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BOARDROOM REPORT

News from recent REIS board meetings

Lee Development Regulations: The Land Development Code Advisory Committee is reviewing proposed changes to development regulations, with public hearings tentatively scheduled for May.

REIS Scholarship Foundation: Over \$7,800 in contributions has already been received in 2007 for scholarships to be awarded later in the year. Donation information is on the web site or by contacting Scholarship Committee Chairman Tom Woodyard, 239.425.6012.

Membership: The roster is full and the 2007 directory will be available at the April 10th luncheon meeting. Current membership information is also available at www.reis-swfl.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Sponsors for REIS luncheons are already signed up through April. Sponsorship of REIS luncheons provides prominent personal exposure to the leaders in the real estate investment and development community. \$350 sponsorship includes your logo on 450 mailed meeting notices, representation in press announcements and on the REIS website, opportunity to present displays and distribute brochures at the luncheon, in addition to a personal presentation. Information: Paul Sands, (239) 489-3303.

Transportation News: Robert Ball, Director of Lee County Port Authority, will discuss expansion plans for both airports and related business opportunities at the April 10th luncheon meeting.

Express Lane increasingly popular: Increased membership and great programs have drawn record attendance to recent REIS luncheon meetings. Prepay for your luncheon, pick up your badge at the Express Table, and avoid the crowd at registration.

LEE CONSIDERING "LINKAGE FEE"

The Affordable Housing Policy Options Memorandum for Lee County includes a "linkage fee" which would be assessed on non-residential development as mitigation for workforce housing units created by the development. The Memorandum includes calculations for the amount of workforce housing assistance needed for various types of development (i.e.: the linkage fee for retail development would be \$28.18 per square foot; industrial would be \$18.13 per sq. ft.; etc.) The Memorandum, now online at www.lee-county.com/dcd, will be the basis for upcoming county commission discussions relative to establishing a workforce housing policy.

HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY CONCERN

The proposed "Hometown Democracy" amendment to Florida's constitution requires changes to comprehensive land use plans be approved by voters. Florida Hometown Democracy (www.floridahometowndemocracy.com) is promoting the amendment and seeking petition signatures to get the referendum on the ballot in 2008. The Sierra Club has joined the effort with money and member support. The Florida Chamber of Commerce (www.flchamber.com) is leading opposition to the proposed amendment, supported by the Florida Home Builders Assn. and other development groups.

If the proposal is on the ballot, it is widely believed that it is likely to be approved, as there is widespread feeling that local governments are not managing growth effectively. Eight Florida cities held referendums last year over building heights, densities or other development issues, with 10 of 13 anti-development initiatives passed.

REIS is considering an early intervention effort to assist and encourage elected leaders, land-use professionals, and related businesses to educate and communicate better with the public.

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SUPER SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

REIS members and others in the business community contributed \$11,350 to the REIS Scholarship Foundation in 2006, the 501(c)3 charitable entity's inaugural year. Donors included:

1031 Tax Free Strategies, LLC
Advance Homes
APJ, LLC
Chuck Basinait
Brooks & Freund, LLC

Busey Bank
Colonial Bank
Florida Community Bank
Gates, D'Alessandro & Woodyard, Inc.
Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.

J.E.D. of Southwest FL, Inc.
Johnson Engineering, Inc.
Kinsey Associates
Land Solutions, Inc.
Lyndon Investment

Maxwell & Hendry Valuation Services
McGarvey Construction Co.
Meridian Construction & Development
Oswald Trippe & Co.
Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.

Paul A. Sands, P.A.
Pavese Law Firm
Quattrone & Associates, Inc.
Reliance Bank
Brian & Marilyn Sabean

Richard & Bonnie Salata
Walter Serbon
Stephan, Cole & Associates
Vanasse & Daylor
Wachovia Bank
Tom & Patty Woodyard

Scholarship Committee Chairman Tom Woodyard, 239.425.6012, is accepting donations for 2007.

WELCOME NEW REIS MEMBERS:

Jimmy Hunter, Wachovia Bank
Bev Larson, Lahaina Realty
Neysa Borkert, Pavese Law Firm
Robert Gaglio, Community Bank of Cape Coral
Russell Phillips, Regions Bank

Bruce Jorgensen, The Jorgensen Group
Patty Bowman, NAI Southwest Florida
Eric Borgia, Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt
Mike Moss, First Bank
David Douglas, David Douglas Associates
Christi Pritchett, WCI Communities

Peter Gravina, Pavese Law Firm
Jon Sjostedt, RealNet of Southwest Florida
Michael Curran, SunTrust Bank
Robert Lovett, Pavese Law Firm
Jeff Tumbarello, Southwest Florida Real Estate
Investment Association

UPDATED LEE PLAN AVAILABLE

The Lee County Comprehensive Plan, updated with amendments adopted through November 2006, is now online at www.lee-county.com/dcd1/Leeplan/Leeplan.pdf. Printed copies are available for \$25 from Community Development, 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers.

BONITA / ESTERO MARKET PULSE

The latest trends in residential and commercial growth, demographics, and related local economic topics in the Bonita Springs / Estero market will be discussed April 5. The program is presented by the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce and Bonita Springs—Estero Association of Realtors. The event takes place at the Three Oaks Banquet & Conference Center in Estero.

Admission is \$75 and includes dinner and 2 drinks. Reservations: Bonita Springs Chamber, (239) 992-2943 or bonitaspringschamber.com



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