

**South Gulf Cove
Advisory Committee**
Charlotte County Community Development
18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, Florida 33948

Sandra Slater
Chairperson

Kendall Leach
Vice Chair

April Chattinger
Secretary

Yvonne Ermirio

Jim Benson

May 1, 2008

Re: South Gulf Cove Advisory Committee Sunset Review

Honorable Commissioners:

The South Gulf Cove (SGC) Community Plan was commissioned by Charlotte County and accepted by the Board of County Commissioners in August 2002. This was the County's first community plan and it is the action instrument to achieve SGC's vision of the future.

The SGC Advisory Committee was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in June 2003 to plan, prioritize, coordinate, monitor and effect implementation of the SGC Community Plan. The five member volunteer committee meets monthly with the County in a public meeting to explore alternatives for implementing the recommendations within the plan. Each Committee member sponsors areas of the plan and has Sub-Committees and Project Managers to pursue various projects. Funding is obtained through County grants, impact fees, sales tax, ad valorem taxes and non-ad valorem assessments. Fund raising, donations and non-government grants are coordinated through the Conservancy and Community Trust of SGC, Inc. Recommended actions go before the BCC through a public hearing for decision.

SGC Advisory Committee members are active within the community and involved with other County committees such as the SR776 Corridor Advisory Group, the West County and SGC MSBU Committees, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Projects are reported on at monthly Homeowner Association meetings, in community newsletters and on various websites.

The attached spreadsheet summarizes the SGC Community Plan recommendations and the progress the Committee has achieved over the past five years toward implementing the SGC Community Plan. The spreadsheet provides a status of the Plan's sixteen recommendations, a timeline for completion and the responsible Committee member. The Committee has completed several of the recommendations and numerous projects are actively underway.

The SGC Advisory Committee worked aggressively and consistently over the past 5 years to implement the SGC Community Plan. The Committee blazed new trails, broke down barriers and established many County relationships to implement the County's first community plan.

With the current austere political environment and shrinking County assets, community support from the County will likely diminish. The need for community volunteers to assist the County in developing their respective area has never been greater.

The SGC Advisory Committee recommends that the Committee remain in existence to continue implementation of the SGC Community Plan.

For the Committee,

Sandra Slater, Chairperson

South Gulf Cove Advisory Committee (April 23, 2008)

Committee members: Sandy Slater, Kendall Leach, April Chattinger, Yvonne Ermirio, Jim Benson

Time frame: **Immediate** – less than one year; **Mid-term** – one to three years; **Long-term** – three to five years.

Recommendation/Task	Status			Time Frame for Completion*			Responsible Party
	Completed	Underway	Not Started	Imme- diate	Mid- term	Long- term	
URGENT							
<i>1. Establish a land banking program to bank publicly owned property and acquire additional properties to reduce density, improve safety, correct faulty layout and provide parks, recreation and open spaces.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2003 - Request to County to preserve all County owned lots in SGC and establish a land banking program for SGC denied. 	✓						Sandy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2004/05 - Growth Sub-committee evaluated acquisition of major artery road frontage lots. Determined not feasible due to escalation of property values during 04/05 in SW Florida. 	✓						Sandy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2004/05 - Park Sub-committee evaluated park recommendations and identified lots needed to complete parks. 		✓				✓	Sandy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07/08 - Funded RE Services to facilitate park expansions by trading County lots in SGC for lots adjoining parks. Negative responses from property owners to date, however, still pursuing lots at 3 sites. 		✓				✓	Sandy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2007/08 – Growth Sub-committee identified need for right turn lanes at 4 major arteries exiting SGC. Entranceway Sub-committee pursuing road surveys to include right turn lanes as part of entranceway surveys. Funding for right turn lanes at 4 SGC exits will need to be identified. 		✓			✓		Sandy
<i>2. BCC evaluate alternative means and methods to encourage expansion of open space such as relaxation of rules, use of conservation and other easements, tax relief and purchase/transfer of development rights.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005/06 - Committee evaluated recommendations to include commercial node, town center, and mixed use zoning. Population and anticipated growth are not conducive to action at this time. 	✓						Sandy
<i>3. Assist community to assemble a 20 acre site for a community park before water/sewer installation.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005/06/07 - Requested Parks & Rec acquire 34 lots adjoining 19.5 acre County owned lot south of Appleton Blvd. to increase County parcel to 28 acres. Water/sewer installed in 2006. 	✓						Sandy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008 – Parks & Rec pursuing FLUM change to parkland to ensure 20 acres is retained for future parks and recreation development. 		✓		✓			Sandy
<i>4. BOCC establish a Community Plan Advisory Committee to plan, prioritize, coordinate, monitor and implement the Community Plan.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2003 – SGC Advisory Committee of 5 property owners and County representatives established June 2003 are accepted Community Plan recommendations to research and implement. 	✓						Committee

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	Completed	Underway	Not Started	Immediate	Mid-term	Long-term	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly - SGCAC meets to plan, coordinate, initiate and monitor progress towards completion of the Community Plan. SGCAC works with County staff, other advisory committees and various SGC organizations to provide updates and implement the Community Plan. 		✓				✓	Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly - Budgets are developed and funding acquired through MSBU, grants, donations and other County funds such as Impact Fees and Ad-valorem. 		✓				✓	Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07 - Town Hall Meetings to address CP implementation progress and obtain input. 		✓				✓	Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2003-Present – SGC Community Plan information maintained on Community and County web-sites and articles published monthly in Community newsletters. 		✓				✓	Committee
<i>5. Create a stormwater management plan.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consensus is that the County does not have a stormwater management plan. 	✓						Kendall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Gulf Cove waterways need to be tested for water quality and aquatic weed control. 		✓				✓	Kendall
<i>6. Make deed restrictions, zoning and future land use designations compatible.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07 The County sent letters to land owners on Wacker Drive to change the zoning from multi-family to single family to conform with the Deed Restrictions. The land owners objected to this change because when the land was purchased it was zoned multi-family and they wanted to leave it that way. 	✓						Kendall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2007 Property on Appleton was changed from Medium Density Residential to Low Density Residential to conform with the current zoning. 	✓						Kendall
<i>7. Establish a SGC park system and park master plan to include park and recreation facilities, open space, shaded landscaping, pedestrian/bikeways and consistent logos, signage, lighting and furniture.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2004/05 – Park Sub-committee evaluated recommendations and created park and bike plan to include development of 18 park sites and a pedestrian/bikeway trail on major arteries. 	✓						Sandy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005/06/07/08 – Funding acquired through MSBU, grants, donations, ad-valorem and other funds. 		✓				✓	Sandy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07/08 – Developing St. Paul Linear Park with volunteers, County and contract support. MSBU funding development and maintenance. 		✓			✓		Yvonne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2004/05/06/07/08 – SGC 501(3)c developing Learning Garden with volunteers and grants. 		✓				✓	Yvonne

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2007/08 – SGC Master Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan under development by Parks & Rec through MSBU funding will proposed use of 85 acres of County-owned parkland in SGC. Public input meeting Feb 08 identified priorities. Plan to be presented to BCC Apr 08. 		✓		✓			Yvonne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement SGC Master Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan 		✓				✓	Yvonne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006 – Request for MSBU to fund \$5M pedestrian/bikeways denied to preclude rate increase. 	✓						Sandy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005/06 – Entranceway Sub-committees designed SGC entrance signage and sought donations. 	✓						Sandy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2007/08 – Entranceway Sub-committee partnering with County to install signs, MSBU funding. SGC HOA/S&D MSBU endorsement Jan 08. Funding identified in FY08/09 proposed budget. 		✓			✓		Sandy
<i>8. Evaluate public safety and health needs.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Lock System to the Harbor. An LLC is being formed to pursue the possibility of additional lock systems to the Harbor. The SGCHOA is supporting this effort. 		✓				✓	Kendall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005, a sign replacement program was successfully initiated replacing all 4-inch letter signs with 6 inch letter signs resulting in increased visibility and better emergency service recognition. 	✓						April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2007, as a result of 4 deaths and frequent accidents, stop signs were placed at the 4 major intersections on Calumet Boulevard. 	✓						April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A future emergency services site proposed to be built at the south end of SGC is mentioned in the 10 year Port Charlotte plan coordinated with the Englewood plan based on increase in SGC population and increase in EMS calls and response times. Response times should be no more than 4-6 min. to any area of SGC. 		✓				✓	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics on emergency response times to SGC are acquired and monitored annually. Average response time in 2006 for fire station # 4, Marathon Blvd. (the closest station to SGC) was 3-8 min. to 149 calls, 10 min. to 79 call for station #3 – EL Jobean, 13 min. to 43 calls for station #14 – Placida and 12-15 min. to 7 calls for station #13 – San Casa. 		✓				✓	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGC’s community plan identified a 2-acre site located at Appleton and Sunday as a suitable site for a fire station in the future. If it is agreed that this is an appropriate site, an attempt to set aside or raise funds to purchase this site should be initiated by the County or the Community. The property is currently privately owned, subdivided and rezoned. Future utilization of this site is not possible. 		✓				✓	April

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGC has a 44 member Citizen's Neighborhood Watch team and 16 member Community Emergency Response team (C.E.R.T.), to support public safety within the community. 	✓						April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2007, SGC received the Fire Wise designation from the Florida Department of Agriculture's Forestry Funding Service offering increased opportunities for fire prevention from wild fires for the community. A committee was established which is currently pursuing grants to support completion of program goals. 		✓				✓	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2007, a Corridor Advisory Group, CAG, was formed to acquire "Florida Scenic Highway" designation of SR776 and the CR771/CR 775 loop. Designation would provide money from the Federal Highway Administration and numerous grants for improvement of these thoroughfares. A proposal has been submitted to the state and they are awaiting a reply. The SGC Advisory Board maintains regular communications with the Corridor Advisory group. 		✓				✓	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2007. The Cove Connector program to acquire funding for pedestrian/bike pathways was created and is in the development stage. 		✓				✓	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As population increases in SGC, so will the number of street lights. Criteria for a street light is 3 homes within 500 feet on the street. 		✓				✓	April
IMPORTANT							
<i>9. Developments and changes to the Comprehensive Plan or Zoning district designations.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County publishes notices in the newspaper and notifies by mail all lot owners involved with the developments and changes. The Deed Restrictions need to be updated to adhere to all existing and new developments and changes. 		✓				✓	Kendall
<i>10. County should support establishment of a 501©3 organization.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2003/Present – Conservancy and Community Trust of SGC, Inc. established January, 2003. 	✓						SGC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly meetings between CCT board and SGC Advisory Committee to track initiatives. 		✓				✓	Sandy
<i>11. If a marina is approved, then fair share costs and ensure no impact to neighbors.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGCAC shall monitor the marina status in the neighborhood 		✓				✓	Committee
<i>12. When CR771 widened, County install street lights, pedestrian/bikeways and landscaping.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2007/08 – Meetings with Public Works revealed no plans to widen CR771 within next 10 years. 			✓				Committee

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07/08 – Participate with County’s Scenic Highway Committee, which includes CR771 as part of Cape Haze Loop. CR771 attained scenic highway designation Feb 08. 		✓				✓	Jim
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008 – SGC Master Park Plan includes landscaping medians along CR771. Will pursue funding through Scenic Highway designation, grants, donations and MSBU. 		✓			✓		Yvonne
<i>13. The County removes exotics on county owned properties along CR771, major right-of-ways and vistas.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005 - Exotics removed from Linear Park along lagoon by contractor, MSBU funded. 	✓						Yvonne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2007/08 - Master Park, Open Space, Rec. Plan in development by contractor includes beautification of County property along CR771, MSBU funded. 		✓			✓		Yvonne
<i>14. Provide appropriate recreational opportunities for seniors.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008 - SGC Master Park Plan includes recommendations for parks, open space, trails and recreation for all age levels. The SGC Parks and Recreational plan is being updated and will incorporate activities targeted to seniors in specific parks throughout SGC. 		✓			✓		Yvonne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cove Connector pedestrian/bike pathway program will incorporate safety for seniors in the design of the pathways where they will walk and ride bikes including rest areas and shade. 		✓			✓		April
<i>15. County do feasibility study for potential removal of 2 bridges on St. Paul Blvd.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-committee formed in 2004 determined project not feasible due to cost and safety issues. 	✓						Committee
<i>16. All utilities to be located underground.</i>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006 Town Hall Meeting - SGC HOA agreed to lead effort through the Architectural Review Committee for new homes, and a committee established to work with FPL on existing utilities. 		✓				✓	Kendall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SGCHOA "ARC committee" is working with the builders on new home construction to locate all utilities leading to the house to be underground. 		✓				✓	Kendall