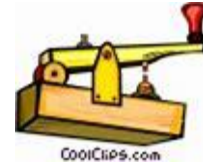


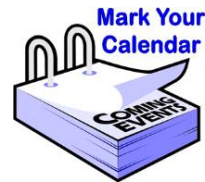


February 2023

Coconut Telegraph



- **Upcoming Meetings**
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- **Membership Update**
- **Charlotte County Board of Commissioners report**
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Upcoming meetings:

February 15 at 5:30 – Board of Directors’ Meeting

April 15 at 12:00 (somewhere on Placida Beach Condos’ field) - Annual meeting for all members

Annual Election of Directors: (submitted by Joe)

Per our bylaws: **This notice is given in excess of 60 days prior to the Annual Members’ meeting**

The Directors representing odd numbered districts shall be elected in odd numbered years, and, likewise, the Directors representing even numbered districts shall be elected in even numbered years.

For this year, 2023, Districts 1,3,5,7 are up for election.

Current positions are held by:

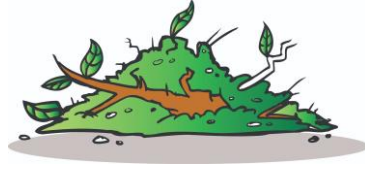
- District 1: 8000-8288 LGI Laurie Tremblay (Coconut telegraph Editor)
- District 3: 8594-8888, excluding 8546, 8554, 8558, 8562, 8566, 8574, 8582, 8590, and excluding even numbers 8802-8818 Deric Flom (vice president)
- District 5: 9140-9394 Joe Bokar (secretary)
- District 7: 9420-9646 Pede Fraser (at large)

If you are a member in one of these districts, and are interested in running for directorship of your district (including the incumbents), notify Joe Bokar (secretary) by email (joseph.bokar@case.edu) of your intention, ASAP, but no later than March 5, 2023 (40 days prior to the meeting). Regardless of the existing director's intent, if more than one member in a district volunteers, an election will be held in that district. The election will be done by email between March 6 and the Annual Meeting. For each district holding an election, the Secretary shall then send by email to all members in the district the list of all candidates for Director in that district no later than 30 days in advance of the annual meeting.

A blue rectangular graphic with the words "MEMBERSHIP UPDATE" in white, bold, uppercase letters. The text is centered within the rectangle.

Membership Update (Membership Chair, Dawn Bokar)

It only takes a few minutes to join or renew a LGPOA membership and stay up to date with news affecting our island. Visit www.lgpoa.org/membership, complete a short form and pay right online. If you prefer to mail in your registration and pay by check, email me at membership@lgpoa.org and I'll send you a form and mailing address.



Ian Debris Clean Up (submitted by Pede)

The State has hired a contractor to do debris cleanup which includes foliage, construction debris and demolition of condemned buildings or removal of decks etc. and they have LGI in their work plan. They have sent the vendor to the island to try and determine how to best stage this effort.

Little Gasparilla Island has been granted a blanket approval status. The vendor will pick up all debris on the side of the road. If you have signed a waiver through Ian Debris Cleanup, the vendor can access debris not on the side of the road. If you will need debris picked up on your property, please go online to **lanDebrisCleanup.com** and sign up your property or call **850-961-2002** which allows access across the property to be able to remove debris. The authorization includes a liability waiver. This is a fantastic opportunity to get substantial debris removed at no cost.

The contractor thinks that they may be ready to come out here in 2-4 weeks. If your house needs demolition, you need to put that on the form.



Charlotte County Board of Commissioners report (submitted by Barb)

On Tuesday Dec 13th, there was Charlotte County (CC) Regular and Land Use Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. On the docket was TCP-22-02 Revisions to CGMU (Compact Growth Mixed Use). It stated the following: Pursuant to Section 163.3184(3), Florida Statutes, transmit a Large Scale Plan Amendment to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and other State review agencies for review and comment; the request is to amend the Future Land Use (FLU) Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan by revising 1) FLU Policy 5.6.3: Encourage Public Marina Uses; and 2) FLU Appendix I: Land Use Guide, Section 3: The Official Future Land Use Map, Compact Growth Mixed Use (CGMU) Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designation.

From the explanation listed by CC (Charlotte County), it is hard to understand what was going to be discussed. The essence of this item was to discuss the population density limits in existence and to make changes to those limits. Specifically, under discussion was the West County Town Center - a new planned development of 1300 acres at the corner of Gasparilla Rd & 776 currently with a planned density of 3 units per acre. This area has a plan of mostly single-family house but with an area slated for high rise multi-family housing which would exceed the current limit. It is my understanding that the current density limit is 8 units per acre; the proposal is to go to 65 units per acre. Also mentioned during the discussion was the Fishery property, slated for a population density of 7 units per acre.

There was much discussion about this agenda item. Some of the highlights in the discussion by the Commissioners included:

- Adding increased population density to an area that is in a Tropical Storm Flood Plain does not seem prudent.
- There is a need for multi-family housing to support CC infrastructure.
- Exceptions already exist locally - by Gasparilla Marina, in Windward development - these are at 15 units per acre.
- It would be (nearly) impossible to approach the 65 units per acre density limit given the CC building code restrictions & elevation restrictions
- Even if the density limit were to be raised, all new or existing proposals would have to be submitted to the Board for consideration. The public would have the right to voice their opinions on any proposal.

There were a few people from Cape Haze that spoke out against this proposal. A member of the Dixon family spoke out in support of the proposal. A complaint was raised about the notification process if interested parties were notified promptly.

This item will be discussed again at the Feb 28th Land Use Meeting. We encourage all interested parties to attend and let your voices be heard.



What is This? (submitted by Laurie)

Hermit Crab

Hermit crabs are crustaceans, but not true crabs. They occupy mollusks' shells (usually a sea snail) to protect the soft, curved, hidden abdomen. When facing danger, the hermit crab retracts into the seashell it carries around. These crustaceans are nocturnal, and all are aquatic. They breathe through gills, which must be kept damp, so they can survive. As hermit crabs grow, they must abandon the smaller shell, and find a larger one. Several crabs may perform this "house" exchange together; as one moves into a new home, another crab takes the old home. They feed on seaweed, algae, and dead organisms. Hermit crabs can live 30 years in its native habitat.

THANK YOU!!!!

Thank You

We would like to extend a huge THANKS to all the Ian volunteers that have been such a vital part of our island recovery. We appreciate your physical help, donations, and the emotional and spiritual lift you provided. Thank you also to the islanders that organized these events; those who provided homes, food, transportation, and friendship. Let's continue to work together, as we strive to repair and improve LGI!

Please feel free to email Laurie Tremblay at jltremblay125@gmail.com with any information you would like to publish in the Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of each month. The content is reviewed by board members for approval before publication. Thank you.