**Martin Grade Corridor Advocacy Group Meeting**

6:30 PM, Tuesday November 23, 2010

Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce Building

Attendance:

CAG members: Brian Powers, Ed Ciampi, Nancy Oliver

Others: David Knight, Peggy Wood, Toby Oberdorf, Joe Capra, Mary Dawson, Robert Dawson

Content:

Bylaws: Peggy Wood gave a report on her efforts to draft CAG By-Laws. The CAG members authorized her to go forward and suggested that she keep them simple, but include key items such as requirements for membership in the CAG. She agreed to prepare a draft for the CAG’s consideration

Sunshine Law: It was reiterated that the CAG functions under the Sunshine law and has been doing so.

Grants: It was reported that the Scenic Highway Project received a grant of $1,000 from the Scripps Howard Volunteer Grant Program due to the efforts of Rhonda Umbrecht. SCL will continue to pursue other grants.

Upcoming Events: It was suggested that the Martin Grade project have a presence at Music in the Park in Jock Leighton Park in Palm City on January 22, 2011.

Partnerships: It was suggested that we develop a relationship with the Martin County Parks Department regarding the design and construction of Kiosks and other facilities.

The CAG supported pursuing the possibility that the TCRPC may help develop the Corridor Management Plan.

The mine and vegetative refuse project proposed for the west end of the Grade: The Project Manager reported that he had made a presentation before the Local Planning Agency that had adopted a moderate position regarding the project and that residents of the area had taken a much stronger negative position.

Because Ed Ciampi would be voting on the proposal as a member of the County Commission, he abstained from voting.

After some discussion, it was suggested that the CAG refrain from taking an aggressively negative position, because the uses being sought are lawful under the Martin County Codes and one of the Goals of the Scenic Highway is to support the development of successful rural businesses and that the project desires to build strong, lasting relationships with property owners in the area to work toward that goal.

The CAG decided that the Project Manager should present a letter to the BCC stating that the CAG supports the lawful use of private property, but that it had serious concerns about impacts caused by the property ranging from fire hazards, to road damage, to incompatibility.

Update on the First Martin Grade heritage Festival:

* The Objectives would be educational based, involving youth, possibly the Junior rodeo, and modern and traditional rural activities.
* Ed Walpole has volunteered to allow the use of his property, but they were reviewing other sites as well.
* A proposed date of April 9 was established.
* Brian Powers would be responsible for logistics and permitting
* Nancy Oliver would be responsible for Marketing
* Lee Jones would be responsible for booth participation and public relations along the Grade
* Rob Dawson would have oversight and work with Powers on Logistics and permitting.
* David Knight and Mary Dawson would work on the history
* There is a desire to set up on Friday, have a fund raising /volunteer dinner event on Friday, and the one day event on Saturday.