

Pinecraft Public/Private Partnership Kickoff Meeting

January 7, 2014

Location: 1660 Ringling Blvd./ 2nd floor conference room A/B

Present:

Pinecraft: Todd Emrich, Fred Hershberger, Amos Lapp, Orley Miller, Tim Miller, Ervin Raber, Amos Stoltzfus, David Swartzentruber, Ola Yoder, Norm Kauffmann, Niles Graber Miller, Hans Weaver, Emma Ruth

Sarasota County: Charles Marchione, Dan Smith, Steve Kirk, Greg Yantorno, John Reed, Donna Thompson, Cynthia Spraggins, Paula Wiggins, Elma Feliz, Tom Polk, Teresa Mast

Introductions

Tom Polk called the meeting to order and led the room in introductions. The members of the county and the steering committee stated their name and their role in the project. Norm Kauffmann served as meeting moderator and introduced Tim Miller, chair of the Pinecraft Board, who then led the rest of the meeting. The Pinecraft Board members initiated the meeting by posing some areas for discussion (the problems) that have been selected to be involved for consideration in the Masterplan. The county representatives responded with their feedback (possible solutions) and expertise regarding the various items. The Goshen Team will work at bringing all of the given items into a Masterplan and identify and establish code for an overlay district.

Boundaries

The Pinecraft Board expressed interest in expanding the boundaries of their neighborhood, with the hope that more people would be able to buy and rent. Possible areas to expand include pushing boundaries north and creating a bridge to open back area. There are currently no boundaries that define Pinecraft with the exception of what is identified as the Lighting Improvement District. It was decided that identifying issues within the Plan will drive boundaries, so there is no need to draw lines at the current time.

Cottage Industries and Bed Tax

The Pinecraft Board has acknowledged regulations for a bed tax in the neighborhood, and the county would like to understand current practices being done for rentals in order to establish code. Work must be done with the fire and police departments to ensure there is proper accessibility to homes, which involves the placement of working smoke detectors in homes. The Materplan will acknowledge home modification and improvement, as well as zoning guidelines and requirements for a building permit.

The Masterplan will address cottage industry guidelines, which includes bike rentals, home businesses, and setting limitations to prevent big box stores from being established in Pinecraft.

Safety/Crosswalks

Police will soon begin to enforce traffic laws more closely after a brief “grace/educational period.” Pinecraft residents should be encouraged to use the three designated area crosswalks, as well as evaluate the current time that pedestrians are given to cross (currently a 30 second period of flashing lights, but could be adjusted.) The Masterplan will inform residents of proper rules of the road, regulations for golf carts, and will address safety in the busy areas and side streets of Pinecraft.

Pinecraft Park

The Pinecraft Park Committee has expressed interest in expansion and addition to the park. Todd Emrich spoke on behalf of this committee and will get a list to the county regarding these expansions. A bulletin board will be implemented at the park to post notes and updates regarding the Pinecraft Project.

Public Nuisance

The Pinecraft Board expressed concern regarding properties within Pinecraft that pose public nuisance. The Masterplan will address how to control this issue in an overlay district, but in the meantime the Board was encouraged to contact the police through an anonymous call. (941-316-1201).

SCAT Bus Stops

Planning is underway for three new bus stops in the Pinecraft area. The Pinecraft Board has requested bicycle racks to park bikes around the bus stop, as well as a potential seasonal route to Siesta Key. SCAT representatives notified the county and the Board that this type of project cannot be funded until 2016, but it is important to receive a push of importance from the Pinecraft community. The Masterplan will develop a proposal for this route.

Additional considerations from the county

The county would like to hear whatever desires the community has to present or focus on in the Masterplan. The county’s main concerns include safety on the side streets in Pinecraft, transient trailers parked on properties, landscaping that pose danger or intrusion, the need for bike paths or general bike safety, and lighting within the neighborhood.

Period of Implementation after Plan is approved

The board was informed that items addressed in the Masterplan will take transition time and there will likely be no immediate changes. Board and community members must be future-oriented when developing ideas for the neighborhood plan, as these items will take time and funding to be implemented.