

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE EAGLE ON APRIL 25, 2007

Matlacha Community Plan

A community planning panel formed under the auspices of the Matlacha Civic Association met on Wednesday, April 4, with County Commissioner, Bob Janes, and Lee County Principal Planner. Him Mudd.

The panel members are a representative slice of the Matlacha Community and include Bill Stoelkler, (Civic Assoc. president), Bill McKee (Mariners), Pt Oberg (Matlacha Isles), Julie Morris (Pine Island Art Assoc.), Bernard Johnson (Business community), Gary Walker (Realtors) and Gail Barone (Hookers), Also attending the Wednesday meeting was Nancy Harwood, a member of the original panel.

Several years ago, with input from the community, a planning committee was formed and had Greg Stuart formulate some general building requirements but Mr. Stuart was unable to continue the work and the original committee disbanded. The new panel hopes to get funds from Lee County to hire a planning consultant who would then hold public meetings in Matlacha to get additional input from homeowners before any plan is submitted to the county for approval.

Both Commissioner Janes and Planner Mudd were very supportive of the panel and said that there were definitely funds available to help with engaging a planning consultant firm. Bill Mudd had worked with most of the communities in Lee County and explained to the panel the steps in moving forward with this effort.

The panel discussed the fact that any community meetings to discuss the Matlacha Community plan would have to be held during the fall/winter season to enable all property owners to attend. The panel also discussed with Commissioner Janes the lack of parking in Matlacha and the issue of pedestrian safety. Bob Janes said he would follow up on Lee Co. DOT's efforts to make our crosswalks more effective.