



**Martin County**  
Old Palm City  
Neighborhood Advisory Committee  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Palm City Community Center  
2701 South West Cornell Avenue, Palm City, Florida

**Monday, February 16, 2026**

**PRESENT**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
Chair	Rex Sentell	September 11, 2029
Members	Jane Landrum	October 24, 2027
	Chuck Smith	September 11, 2029
	Mike Searle	September 11, 2027
	Oscar Torres	September 11, 2029
	Colleen Pachowicz	April 19, 2026

**ABSENT**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
Vice Chair	Chris Pinkston	May 9, 2027
Members	Douglas Legler	September 11, 2029

**STAFF PRESENT**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
Assistant CRA Manager	Jordan Pastorius
Community Development Specialist	Dianne Racek
Assistant County Attorney	Frank Moehrle
County Commissioner District #5	Edward Ciampi

\* 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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Agenda Item: 26-0614, OPC NAC APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 15, 2025**

**MOTION**

\* M. Searle motioned to approve the proposed December 15, 2025; meeting minutes as presented.

\*\*C. Smith seconded, and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

**COMMENTS**

1. PUBLIC-

C. Bartholomay- – Mr. Bartholomay expressed enthusiasm for the new CRA projects and noted, based on his experience as a fishing captain, that boating is central to the area’s way of life. Encourages the inclusion of docks and other boat-friendly infrastructure in future development.

J. George- A resident of Southwest Conch Cove Lane, raised safety concerns at the base of the Palm City Bridge.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Agenda Item: 26-0615, OPC NAC-CORNELL AVE STREETScape PROJECT**

Jordan Pastorius, Community Development Assistant Manager, and Joe Capra, P.E., Captec Engineering, Inc., presented the Committee with the substantial final design for the Cornell Avenue Streetscape Project.

**COMMENTS**

A. McGanock – How wide is the road right now?

J. Capra – The road is currently 20 feet wide and will remain 20 feet. We are shifting it two feet to accommodate drainage and bioswales.

A. McGanock- Is the curb going to be raised?

J. Capra- Yes, the curb will be raised and will include a flume and swale.

R. Pelosi– I am concerned about stormwater runoff. I do not support deciduous trees and prefer palm and tropical trees. Is there a plan for a traffic signal at Cornell and Indian Street? I do not support speed bumps it is not good for my boat or for my wife's back issues.

S. Harrell – I have lived in Old Palm City over 50 years. Traffic calming is not working, cut-through traffic is increasing, stop signs are ignored, and boat traffic is forced through our streets. Something needs to be done.

D. Vogel- I am concerned the proposed landscaping will create more blind spots.

J. Capra– The trees will be set as far back as possible, and we will use a site triangle to ensure visibility.

J. Landrum– Are no speed bumps or tables being proposed?

J. Capra– None are planned. Past board members opposed them. I know what it takes to install speed tables or other traffic calming devices. Currently, three-way and four-way stop signs provide traffic control, not traffic calming.

J. Landrum- Cornell has become a through street, but this is a neighborhood street not designed for that traffic. It needs regulation, and residents need access to their driveways. How high are the lights going to be? I requested them be a bit lower because of their brightness.

J. Pastorius- They are 14 feet.

C. Pachowicz- Speed tables are expensive, and a speed study should be done.

C. Smith- Joe, has one been done?

J. Capra– Not that I am aware of. A combination of traffic calming measures usually works better than a single device. Speed tables slow drivers but can widen areas and delay emergency vehicles.

R. Sentell – The speed tables on Mapp Road are very shallow.

J. Capra – They are raised intersections and comply with ADA requirements.

R. Sentell – Have they slowed traffic on Mapp Rd?

J. Capra– I do not know; no study has been done.

R. Sentell – Can we add some traffic calming measures?

J. Capra – Options include visual measures like striping or rapid flashing lights.

J. Landrum- I do not see the sheriff's office issuing tickets.

S. Harrell- Speed bumps are always active. Deputies can only be present for limited times. Boats can go over speed bumps.

C. Pachowicz- Speed tables at 34th Street are ineffective. Drivers slow down and then speed up immediately after.

R. Sentell- Do we need a motion?

J. Pastorius- The county engineer may request a speed study, and a neighborhood survey is needed. Past speed bumps were removed due to complaints. Residents are always divided; a survey can gauge support.

S. Harrell- I will go door to door and get support for speed bumps if that is what it takes.

R. Sentell- The survey should allow all Old Palm City to participate

J. Capra- The process usually starts with a petition, followed by a speed study, discussion of findings, consultation with residents to confirm support, NAC and CRA recommendations, and final approval by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners.

Further discussion took place between NAC members, the public, and staff regarding traffic calming measures and recommendations to address traffic issues.

R. Sentell- We need to vote on the lights; if we are going to go with the ones that are on Mapp Rd. I like them because it makes it more distinctive.

J. Pastorius- To clarify, the plan is to keep the existing FPL cobra lights on the power poles at the intersections for safety and cost savings and use decorative lighting along mid-block areas.

C. Pachowicz- How many light poles are there?

J. Capra- Thirteen.

C. Pachowicz- They are on the east side?

J. Capra- Yes.

J. Landrum- I want to keep them as low, safe and practical. We do not want to live in a high-crime area.

J. Pastorius- We will check with the manufacturer for a lower pole option.

O. Torres- I am going to abstain voting on the lights.

J. Pastorius- You will have to complete a form tomorrow.

## **MOTION**

\*C. Pachowicz motioned to install the decorative lights and, if possible, lower light poles at J. Landrum's request.

\*\*M. Searle seconded, and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY, with O. Torres abstaining.

J. Miller- The bridge used to have amber lighting underneath, which was prettier and less harsh. Those lights were replaced with bright white lighting that looks industrial. Is it possible to return to amber lights?

J. Pastorius- I will investigate and see if it is an option.

C. Smith- Do the plans and budget include an irrigation system and root barrier for the larger trees?

J. Capra- Yes, it is included.

M. Searle- Why is there no curb on the westside?

J. Pastorius- To allow stormwater to flow into the swale. The curb must be on the east side due to safety measures and regulations.

**Agenda Item: 26-0616, OPC- ENHANCED CONNECTIVITY**

Jordan Pastorius, Assistant Manager, Office of Community Development, presented the potential areas to enhance connectivity, explore a healthy fitness trail, and the timing of this related to other priorities.

**COMMENTS**

R. Sentell – This should be planned for future development. In the meantime, we can move forward with some of the smaller projects discussed.

C. Smith – What is the status of the plant replacements along Mapp Road?

J. Pastorius – I am working with Field Operations to identify areas needing replacement and determine appropriate plants and trees.

O. Torres- Will one side not get a curb?

J. Pastorius- Correct. The west side does not need a curb because there is no sidewalk, and runoff flows directly into the swale. On the east side, flumes and inlets will direct stormwater into the swale and underground pipes.

O. Torres- I am concerned vehicles driving over the area will create muddy conditions like what exists now.

J. Capra- A two-foot stabilized shoulder and structured drainage system will direct stormwater from the east side into the inlets and underneath to the west side.

O. Torres- Can the graffiti under the overpass be addressed?

J. Pastorius- Residents may use the County's online Request for Service system, available 24/7, to report graffiti, potholes, downed trees, or other concerns.

**Agenda Item: 26-0617, OPC - PROJECT UPDATES**

Jordan Pastorius, Assistant Manager, Office of Community Development, informed the NAC of the upcoming Open Space plan Treasure Coast Regional Planning will be working on.

**COMMENTS**

1. Public -

A. McGanock - I am concerned about fast traffic and think rumble strips before the stop signs might get drivers' attention and slow them down. I do not want to wait three years for this project. Can this be done now?

J. Pastorius- Put a request for service in to Public Works to see if it is a possibility.

Member of the Public- How much maintenance will these trees require, and how much of our taxes go toward that? Do you consider that when choosing the trees?

J. Pastorius- We coordinate with Public Works to ensure the plans stay within what they can maintain in their budget.

C. Harvey- I do not think an 8-foot sidewalk is possible. Are we doing this project for safer sidewalks? Only one little girl got hurt and killed on Cornell Ave. There is no safety issue here. Just leave Old Palm City alone.

R. Sentell- The entire project is in county right-of-way.

2. Members– None

3. Staff – None

**ADJOURN** – Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Recorded and prepared by:

Dianne Racek, Community Development Specialist

Date

Rex Sentell, Chair

Date

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