



COTI Members and Friends,

Last month the Sanibel City Council voted to proceed with the Civic and Cultural Project by deciding to place two referenda on the ballot of the March municipal election.

But this past Monday, the Council reversed itself and in a special meeting, voted to remove the two referenda from the March ballot. The stated rationale for this reversal was twofold: (a) a lack of community support for the project, and (b) indications from Lee County that financial support would not be forthcoming.

We believe that this latest decision essentially terminates the project in its present form. Council did, however, express the need for action to deal with the needs of Island seniors and with the deteriorating Center 4 Life facility.



**Mike Miller,
COTI president**

COTI has followed the Civic Core project for many months and has repeatedly, in e-messages and commentaries, raised concerns in several areas including the following major points:

- Development of 13 acres of conservation land in the context of Sanibel as a sanctuary island;
- Adverse traffic congestion implications especially if project events were to proliferate;
- Excessive scope of this \$42 million (\$68 million including the value of City-

owned land) project particularly in the absence of planning for the sharing of facility space among the stakeholders;

- Impact on the homeowners of Periwinkle Pines.

Our objective from the beginning has been to ensure an informed, objective discussion in the community; to point out pros and cons; to suggest ways to reduce potential negative effects; and to engage members, the City, and the community in the discussion. It was our concern that if COTI did not fulfill this role, possibly no one else would.

This role is consistent with COTI's historical mission of ensuring the continuity of good local government, protecting the environment, and preserving the sanctuary character of our barrier island community. It's a role COTI has been fulfilling for over forty years and a role we shall continue to fulfill.

Please share this email with your spouse and neighbors!

[Not Receiving COTI eNews?](#)
[Click Here to Register](#)

[See Our Website](#) | [eMail Us](#) | [Join or Renew COTI](#) | [Sign Up for eNews](#)

