

My Report to Bern Creek Board on the Planning Commission Meeting

We had a good crowd supporting Keep The Country...Country at the June 20 Planning Commission meeting. Our topic started just before 6:00. The video can be found at:

http://sarasotacounty.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=15

The Comp Plan Amendment (CPA-2019C) was the first time a public initiated change to the Comp Plan has come to the Planning Commission. The staff gave their report and I felt it was fair. Next the public input took place. We had a pretty good crowd of people that showed up. I would estimate about half of the seating available was taken up by supporters. Most spoke and many handed in petitions in support. An attorney for a property owner, Mr. Peachy and Mr. Krebs spoke against it. Interestingly Mr. Krebs mentioned that Sarasota County Utilities had come to him and Lakepark Estates looking for help. They are proposing the County front \$5,000,000 to run the water and sewer out Fruitville Rd.

Once the public comment was done the Planning Commission took a break and on return started discussion. It was interesting that they did not seem to know what to do. They started discussing among themselves what they were supposed to be voting on; to let the process start or whether they agreed to the Comp Plan change. They were concerned about spending 100 hours of staff time if the full process was under taken. They showed no concern over the \$5 million the County wants to front for Mr. Krebs project. The Planning Commission voted to not to proceed with the process. It looked to me like they voted it down because 2050 is the current Plan and they don't think it needs to be changed. Next it goes to the Board.

It was disturbing that the Planning Commissioners did not want to give us a chance to make our case!

Regarding the County fronting the \$5M it is my understanding from other meetings and discussions that when a home is completed the monthly utility bill will include charges to reimburse the County. The developer gets a free ride and the tax payers are out the money for years and years.

For those of you who missed the April 29 Special Meeting you might not be aware that the Bern Creek home owners voted unanimously to support Keep The Country...Country. At the May Board meeting the Board voted to allow me to put up the sign at Fruitville and Cowpen. It was on Bern Creek property. As you probably know the County took it down since it was not a "permanent" sign. The new legal sign is up.

Eileen and I have 6 Keep The Country...Country yard signs available for anyone who wants one. Please stop by and get one. Since Keep The Country...Country is almost universally supported in Bern Creek we need to find friends and businesses in other parts of Sarasota that will put them up for us. I say almost universally supported since the sign at the island by the Bern Creek sign has now disappeared. I doubt it was the County this time.

The Miakka Community Club is accepting donations to cover the cost of signs, etc. You can make a donation to Miakka Community Club, c/o Becky Ayech, 421 Verna Rd, Sarasota, FL 34240

www.SarasotaCountry.net