



COTI DECEMBER 2017 UPDATE

Happy New Year from COTI. Here are some items that you may find of interest:

City Charter Review Committee:

In November, the Sanibel City Council appointed seven regular members and two alternate members to the newly-created City Charter Review Committee. The Committee has been created to fulfill a requirement within the existing Charter that it be periodically reviewed.

The Committee has been charged by City Council with providing recommendations by July 2018. To achieve that goal and to provide the public with opportunity for input, the Committee has decided to meet monthly, generally on the first Wednesday of each month, and to proceed with a section-by-section review of the present Charter.

Among the possible Charter changes that may be proposed are the following:

- Term limits for members of City Council
- Term limits for members of the Planning Commission
- Compensation for members of City Council
- Direct election of mayor

COTI will be actively participating in this process. Although the

Committee is not expected to deal with Land Development Code issues, COTI will be prepared to ensure that existing Charter provisions governing development activities on the Island, such as residential density, impermeable land coverage, building height and removal of land from environmentally-protected status, are vigorously defended.

Appointment of Holly Smith to Council:

In December, Holly Smith, vice-chair of the Planning Commission, was appointed to fill the vacancy on Council occurring as a consequence of the resignation of Jim Jennings. Ms. Smith will serve on an interim basis until the March 2018 special election in which a replacement will be chosen to serve the one-year remaining time of Jennings' term. The qualifying period for candidates in this election will begin during the second week in January.

As a result of Ms. Smith's appointment, another Planning Commission resignation and the expiration of a term of another Commission member, City Council will be making three appointments to the Commission in January.

If more than one person does file as a candidate for the City Council special election, COTI will review the candidates' records and conduct interviews to consider endorsement as has been our practice for over forty years.

Pitched Roof Ordinance:

The Planning Commission has approved and forwarded to the City Council a proposed ordinance that would provide for a narrow exception to building heights within the Resort Housing District. COTI has followed the issue and does not object to the proposal since its purpose is to implement previously-enacted architectural standards and to limit flat roof surface area; both of these objectives are considered to be beneficial to the community.

Sanibel Traffic and Special Events:

There has been discussion within the community about limiting new large special events during the winter season. COTI has been involved in the issue, and it was recently announced that any applications for new large special events having the potential for affecting Periwinkle traffic between January and April would be individually reviewed by City Council with the public being provided an opportunity to comment on the request.

Lee County Consideration of Septic Tank Ordinance Change:

In connection with a North Captiva zoning controversy, the Lee County Local Planning Agency was asked to consider a change in the Lee

County Code that would remove prohibitions of septic tank installations seaward of the Coastal Construction Line. Although various local environmental groups - and COTI - recommended against the change, the County Planning Agency did approve the proposed change in a close vote. The next step will be consideration of the change by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners; no date has been set for that action. COTI will continue to oppose the change.

Constitutional Revision Commission:

The Florida Constitutional Revision Commission is considering various issues for possible inclusion on the 2018 state ballot as amendments to the Florida Constitution. COTI is supporting ballot inclusion for three currently proposed amendments:

- Establishing Cabinet-Level Office of Commissioner of Environmental Protection (Proposal 24)
- Prohibiting Oil Drilling in Certain Coastal Waters (Proposal 91)
- Establishing a Constitutional Right to a Clean and Healthful Environment (Proposal 23)

See www.flcrc.gov for additional information.

Nominations to the COTI Board:

We are happy to announce the following Sanibelians have been formally nominated, by the COTI Board of Directors, as candidates for election to the Board. The election will occur at our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for 9:30 AM on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at the Sanibel Community House.

For their first two-year term:

- Maryann Bell
- Malcolm Martini
- Barbara Joy Cooley

For their second two-year term:

- Marty Packard
- Susan Tucker
- Linda Robison
- Erhard Joeres

COTI thanks these individuals for their willingness to help our organization in achieving its mission of ensuring the continuity of good local government, protecting the environment, and preserving the sanctuary character of our barrier island community.

In accordance with COTI bylaws, formal written notification as to time and place of the Annual Meeting, together with a meeting agenda and proxy, will be provided to all members not less than twenty days in advance.

Please be aware that the bylaws do not provide for nominations from the floor at our Annual Meeting. Members wishing to propose alternative nominees may do so in advance of the meeting and should contact us at coti@coti.org for information and assistance about that process.

Members Reminded to Complete Second COTI Member Survey:

Last May, COTI members participated in a survey regarding issue priorities. Your responses were helpful and we thank again those who participated.

At the time we published that survey, we indicated that it was to be the first of two.

Earlier this month, we again asked for your help in completing a second survey. The purpose of this new survey is to evaluate the overall performance of COTI on an anonymous basis and to suggest ways in which we may be more effective. If you haven't done the second survey, please do so now by clicking on the following link:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07eejlv9akj712aodo/start>

For family members, after the first member has completed the survey, the second member can click on this same link and the survey will start again.

As always, we appreciate support from our members and welcome your comments to us at coti@coti.org.

Mike Miller
COTI President

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