

**MINUTES OF MEETING
MEDITERRA NORTH AND MEDITERRA SOUTH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS**

A Joint Public Workshop of the Board of Supervisors of the Mediterra North Community Development District and Mediterra South Community Development District was held on **Wednesday, February 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., at The Sports Club at Mediterra (Bella Vita I & II), 15755 Corso Mediterra Circle, Naples, Florida 34110.**

For Mediterra North CDD:

David Risley	Vice Chair
Brian Neary	Assistant Secretary
David Bocchini	Assistant Secretary

For Mediterra South CDD:

Robert Greenberg	Chair
Ken Tarr	Vice Chair
Mike Bishko	Assistant Secretary

Also present were:

Chuck Adams	District Manager
Cleo Adams	Assistant Regional Manager
Dave Robson	District Engineer
Sarah Webber	Ecologist, Johnson Engineering
Greg Pick	General Manager, MCA
Robert Smith	North Collier Fire Rescue District
Greg DeWitt	Assistant Chief of Operations, Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District
Samantha Quinn	Florida Forest Service
William Thomas	Director of Security, MCA
Terry Wood	Director of Operations, MCA
Kirsten Conover	The Club at Mediterra

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order/Roll Call

Mr. Adams called the Mediterra North CDD and Mediterra South CDD Joint Public Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m., and noted, for the record, that Supervisors Risley and Bocchini were present, in person, for Mediterra North CDD. Supervisors Godshall and Van Tassel were not present. Supervisor Neary was not present at roll call. For Mediterra South CDD,

Supervisors Greenberg and Tarr were present, in person. Supervisors Luby and Henry were not present. Supervisor Bishko was not present at roll call.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comments [3 minutes per person]

There being no public comments, the next item followed.

*****Mr. Bishko arrived at 9:03 a.m.*****

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS

Presentation: Wildfire Management

• Presentation: District Engineer, Division of Forestry, City of Bonita Springs and Collier County Fire Departments

Ms. Sarah Webber, of Johnson Engineering, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Webber was initially tasked with reviewing the preserves and seeking potential options for fuel management, which was followed by an overview of various types of wildfire mitigation for the prevention of wildfires. The CDDs requested an assessment of how Mediterra could improve access to the preserves for emergency responders to reach fires and prevent subsequent property damage.

Ms. Webber discussed the components that must be present for a wildfire, what drives fire intensity, the eco system and what ignites fuel. Since Mediterra was split between two counties, there were two local responders, the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District (BSFCRD) and the North Collier Fire Rescue District (NCFRD). Ms. Webber explained how responders gain entry and suppress wildfires and restrictive features that may hamper access. The following suggestions were made:

1. Mapping cart paths and other features, such as hard packed sand traps, and incorporating the data into the GPS map used by the fire departments
2. Determining and posting the load capacity of bridges to help determine the type of equipment to be utilized
3. Mapping the types and locations of fences
4. Change the conservation easement to remove flammable species of vegetation
5. Clear and accurate road signage
6. Develop an access plan
7. Installation and maintenance of firebreaks

8. Increasing defensible space between the preserves and residential structures
9. Changing from pine straw to rock based mulch
10. Installation of dry hydrants along the lakes to increase accessible alternative water sources

Chief of Operations of the NCFRD, Robert Smith, applauded the Districts' efforts. A wildfire mitigation program was recently initiated in the NCFRD, whereby each residence is assessed and hazards are identified. Chief Smith offered to incorporate Mediterra into the program.

Ms. Samantha Quinn, of the Florida Forest Service (FFS), stated that the FFS works with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and changes may be recommended and implemented, as long as there is support within the community.

- **Questions**

Mr. Greenberg felt that the CDDs, the Mediterra Community Association (MCA) and The Club could direct a comprehensive plan for remediation and preparation and asked if there was more risk during the rainy season, when lightning strikes occur, or during the dry season. Ms. Webber stated that the peak was just after the transition, when conditions are dry and lightning strikes begin; however, any time conditions are right for a fire and there is ample fuel, if there is an ignition source and a spark occurs, a fire could start.

Mr. Tarr recalled that, when he moved to Mediterra, the area had a lot of melaleuca; Bonita Bay Group, the developer cut it down and stacked it in the preserves, where it remained. If the melaleuca was left and the preserve burned out of control, Mr. Tarr asked if the strategy would be to contain the fire within the area. An affirmative reply was given. Mr. Tarr pointed out that, conceivably, homeowners could be viewing a burned out area for years. Ms. Quinn stated that the eco system in Florida grows back rapidly, within two months.

In response to a question from Mr. Greenberg about controlled burns, Ms. Webber stated that burns were possible and small test burns were recommended. Chief Smith stated that controlled burns were now part of the program.

Mr. Greenberg asked if Bonita Springs had the same program as Collier County. Assistant Chief of Operations of the BSFCRD, Greg DeWitt, stated that the BSFCRD visits each home in the urban interface area during brush fire season but it was difficult to reach communities such as Mediterra, Bonita Bay and Pelican Landing. Mr. Greenberg stated that the Director of Security could be instructed by the CDD Boards and Management to contact the

agencies and promote the program within the community. Mr. Thomas recalled that, when the last wildfire approached, the Boards asked him to partner with Collier County to establish a firebreak around the south and west side of the community; however, the areas outside of the south and west border were owned by other individuals and there were too many owners involved to obtain agreements to establish the firebreak.

Discussion ensued regarding high risk areas, internal regulation to evaluate the use of pine straw, homeowners' insurance premium reductions for Firewise communities and FFS certification for qualified communities.

With regard to the installation of dry hydrants, Mr. Greenberg asked if the next step would be for the District Engineer to view the areas identified as high priority to determine whether the lake depths were sufficient to support the expense of installing dry hydrants. Ms. Webber stated that, if funds were limited, the top priority would be to invest in improving home ignition zones.

Recalling a fire that occurred about five years ago, Mr. Bishko asked if responders would have responded differently, if a fully implemented plan had been in effect, and what the differences would have been. Chief Smith stated that the operational tactics would not have changed; however, the community would have been aware and everyone would have worked together. With the program that is in place, NCFRD's plans, and residents being cognizant of the actions, the response would be dramatically different. Assistant Chief DeWitt stated, if the property was cleared, there would be a natural firebreak, for easier access. Mr. Greenberg stated that a formal action plan should be placed on the MCA agenda.

Mr. Greenberg discussed implementing a tandem program, changing the conservation easement to allow for removal of native plants and fuel, controlled burns and instituting a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

With regard to pine straw, Ms. Quinn suggested that it be at least three feet from houses and recommended hardscaping, such as rocks.

Discussion ensued regarding prescribed burns. Chief Smith recommended inviting the NCFRD to assess the homes.

******Mr. Neary arrived at 10:22 a.m.******

Mr. Greenberg stated that the MCA Parks Task Force suggested building a nature trail through the preserve areas, from the south to the north, and asked if the trail would be an impediment or an enhancement for fire safety. Ms. Webber stated that it could be an

enhancement, depending on how it was designed. A boardwalk structure could be an impediment; however, the gap would serve as a firebreak. Mr. Greenberg stated that the CDDs could consider the trail as a fire prevention activity.

Mr. Greenberg inquired about what the Districts could do to assist the responders and localize information. Assistant Chief DeWitt suggested identifying the preserves for their maps. Mr. Greenberg asked Ms. Kirsten Conover, of The Club at Mediterra, to provide weight loads for the cart paths and bridges and the process for controlling the irrigation system. Mr. Thomas stated that he provided a map to the person working on NCFRD's CAD system and asked that the preserve and lake numbers be included; however, he received no acknowledgement that the information was added. Chief Smith stated that the NCFRD was still working on the system. Ms. Webber stated that Johnson Engineering had all of the necessary information in GIS or CAD and would provide it to the fire departments in the proper format. Mr. Greenberg recommended initiating a process for updating information, such as the locations of new homes and fire hydrants. Johnson Engineering did not have locations for the cart paths and sand traps; however, the information would be provided by The Club and, once it was incorporated, it would be provided to the fire departments.

Assistant Chief DeWitt discussed the importance of educating individual homeowners about how to clear their land and contacting the HOAs about instituting a maintenance process for cleaning roofs, clearing the area and creating natural firebreaks. Mr. Greenberg advised that the MCA's annual meeting would be held on February 20 at 3:00 p.m., and asked if Chief Smith and Assistant Chief DeWitt would attend and provide printed material, in advance and at the meeting, promoting fire safety.

With regard to insurance discounts, Ms. Webber suggested contacting State Representatives because the program was moving into Florida and, if more people brought it to their attention, discounts may be actively incorporated in Florida.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS**Upcoming Dates****A. Mediterra South CDD**

- i. Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. (*The Golf Club at Mediterra, Board Room*)**

Mr. Greenberg stated that the next Mediterra South CDD meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

B. Mediterra North CDD

i. March 1, 2017 at 1:30 P.M. (*The Renaissance Center*) PROPOSED

Mr. Adams stated that the next Mediterra North CDD meeting will be held on March 1, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

ii. May 18, 2017 at 9:30 A.M. (*The Renaissance Center*)

A Mediterra North CDD meeting will be held on May 18, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Supervisors' Requests

There being no Supervisors' requests, the next item followed.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comments

There being no public comments, the next item followed.

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Adjournment

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.


[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]

MEDITERRA NORTH CDD


Secretary/Assistant Secretary


Chair/Vice Chair

MEDITERRA SOUTH CDD


Secretary/Assistant Secretary


Chair/Vice Chair