

The March 17, 2022 meeting of the Rainbow Lakes Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman Dallas Seveland. Other committee members present were Crystal Ferguson, Gary Levit, Carol Setzer, and Paula Gawlik. Guest present was Detective Spratlin, Alan Jones MSTU Director, Dave Banton Levy County Code Enforcement, and Maureen Bennett Marion County Code Enforcement. There were 24 people in attendance. The meeting was opened with invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item Public Comment (1): NONE

Approval of Minutes (2A) February 17, 2022:

Motion made by Setzer, seconded by Levit to accept minutes February 17, 2022 (2A). Motion carried.

Committee Reports (3):

Building & Grounds: Ferguson reported that the water leak in the clubhouse will be fixed with an Emergency PO.

Code: Levit stated that it's been pretty slow, but on Gardenia there is a house that works on cars. There are 4 there at a time.

Levy County: No representative.

Public Safety: Seveland reported that in January there were 2 brush fires, 2 AOA Brush, 1 Structure fire, 4 Vehicle Accidents, 4 Miscellaneous, 1 Hazardous Condition, 1 Medical Call, 86.75 Training hours, 17 Vehicle Maintenance hours, 5.5 Building Maintenance hours, for a total of 14 Calls. In February there were 4 Brush Fires, 1 AOA Brush, 2 AOA Structure, 2 Vehicle Accidents, 1 Illegal Burn, 4 Miscellaneous, 1 Hazardous, 1 Medical Call, 89 Training hours, 23.5 Vehicle Maintenance hours, 4.5 Building Maintenance hours, for a total of 16 calls.

Recreation: Gawlik reported that ceramics is meeting again. They removed the kiln from the building. For more information contact Kathy Bryant (352) 322-0105, her number will also be in the newsletter. The garden club was wondering when they will be able to meet again in the clubhouse. Poker club is looking for another player. Women's club is still meeting at restaurants and this month they will be eating corn beef and cabbage.

Roads: Setzer stated the widening portion of Beach Blvd. is completed. On Monday they will be continuing to reclaim the road. The signs for the quad replacement have been ordered. Seveland mentioned that there were complaints about asphalt in driveways that were fixed.

Committees/Guests (4):

Detective Spratlin stated that he has only had one case, which was about a stolen lawnmower on White Sands Rd. There were 3 warranted arrest. Levit asked about the drug house on Beach Blvd. Discussion followed.

Dave Banton stated that he is new to Levy County Code Enforcement. Noted that there are many issues with codes in Levy County. Mentioned that he has been driving around and has seen the campers, RVs, and squatters. There has been a couple of squatters that left already. There are currently 13 open cases in Rainbow Lakes Estates (RLE). To have an RV on your property you have to have an active permit for 90 days and working towards building your house. The process for codes is they talk to the violators and give them time to fix the violation, if nothing is done then they fine them. If they are still not doing anything to fix the violations they then go to court.

Maureen Bennett stated that she just transferred to RLE area in February. Currently there are 14 complaints in RLE. The process for the cases is they receive the complaints, then go talk to the violators. If they don't comply then it goes to a board for review and they can issue a violation. The residents making the complaints have to leave their names and addresses per the new state law. Everyone in the state of Florida has to follow this new law. There are no more anonymous complaints. Ferguson asked if the violator can receive the name of the person making the complaint. Bennett stated that yes because all records are open to the public. Discussion followed. Violations have to be visible to public eye. Code Enforcement cannot walk onto private property. It is considered as an unlawful search. However, a neighbor can allow them onto their own property to look. Setzer asked how quickly does the lien go onto the property. Bennett stated that it typically takes 30 days. The lien starts at \$50 a day, the maximum is \$500 a day. If the lien isn't paid it can lead to the property being foreclosed. To find out which properties have liens would be by parcel numbers or by calling the secretary of Code Enforcement at 352-671-8900. When following up on a case, call Code Enforcement and ask to talk to the inspector. Setzer asked about the types of complaints they get from RLE. Bennett said that most of the calls are about dumping, construction, debris, junk cars, and living in sheds. Discussion followed. When it comes to squatters it is the property owner's responsibility to get them off their property. Banton mentioned that there is also something called squatters rights which is if they have a residency on the property, the owner has to go to court to have them removed. Since it is a timely process the sooner they do the better. Setzer asked if putting up no trespassing signs would help. Banton said that it can help with civil matters but it has to meet certain standards for it to be valid.

General Public Comment (8):

Victor Rochette - Evergreen- Asked if someone wanted to get a permit for accessory buildings does the original building have to be built. Banton stated that yes it does.

Rossana Walker- Rainbow Lakes Blvd- Stated that the house next to hers is an eye soar. Wants to know if burning garbage is allowed. Bennett it is not allowed. Bennett was there today and saw all the garbage.

Brandi Stone- Obee Ridge- Stated that the Levy County ladies gave out a letter to a few neighbors about the homeless people in RLE. Wants to know if the board can endorse a letter for all of RLE. Jones mentioned that they can't mail it out but an individual board member can hand it out or post it. Seveland asked Spicuzza if she can rewrite it. Spicuzza said that she can rewrite the letter to post on Facebook. We could also make copies to put in the brochure holders. Motion made by Levit, seconded by Ferguson to have the letter rewritten and posted. Motion carried.

Consent (5): NONE

Old Business (6):

6A. Stadium lights- Spicuzza contacted the baseball team to see if they could pay for the lights. Their sponsors don't have that kind of money. Levit asked if there were other estimates we could get like for solar or street lamps. Spicuzza said that we can always add street lights. However, there is certain criteria you have to meet for a baseball field. Gawlik asked if we have to have six lamps. Spicuzza said yes because of the requirements that have to be met. Spicuzza mentioned that she is unsure if getting solar would change the price because the quote is just for materials. Seveland said that he doesn't see a way to afford the lights. Jones said they can still use the field just not at night.

New Business/Board Items (7): NONE

Break (10): 5 Minuets

2022/2023 Budget (11):

11A. 2022 Budget- Spicuzza reviewed 2022 budget for General Government, Road & Street, Recreation, Contracted Road Construction and Fire Control Services. Motion made by Levit, seconded by Setzer to approve the budget. Motion carried.

Jones stated that if the Board of County Commissioners does not have the county take over the Volunteer Fire Department, he wants to hire a career chief to run the fire department. Motion made by Levit, seconded by Setzer in the event the County does not take over Rainbow Lakes Fire Department we hire a Career Fire Chief that is qualified. Motion carried.

Announcement (9):

Seveland announced that they are looking for volunteers to help with the glow Easter egg hunt. To volunteer contact Spicuzza.

Seveland announced that the final library free book giveaway is March 26, 2022 from 10am-2pm.

Seveland announced the next meeting will be on April 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.