



Alva Inc. is dedicated to
preserving the
tranquility and beauty of Alva

P O. Box 2022, Alva FL 33920
www.alvafl.org

**Minutes
Alva, Inc
March 14, 2011**

President Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, she then welcomed everyone for their attendance.

Secretary Dennis read the minutes from the Feb. 14, 2011, meeting. Sue Shoemaker moved to accept the minutes, Bill Redfern seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Smith itemized expenditures and income with a remainder of \$2,666.57 in the treasury.

Dr. Jerry Murphy, planner for Alva Inc, Alexis Crespo, planner for North Olga, and county planner Kathie Ebaugh, presented an overview of the community plan. The agenda was for the meeting was to view and have input on a suggested vision statement, goals, and objectives for the proposed Northeast Lee County composed of North Olga and Alva, Inc. Alva Inc. did not accept the draft for the Northeast Lee County Planning District at this time.

However, a great deal of discussion ensued, mostly regarding unhappiness by residents feeling they were “forced” into not living in the Alva community anymore. They also voiced dissatisfaction with the methods employed in the makeup of the North Olga governing panel, the way meetings are run, and the lack of language that controls density increases in their proposed plan. Ed Pritchard handed out and read a list of 16 reasons why he does not want to be included in the North Olga group. A resolution of four Alva residents who live in the contested area of North Olga was read aloud by Denise Houck. The document declared eight reasons why they are unhappy with a division of the Alva community, and requested that this document be included in the minutes. This document will be available as part of the minutes on the Alva Inc. website.

Deb Arnason from the Alliance for Renewable Energy then presented information on the success of incorporating solar energy in Europe and appealed to interested members of the community to contact the Florida legislators for more support of renewable energy.

John Hawkins agreed to represent Alva Inc. on the Caloosahatchee Regional Park Public Hearing.

President Daniels reported on the 20/20 Conservation Purchase of Persimmon Ridge Property; she said it passed all the committees, and will be before the county commissioners for a vote on April 17, 2011.

President Daniels then announced upcoming community meetings, and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

We Western Alva residents, who have been active in our community and in our community's planning efforts, make the following declarations concerning a proposal to split the Alva planning district into two separate parts:

1. We strongly prefer that Alva not be divided into a "North Olga" planning district and an Alva planning district. Alva has planned and continues to plan more than adequately for all the citizens of Alva from Hwy 31 to the Hendry County line. Any division weakens and confuses the attempt to keep the region relatively pristine as compared to the congestion and urbanization and suburbanization of much of Lee County.

2. We deny that Alva and Western Alva (AKA "North Olga") are two distinct communities. They are so similar that division only drives an artificial wedge between one community at the Caloosahatchee Regional park line. Instead of dividing this unified community, county staff and the Board of County Commissioners should be helping to foster connectivity for all of Alva through scenic status for Hwy 78, common walking trails, horse trails and bike paths, and facilitation of all Alva citizens in the planning process. This is best accomplished by utilizing the Alva Community Plan for the entire region in the 33920 zip code area.

3. If staff and the Board of County Commissioners insist on this artificial division due to political pressures from one group of individuals then every effort must be made to foster the common goals of the citizens of all Alva. Alva and the North Olga Planning Panel must work in unison on any development project that effects the so called Northeast Lee County region. Those goals would include the following points.

4. Both planning groups would have to include clear language that forbids density increases. Clustering is essential.

5. Both planning groups should allow residents and property owners in the area on their governing boards. Meetings must be democratic, transparent, and well communicated in advance. A spirit of inclusiveness and cooperation is essential. The real wishes of the majority of the people MUST always prevail. Minutes must be kept and Roberts Rules of Order observed.

6. Statements in the North Olga plan that exempt development of less than 100 acres from scrutiny must be abandoned. ALL development should be scrutinized.

7. Alva and "North Olga" would have to assign at least one officer to closely communicate all development plans with each other in advance. This would be a major RESPONSIBILITY of each group.

Respectfully submitted,

*John F. Hawkins

*Denise Houck

*William Redfern, Jr.

*Michael Stottlemyer

*These individuals all live in the Western Alva contested area referred to as "North Olga" and are current and active members of the Alva, Inc. planning group. They were all elected into their office by a majority of the members at various Alva, Inc. meetings. "North Olga" has long enjoyed heavy representation from the Western Alva region from the Caloosahatchee Regional Park west to Hwy. 31 and north of the Caloosahatchee River.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Dennis, Secretary