- J. Mills – I do not recommend sending a letter from us. Code enforcement is out here regularly along with attempts to bring these individuals before the magistrate.

- J. Vitale – Echoing what Debby said, how do we reach out to the stakeholders in the community? Is that a staff project?
- J. Mills – We send emails via Constant Contact every time we have NAC meetings, our marketing department with the County pushes out social media alerts, there is a meeting calendar on the County website, and we place message boards in the community before every meeting.
- M. Moore – We have done this. They will not come.
- J. Mills – One thing I will do is send out the plan for the March 2nd Cassidy Center grand opening and can use that as a launch to reengaging the community.

ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm
Recorded and Prepared by:

Jana Cox, Community Development Specialist

Date

Jackie Vitale, Chair

Date

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