

July Minutes 2026 - Meeting Notes for Palm Island Estates (PIE) Board of Directors

The meeting took place July 13th, 2026. It started at 5:05pm and adjourned at 6:47pm.

In Attendance:

- Amy McCully - attended in person
- Linda Cotherman - attended in person
- Deb Knighten - attended in person
- Kelly Lube - attended in person
- Ember Harker - attended in person
- Jeanie Adams - attended via call
- George Sinnett - attended in person
- Mic McCully - attended in person

Guests:

- Meryl Schaffer
- Vicky Page

Recording Secretary - Ember Harker

- Last Month's Minutes - No changes. Unanimously approved.
- **ACTION: Ember to post last month's minutes to the website**
- All past minutes have been updated to reflect the year 2026 instead of 2025

Corresponding Secretary - George Sinnett

- All current communications have been responded to
- We received an email from Dolores Slansky Von Groh - She sent a message responding to an email from 2023. She said "Who are the builders?" We believe she lives on Thornton Key and we aren't familiar with the rules and roads there and how to respond to her.
 - The topic was discussed and we decided to respond that we are not familiar with any road or building restrictions on Thornton Key.
 - **ACTION: Amy to respond**

Treasurer - Deb Knighten

- **A motion was made to approve last month's treasurers report as information. Passed unanimously.**

Administrative - Mic McCully

- Nothing to report

Committee Reports

Action - Linda Cotherman

- Neighborhood Plan - draft is done and ready for design review. As soon as it's approved, we'll send it to the county.
 - Meryl said she hopes it requires little updates. But we don't know.
- Beach Renourishment - Meryl and Linda provided a call to action email draft. Meryl shared that she believes this is a huge issue. She said the county did everything right in terms of protocols. However, all the county meetings were doubled up with the Bocilla Lagoon Dredging. So the county thought people came to the meeting but no one mentioned the beach renourishment because everyone was there for the potential dredging of the lagoon and didn't realize renourishment was on the agenda.
 - It went out for bid. It went back to the county. Now we have public hearings coming back to us on July 22nd about this funding. The challenge is how do we follow up with the county without sounding like "rich islanders."
 - It's an 850% increase for anyone not on the beach for 8 years. It's almost double for beach front people.
 - There was a debate that the 8 years was included on the letter from the county.
 - It was in the presentation and not the letter.
 - One person noted we already paid a lot of taxes. If the beach were on the mainland, where do you draw the line on who pays?
 - One person considered that it's more than previously because the dune restoration was involved.
 - Jeanie shared her personal experience with her two homes on the beach.
 - One person asked whether there can still be any changes made at the July 22nd public hearing. Meryl concurred that we are a bit late to get involved. It's a public hearing and if they don't change their mind, this will be done. The hope is that the commissioners would hear our concerns and then say they would look at more funding.
 - Linda shared that in this round, the county was bothered that they weren't able to get FEMA funds to offset the costs. There are two requests for funding out there for about \$13M, but they don't know if they will get it and thus it's not calculated into the current amounts.
 - This is a public beach and there is some money from the general fund. But no one else in Charlotte County is getting a special assessment for it.
 - If we protest, we don't run the risk of them not doing it due to the county program requiring regular renourishment.

- Previously they tied beach renourishment to stump pass dredging so they were able to spread the costs more widely. Could that be done again? It's worth bringing up at the hearing.
- Some history was given on why LGI is not included in beach renourishment.
- One person also suggested that we ask if they can let us do our own dune restoration and separate that cost out
- Action: Amy to make social post, include a CTA to sign up for SMS Texting; Ember to make the email blast

Island Updates - Linda Cotherman

- July 4th - We received feedback that there was a lot of disorderly conduct and trash and requests that we have a police officer next year

Community Liaison - Linda Cotherman

- Nothing to report

Social - Kelly Lube

- The Sand Castle Contest and Pie Eating Contest went well.
- Next event - Trunk or Treat
- Still no one is coming forward to take over the role of social director. Some people expressed concern that the shoes are too big to fill so it's important we convey that a new person can change / simplify as needed.

Scholarship - Kelly Lube

- Two kids are coming up for scholarship in the next few years
 - Elliot
 - Bennet

Info Central - Jeanie Adams

- ACTION: Going to see if we can do an info-central before July 22nd on beach renourishment
 - Try to find a commissioner or a staff person who could come present
 - Start with Commissioner Constance

Membership - George Sinnett

- We have three new members
- Welcome packets - everyone that buys a property gets a card that says call us we have a welcome packet. She struggles with making the actual mini-pies. Now she's changing to the local honey from Dan the BeeMan.
- A member party is being planned for November. BICI Casino Night, Nov 22nd and will likely need to stay away from that night.

Communications - Ember Harker

- Action: Ember to check SMS integration on PIE site
- Traffic Camera - Deb to take it over. Deb to seek advice from new islander Riley.

Nominating

- Amy reached out to Claire Navatil and Brian Goodhead. They are considering joining.
- George reached out to Pam Lamb and she's interested in doing social events
- Vicky said she wants to see what it's like and what's involved.
 - Amy gave an overview of being a PIE board member and current status

Old Business

- Beach Easements - Hunter Barrettsmith was working on easement 3. He should have them finished this week.
 - Kelly shared that the signs from BICI are finished to go on the last post

New Business

- Bocilla Islands Conservancy presented a document labeled "Brief Description and Intended Uses of 130 Gasparilla Way", of their request for a determination letter they sent to the county. This is not a final plan but a request to find out what is possible at the property within the existing Single Family Residential Zoning.
 - Discussion was had around what is a determination letter, why is the request broken into two phases, does this change zoning or is this an exception, what the difference is between a "community center" and a "community meeting hall," and what is a special exception.
 - The conservancy noted that the request letter was submitted before recent social media activity unfolded.
 - The conservancy discussed parts of the determination letter; highlighting the areas that specifically related to the use of both the indoor and outdoor spaces and its intended use for not just the conservancy but also other community groups including but not limited to PIE.
 - A discussion was had about the similarities between this Conservancy center and the attempt at acquiring the old firehouse 3 years ago. At that time, those PIE board members serving, pledged to donate \$5,000 toward the project. Ember acknowledged that while \$5,000 may be too large of an ask, she did ask for a \$1,000 donation in support of the 130 Gasparilla Way center. It was decided that PIE does not have the authority to donate member dues to any outside organization. Board members suggested showing support by helping in fundraising efforts to raise separate funds.

- A motion was made; Based on the document labeled “Brief Description and Intended Uses of 130 Gasparilla Way”, said determination letter, PIE believes it may benefit PIE and the community as a whole.
 - Motion passed
 - 1 person abstained due to being on a call and not being able to see the document
 - The 3 PIE board members that are also on the Conservancy board abstained this vote
- After the motion passed, a discussion of a two week timeframe for a public show of support was had.

Comments from Guests

- Vicky asked a couple of follow up questions about the difference between BICI and PIE as well as the Neighborhood Plan.