

**Wellington  
Equestrian Preserve Committee Meeting  
October 16, 2014  
Village Hall  
12300 Forest Hill Boulevard**

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## **MINUTES**

### **I. Call to Order**

Ms. Elie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Linda Elie, Richard Ellis, Maryjo Shockley, Houston Meigs, and Michael Whitlow. Both Dr. Lund and Linda Smith-Faver arrived late.

Staff present: Robert Basehart, Tim Stillings, Mike O'Dell and Kelly Ferraiolo

#### **A. Approval of Agenda**

Staff indicated the Polo West presentation will be rescheduled. The golf Cart Presentation will be the first on the agenda.

**A motion was made by Mr. Whitlow, seconded by Mr. Meigs, approved (5-0) to approve the October 16, 2014 agenda.**

Mr. Basehart stated Cynthia Gardner requested to speak regarding the golf cart issue. The committee declined due to the discussion being a workshop and doesn't allow for public comment.

#### **B. Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2014**

**A motion was made by Richard Ellis, seconded by Michael Whitlow, to approve (5-0) the August 18, 2014 Minutes with minor changes**

### **II. New Business**

#### **A. Presentation by International Polo Club**

John Wash and Wade Bryd made a presentation on behalf of IPC which is starting their 12<sup>th</sup> season. They are a high goal polo club with private memberships. The facility was constructed in 2003 and they are in negotiations with USPA for an additional 4 year contract to host prestigious events. The USPA moved their offices to Lake Worth Road

and the annual US Open polo championships held in various places. They have to cater to the needs of the Padron's who are the team owners. They typically play 220 games a season. There are 15 games on Sunday and is the only day spectators have to pay.

Dr. Lund asked what the committee needs to do to make sure the teams stay in Wellington. Mr. Bryd stated if the Village keeps being so restrictive, they won't be able to have "horse shoe" games because they have to get permits and they make too much noise. As a polo club, they have to deal with their own regulations.

Mr. Meigs asked what ordinances are unfavorable. Mr. Bryd stated the biggest problem they have is people don't understand requirements such as landscaping. Grass parking has become a big issue in Wellington. They can't have a polo game with a concrete parking lot next to it because if a horse gets loose, it could hurt itself and possibly die. One game takes about 40 vehicles for staff to conduct a polo match. The spectators park around the fields. They can't park on grass more than one day a week. The rules have always been in effect but lately have been enforced. Every set of rules doesn't fit every venue. They are supposed to get a Special Use Permit to host events off site but they don't. Mr. Bryd stated Polo has its own regulations and instinctive knowledge of safety issues. Mr. Whitlow asked if they could create a list of rules they find very restrictive. Mr. Wash stated they have been hosting other recreational competitions such as soccer and hockey tournaments which IPC leases for nominal fee to cover their maintenance expenses.

Ms. Smith-Faver stated the most concern they have is traffic. Mr. Bryd stated they have 15 Sunday games a year and the games last 3 hours. He didn't feel it was a logical complaint when they spend a lot on each field. Mr. Meigs attended the field hockey festival and didn't see any traffic issues and thought it was amazing how well everything flowed. The Committee has never had issues with traffic. Mr. Bryd stated they are non-political. He asked not to make any early decisions but come out and experience polo. Mr. Wash stated the Padrons are interested in sharing their comments and probably don't understand the EOZD.

Mr. Meigs asked how the trail system provides access to the Club. Mr. Wash stated the trails are not important because public horses aren't allowed to ride on the property. To the Padrons it was not that important either but may be more important for low goal teams. Staff has been very helpful with IPC in helping them meet their objectives. The Committee requested the Club and the Padrons participate in meetings and to email comments they had if they were able to attend.

## **B. Polo West Presentation**

Postponed

## **C. Golf Cart Enforcement Presentation by the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office**

Lieutenant Shaivitz made a presentation regarding the current State Statutes for golf carts and low speed vehicles. He stated golf carts are only allowed on golf courses and private property. Low speed vehicles that have street legal equipment, registered and insured are allowed. Golf carts can be retrofitted to be street legal. These vehicles can be allowed on roads 35 mph or less. Ms. Elie asked if the Statutes applied to scooters or bikes to which Lt. Shaivitz stated they apply to scooters as they are registerable. Once they are street legal, these vehicles are not allowed on sidewalks. Ms. Elie asked about the orange agricultural sticker and if they would exempt them. Lt. Shaivitz stated the sticker would not apply as Wellington has not exempted any roadways. If you have an existing cart and want to convert it, they would have to outfit it with all the items listed in the Statute which can be expensive.

Lt. Shaivitz stated if the roads are not maintained by the Village of Wellington and behind gates, then the HOA enforces the rules. All drivers need to have a valid driver's license and ATVs are not allowed on the roadways.

#### **D. Introduction of Lucido and Associates**

Steve Garrett representing Lucido and Associates provided a presentation on their firm's previous experience and proposed scope of work. Completion of scope is expected mid-December.

Mr. Meigs suggested include the connectivity of the dirt roads and the trails. Ms. Elie asked if they are just looking at horse traffic or golf carts. Mr. Garrett stated there will be a pedestrian and bicycle plan to be started after the bridle trail study is completed. Mr. O'Dell stated they will be providing data collected from 38 cameras over a 2 week period to Mr. Garrett. They will also be focusing on the equestrian type uses which will include development within Saddle Trail Park.

### **III. Staff Comments**

Mr. O'Dell stated at the November 12, 2014 EPC meeting, the Palm Beach County Jim Brandon facility, Grand Champions and PBIEC are scheduled to make presentations in addition to the Saddle Trail Park Design. On November 20, 2014, the Ridge will make a presentation and the TCRPC will conduct a visioning session.

Mr. O'Dell informed the Committee the trail survey is now on the website.

### **IV. Board Comments**

Ms. Smith-Faver discussed her concern with a neighbor that has a code enforcement issue regarding a barn and residence which don't have matching roofs. Mr. Basehart explained the code enforcement process.

Dr. Lund was concerned about the South Shore Boulevard paving scheduled for this week which was the same week as a huge event at Global Dressage. Staff discussed

the coordination of paving throughout the EOZD and scheduling of events. Ms. Elie asked if they could have a future paving schedule.

Houston Meigs suggested when land owned by Wellington is sold in the EOZD it be reviewed by the committee so an alternative use can be considered. Mr. O'Dell stated most land owned by the Village in the EOZD is either related toroad or canal right-of-way.

Ms. Elie stated ELCR.org (Equestrian Land Conservation Resource) has a lot of videos on land planning.

## **V. Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Ms. Smith-Faver, seconded Mr. Meigs, approved (7-0) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.**

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**Linda Elie, Chair**

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**Kelly Ferraiolo, Recording Secretary**