

August 7, 2022

We've had more people sign on to the KEEP THE COUNTRY...COUNTRY email list. This is a very good thing.

For that reason, I wanted to go over what and how we work together to Keep the Country...Country.

The Subject on the email will always be KEEP THE COUNTRY...COUNTRY. Sometimes it is general information or updates. Other times it will be an ACTION ALERT.

The Action Alerts need your immediate attention. Immediate meaning as soon as you can get to it, but hopefully, it will be at the top of your lists.

Action Alerts are now sent to the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and copied to the planner and Brett Harrington, the Staff reviewer (staff).

Action Alerts will contain a message that you can copy and paste and email to the BCC and staff. PLEASE DO NOT PARAPHRASE. Repetition of the same thing is a marketing strategy, think Joe Namath and Medicare Part C & D commercials.

Remember, the TRUTH bears repeating. And if something is repeated enough it becomes true. We will be speaking the TRUTH, but repeating it won't hurt.

The Miakka Community Club (MCC) hired Land Use attorney Richard Grosso to represent MCC in opposition of CPA 2022-B, Paving Pat Neal's request to change the optional overlay on 4,120+ historic rural and agricultural acres to urban sprawl. Mr. Grosso sent a letter to planning staff and later one to the Planning Commission. He appeared before the Planning Commission and will be at the August 31st BCC meeting. (Donations for legal fees: make check out to Miakka Community Club, c/o Becky Ayech, 421 Verna Rd. Sarasota 34240. Thank you.)

The BCC meeting will allow either 3 or 5 minutes to speak, even for our attorney.

The email messages you will be sending are excerpts from Mr. Grosso's letters so the whole picture is presented. (The applicant will have 20 minutes and then rebuttal time for their presentation.)

Use your social media to keep the message going out to others to act. Imagine, if you send out 10 emails, together we will reach over 1,2000 people!

Becky Ayech

ACTION ALERT

SUBJECT MATTER ON EMAIL: CPA 2022-B

COMMISSIONERS' EMAILS:

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Good day Commissioner

Proposed CPA 2022-B is scheduled to be heard by you on August 31, 2022 for transmittal to the State and

then on October 26, 2022 for adoption.

Two new Commissioners will be sworn in on Nov. 21, 2022.

This proposal is a dramatic departure from the county's long-standing comprehensive plan for this area.

The application states there will be a reduction in Open Space from 60-80% down to 43%;

The application states there will be a reduction of 500' buffers to 50" buffers;

The application states that residents of 5,000 houses must go off site for employment and daily needs. This creates over 47,000 daily trips. This does not reduce automobile trips;

The application states that open space could contain stormwater facilities; potable or non-potable water storage facilities; public or private park facilities; telecommunications towers and facilities; and public facilities such as public safety stations and community centers. The 43% (1,720 acres) open space/greenbelt will not be green;

This application does not preserve rural character, including opportunities for agriculture. Rather, it inserts itself into a 172- year old historic rural and agricultural community and goes as far as to change the name from Old Miakka to Lakewood Ranch southeast.

These are not the *Directions for the Future* the Comprehensive Plan 2050 RMA Chapter anticipated and used as principles to guide long range planning and sustainability initiatives for the county.

Because of these dramatic departures, I am requesting you, the current Board of County Commissioners, table this proposed amendment or take the appropriate procedural measures and allow the newly elected County Commissioners be part of the decision-making process.

They will have at least 4 and maybe 8 years that they will be responsible for implementation of the proposed CPA 2022-B. They should be allowed to vote.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of having the new Commissioners being afforded a buy in for themselves and their constituents.

Thank you for supporting their right to participate.

Sincerely,