

Community Planning Public Information Meeting

Mark your calendar for a Public Information Meeting to outline the process used to update community planning goals within the Lee Plan at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, in Room 118 in the Administration East Building, 2201 Second St., Fort Myers.

At the meeting, staff will provide an overview of proposed amendments including reorganizing the community plan goals into a consolidated portion of the Lee Plan, updating cross references and out-of-date provisions, combining similar provisions to reduce redundancies, and providing consistency throughout the community plans.

A community plan is a goal in the Lee Plan specific to a defined area of the county where long-term objectives of the community, and policies to meet these objectives, are identified. There are 17 distinct community planning areas identified in the Lee Plan.

The Dec. 5 meeting begins the first stage of the public plan update process. Proposed amendments are expected to be drafted by Nov. 27 to be reviewed at the meeting. Then, in the second stage of the process, community workshops will allow residents to give input on the plans. These workshops will begin in early 2018 for some areas and continue into the following two years for others.

In the final stage, proposed amendments will go through a formal public hearing process, first with the Local Planning Agency and then the Lee Board of County Commissioners.

Additional information:

- The Lee Plan:
 - Requires that certain day-to-day public and private activities within each jurisdiction must be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies in the adopted plan.
 - Is a source of authority for the local government's land development regulations and for a wide range of official discretionary actions, including, but not limited to, the capital improvement program.
 - Represents the community's vision of what it will or should look like by the end of the planning horizon.
- The purpose of community plans is to address specific conditions unique to a defined area of the county. Conditions may be physical, architectural, historical, environmental, or economic in nature.
- Update of community plans will be in two parts:
 - Part 1: administrative review and organization of existing plans – culminating in the Dec. 5 overview. Staff members familiar with the proposed changes will be available to discuss with attendees.

- Part 2: community engagement to define community plan vision - ensuring existing plans are reflective of current vision. Staff will conduct visioning workshops in communities as part of a multi-year process.
- All amendments will move through the normal process required to amend the Lee Plan with opportunities for public input at:
 - One hearing with the Local Planning Agency.
 - Two hearings with the Board of County Commissioners (transmittal and adoption).
- The Community Planning Areas are: Alva, Bayshore, Boca Grande, Buckingham, Caloosahatchee Shores, Captiva, Lehigh Acres, Northeast Lee County, North Fort Myers, North Olga, Olga, Page Park, Pine Island, San Carlos Island, Southeast Lee County, Palm Beach Boulevard, and Upper Captiva.
- With the exception of renumbering, there are no changes proposed to the San Carlos Island, Captiva or Southeast Lee County community plans.
- Staff point of contact for questions about the meeting:
 - Sharon Jenkins-Owen 239-533-8535 sjo@leegov.com.
- Media point of contact for questions:
 - Betsy Clayton or Tim Engstrom, 239-533-2221 or bclayton@leegov.com, tengstrom@leegov.com