

COUNCIL UPDATE JULY 2016---

from Jeff Hmara's Point of View



DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS TAKES ON NEW MEANING FOR RPB AND NEIGHBORS ...MINTO WEST (WESTLAKE) BECOMES A CITY

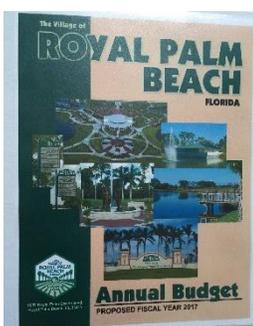
As you may remember, the county approved development of 4500 homes at Minto West (aka, Westlake), and another 4000 homes at GL Homes property (aka, Indian Trails Grove)...RPB council and neighboring communities opposed because of concern about additional traffic on our local roads...now, with creation of the new city of Westlake, there is the possibility of even more homes being allowed by the new city council...

Westlake's incorporation is being challenged in Tallahassee because of what appears to be abuse of the legal conversion process that allows any improvement district to become a city, if the majority of its residents agree...in this case, there were only 5 residents at the time of incorporation and other very suspicious additional circumstances...the future impact on our roads, especially during peak hours (around 8-9am and 5-6pm), can make our commutes long and frustrating... as many as 250,000 additional trips per day are estimated to be added to roads like Okeechobee, Seminole-Pratt Whitney, Northlake and Southern Boulevards, when all of the developments have been built in our area...not only our roads, but also our schools and public services (like fire & rescue and police) will have to be expanded to keep up with demand...PBC tax payers will, most likely, pay for the lion-share of these expansions (hundreds of millions of dollars)...

Changes in Florida state laws over the past several years have made it easier for developers to expand and harder for local governments to balance growth with community character...the county approved Minto West (Westlake) initially with specific conditions that required completion of specific roadway improvements, before Minto could build the next increment of homes...it is not clear to what extent these conditions apply after incorporation of Westlake...there is a lot more uncertainty, now than when first approved...

Many other things we like about our quality of life, here in central PBC (Western Communities) may be adversely impacted...so, it is worth the time and effort to stay informed on these developing situations and to let local and state officials know of your concerns

VILLAGE OF RPB 2016-2017 BUDGET



The Proposed FY 17 Budget will be presented by staff at the July 7th Council Meeting during a workshop following regular Council Meeting...tentative adoption of the FY 17 Budget will be on the July 14th Agenda, with two additional public hearings in September before FY 17 Budget is finalized...over the past two decades, the VRPB has not raised its Tax Rate maintaining a balanced budget, while providing additional services and public facilities to meet the needs and desires of the community, despite drastic changes in property values over that time...our Property

Tax Rate remains at 1.92 mils (\$1.92 for every \$1K of taxable property value)...this coming year's budget shows an increase in planned operating expenses of about 5.5% due mostly to operation of Commons Park, new PBSO contract, staff salaries/bonuses and cost of health insurance and pension...FY 17 Proposed Budget totals about \$38M, of which nearly \$24M is for Village operations and \$14M is for Capital Improvements, like Road Resurfacing, Amphitheater and Cultural Center Expansion...the proposed budget also adds 4 new full time employees needed in Public Works and Parks & Recreation for irrigation maintenance, Cultural Center expanded operations and Info. Systems...when compared to other municipalities in PBC, VRPB ranks among the lowest in Tax Rates and per capita taxes paid ...there are a number of different ways to compare cities financially, but there is no doubt that the fact that RPB is now debt free and has about \$86M in reserves, places it among the best financially-positioned cities in PBC...also, the annual update of VRPB Strategic Plan guides the formulation of each year's budget...each department prepares it budget requests based on Strategic Plan objectives, priorities and performance indicators moving us toward the long-range vision, mission and goals stated in our Strategic Plan.

APPOINTMENT TO TWO NEW POSITIONS AT PBC LEAGUE OF CITIES

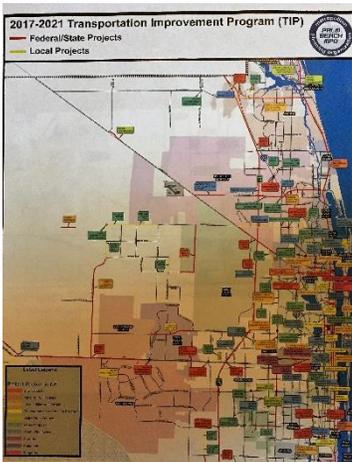


Palm Beach County
LEAGUE of CITIES, Inc.

When asked if I would chair the League's Education Committee I said "yes" and was also appointed to the PBC school district's advisory boundary committee...I believe that both of these positions will be beneficial to our RPB

educational environment, especially with the extensive development in our area that will bring many new students, new schools and perhaps boundary changes that can affect RPB students, parents and schools...these positions will provide awareness and, hopefully, opportunities to bring even more RPB influence to school district decisions...let me know your thoughts and concerns and I'll keep you posted on school-related matters, going forward...

FINAL VERSION FIVE YEAR MPO TRANSPORTATION IMPROVMENT PLAN (TIP 2017-2021)



Tip contains county-wide maps showing all 300+ road improvement projects funded by federal, state and local funds totaling more than \$2b over the next 5 years...MPO website will have a new feature that will allow us to access this map and point and click on a specific project and get schedule, funding, responsible organizations and other details displayed, soon...

During discussion of 2017-2021 tip, west palm beach reps made their repeated request that the MPO remove sr7 extension project from its position as #1 priority, because, as they said: "it is anything but a done deal"...they assured other MPO board members that wpb city commission is committed to continue the battle beyond the upcoming administrative judge hearing in august to the 4th District Court of Appeals.....despite their "no"

vote, 2017-2021 tip was adopted by MPO board.

ROAD IMPACT FEES AND MOBILITY PLAN/FEES

County provided a listing of road impact fees collected and fees expended...the list made clear, that some cities are definitely "donors" meaning they've given more than they've received over the period 2004-2015...wpb was biggest beneficiary receiving \$70m while collection less than \$40m...RPB received about \$21m for road improvements while collecting about \$14m...

A brief discussion of a new statute that authorizes local governments to develop mobility plans and charge developers' mobility fees that will replace road impact fees to cover the cost of increased transportation demands brought by new developments...wpb indicated that they were going out with an "request for quote" to solicit interested consultants to research, analyze and to make recommendations on mobility plan for their city...

This is a politically sensitive issue because the county is suggesting that mobility plan be done at county level applying to all municipalities vs. Individual cities doing plans of their own...one of our RPB strategic plan actions for this year is to do a mobility plan...so we may want to see what others are doing, as we go forward...one attractive thing about mobility fees is that they may be applied to transportation modes other than cars...seems to work with "complete streets" concept...county attorney provided a memo of caution on this interpretation, since the new law has not been tested ...complex issue but worthwhile...someone said that this topic is a bit like "kicking a beehive" ...MPO will no doubt continue the conversation on mobility plans and fees...

LOCAL YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PLACE SECOND IN NATIONAL COMPETITION



As you may remember, young entrepreneurs academy (yea) is all about encouraging and helping students who have an idea and a desire to start and run their own businesses to do just that...it took about 9 months of work for each team to prepare for local, regional and then national level competition (ala Shark Tank)...this is first year that central PBC chamber conducted this program...

The winners from central PBC chamber were: Ethan Shapiro & Ryan Schnider...their company is: "Snap'd In"...their product is a customizable and updateable phone case that allows the user to switch out photos, etc...they won in PBC competition, then went on to win at regional level, beating about 100 competitors in a "shark tank" type competition...and then they competed in national competition against 6 other yea teams... their innovative idea was very well presented...see video link: [blob:https%3a/www.facebook.com/56d68739-a038-4821-8da6-a6b706714174](https://www.facebook.com/56d68739-a038-4821-8da6-a6b706714174)...but, they came in second to a young man, from Washington State, who developed a one piece, self-applied rubber grip sleeve for lacrosse sticks...7 excellent yea teams gained national recognition and scholarships totaling between \$30-50k for winner...great program that had remarkable success in its first year at central PBC chamber ...congratulations to these young entrepreneurs and all awardees...and to the central PBC chamber.



PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THESE TOPICS OR ANYTHING GOING ON IN RPB—

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