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Council to hear plans for city alleys

Plans may conflict with stormwater relief

By Pete Skiba
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The Cape Coral Community Redevelopment Agency board will hear status reports on traffic and stormwater studies at its regular meeting Tuesday.

On the agenda for the board's 5:30 p.m. meeting in the Cape Coral City Council chambers are two reports that could be at cross purposes when it comes to alleys.

If construction work for traffic is planned for the alleys, it could conflict with work that might be planned for stormwater relief in the redevelopment area.

The 432-acre redevelopment area sits along both sides of Cape Coral Parkway from Southeast 2nd Court on the west to the Cape Coral Bridge on the east. A section extends north along Del Prado Boulevard to Southeast 44th Street.

Plans call for the area to become a thriving downtown center with restaurants, residences, offices, hotels and entertainment centers.

"What we have to do is coordinate the two groups doing the studies so we don't have to dig the alleys up twice," said board member John Jacobsen.

Two-way traffic moving through the alleys sometimes backs up because 60 of the 64 alleys listed in a redevelopment agency inventory are 15 feet wide. The other four are 20 feet wide.

The alleys could be widened, made one way for traffic, or both. It gets complicated for stormwater treatment.

The alleys were built to feed stormwater into streets, said Bob Greco, a Redevelopment Agency board member.

The study could say that they should be used for stormwater relief, when new construction begins to dominate the area.

IF YOU GO

- What: Cape Coral Community Redevelopment Agency alleyway subcommittee meeting
- When: 4 p.m. Tuesday
- Where: City Council Chambers in Cape Coral City Hall
- What: Cape Coral Community Redevelopment Agency regular meeting
- When: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday
- Where: City Council Chambers in City Hall

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"It is up to the board to keep those doing the studies talking to each other," Greco said.

The costs involved with the studies depend on what work is required and that has yet to be determined, said city traffic engineer Rashad M. Hanbali.

The alley subcommittee scheduled a 4 p.m. meeting before the redevelopment agency meeting. It put discussion of study costs, alley maintenance and stormwater on the agenda.

In other business, the full board will consider:

In other business the board will consider:

- A contract with the Chamber of Commerce of Cape Coral.
- Less expensive streetlights for side streets in the area.
- Workshops and meeting scheduling for 2006.
- A revised facade grant program.
- Status reports for various projects.

The board also will set a special meeting for reviewing applications for appointments to the board. Four of the board members' appointments are expiring.

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