



Palm Beach County Planning Congress

Newsletter - Vol. 26, No. 11

February 2003

South Florida Science Museum

Mark your calendars for our next Planning Congress Program to be held at the **South Florida Science Museum** on the evening of **Thursday, February 20, 2003**. **Jim Rollings**, Science Museum Executive Director, and **John Glidden**, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Design and Building Committee, will share with us the latest plans to relocate and build a State-of-Art Science Museum here in West Palm Beach. The new facility will be located at the northwest corner of Gun Club Road and Kirk Roads, immediately south of Southern Boulevard and west of Lake Lytal Park. Make plans now to join us for what should be a very informative and enjoyable program!

In addition to the presentation by Mr. Rollings and Mr. Glidden, the Science Museum will also be open that evening for *Planning Congress members only (and their families)* to view the current **Florida Ice Age Exhibit** between **5:30 and 7:00 p.m.** during our "Meet and Greet." The **program** will begin promptly at **7:00 p.m.** in the **Motorola Theatre** just inside the entrance to the Science Museum.

The process of building a new Science Museum that would be able to serve as a regional science center began in November 1999. The nationally known firm of E. Verner Johnson, Architects, which specializes in designing science museums, was hired to design the new museum. Fundraising is already well underway, with \$16 of the \$42 million needed already raised in donations and/or pledges.

Mr. Rollings has been Executive Director of the Science Museum since January 1996 and has also served as Chair of the Palm Beach County Cultural Executives Committee. He received the prestigious Joseph Leavitt Award from the Cultural Council for taking the science museum organization "to the next level of excellence."

Prior to coming to Palm Beach County, Mr. Rollings previously served as Program Manager for the NASA-Langley Visitor Center, Development and Marketing Director for the Virginia Living Museum, and Director of the Yorktown Victory Center near Williamsburg.

Mr. Glidden is a Principal in the local architectural firm of Oliver, Glidden, Spina and Partners. In addition to his four years on the Board of Trustees for the Science Museum, Mr. Glidden has also served on the Palm Beach Gardens Planning Board.

Edgar Mitchell will also deliver a short talk and question/answer opportunity on the loss of Columbia and the future of manned space flight. Dr. Mitchell was the 6th man to walk on the Moon; his mission was *exactly* 32 years ago this week, spanning Jan. 31 - Feb 9, 1971.

The South Florida Science Museum is located at 4802

Dreher Trail North, just north of the Dreher Park Zoo and east of I-95. It can be accessed via Summit Boulevard between Parker Avenue and Florida Mango Road.

Please RSVP to Susan Coughanour at 682-6519 or scoughan@sfwmd.gov with your name and the names of any guests who will be attending.

Membership Renewal

This is a friendly reminder to those of you who are Palm Beach County Planning Congress members that we have **not yet** received your membership renewal form and dues. As always, you can expect a variety of informative and timely program topics, formats, and venues of interest to our members. Our membership database is now being used to generate email mailing lists and we will be publishing our newsletters online. It is important we maintain up to date membership records that reflect everyones paid membership status.

Letter From The President

We are already beginning the second month of 2003. Where does the time go? I've looked everywhere so let me know if you find out where it goes. In order to save time and effort (and to get the newsletter out in a more timely fashion, by the way), we will now be sending your Planning Congress newsletter electronically! If you are a reluctant by-stander or if you simply abstain from being involved in the the digital revolution, we understand. Let us know if you would rather have a regular analog, hard copy, \$0.37 to mail, foldable and tangible newsletter. We would be most happy to indulge your eccentricity. However, judging by the amount of e-mail addresses we have for all, we expect that the electronic way will be the preferred method of delivery for most of our members.

We have a lot in store for you during 2003. As you read in this newsletter, the Science Museum is opening its doors on February 20th for an exhibition related to its new facility being planned for the northeast corner of Kirk and Gun Club Road. Other events that we continue to work on for presentation this year are an equestrian event (Hi Ho Silver, Away! - or something like that). We think it would be great to focus on Riviera Beach's redevelopment efforts in the near future. In May, we will find ourselves at the brand, spanking new Trump International Golf Club - Clubhouse - you'll get a first class tour and a presentation that will involve the historical evolution of

Section 6 (home of the golf course and other Palm Beach County facilities, eh hem). We also plan to check out the construction of the new Convention Center and take a trip out west to visit our friends in the Glades - which is always a worthwhile trip!

We'll blend in some old favorites too: Our annual August picnic, Keysfest in early October and a not to missed holiday/end of year party!

By the end of the year, we are sure that you'll be saying that the Planning Congress is your best professional organization value going - worth telling more of your professional friends and getting them involved too. Tell them to visit our website for a membership application and we will get them quickly set up to enjoy all the benefits of Planning Congress membership.

By the way, let one of your friendly board members know if you have a nifty idea for a Planning Congress outing, meeting or topic.

Speaking of board members, we have a position open on our board of directors that we are aching to fill. Let us know if you are interested. Board meetings are on the first Monday of every month. If that fits with your schedule, fantastic. Get in contact with us and join in on the fun we have in bringing you all these great opportunities.

Thanks. Hold on tight and have a great rest of the year!

Comprehensively yours,

Wes Blackman

Abacoa Follow-up

On Friday, November 22, 2002, Planning Congress members were treated to a very informative discussion on the creation and development of the Abacoa Community, followed by a narrated trolley tour of several of the communities that make up the Abacoa Community. Abacoa is a 2,055 acre master planned, mixed use community designed around the concepts and principles of Traditional Neighborhood Development. It includes more than a dozen different neighborhoods of varying housing types and architectural styles, a Main Street-style Town Center, the FAU Honors College and MacArthur Campus, the Roger Dean Baseball Stadium, a Workplace District, a shopping plaza, two public schools, a public golf course, parks and recreation sites, and interconnecting greenways and open spaces. Each home is pre-wired with Internet and Intranet Connections that allows residents to communicate electronically among themselves and with local businesses and community activities as well as externally via the Internet.

The program began with lunch and a panel discussion among several of the key players responsible for implementing the project from the ground up. Panel members included:

- Nader Salour, President, Abacoa Development Company
- Scott Hedge, Vice-President of Architecture & Planning, DeGuardiola Development Co.
- Chris Chew, Planning Coordinator for DiVosta and Company, Inc.
- Dr. Kristin Murtaugh, Vice President for the FAU MacArthur Campus
- Sam Shannon, Community Development Director

for the Town of Jupiter

Panel members were asked to address the following in their remarks:

- What their organization contributed to the successful implementation of this community;
- Examples of what has worked well in the development of the project;
- "Lessons Learned" that have been applied as the development has moved forward;
- Unexpected Benefits that have occurred as a result of this project.

It was evident from each of the presentations and the subsequent discussion among the panel members that the Abacoa Project has been an on-going and evolving partnership amongst all the parties involved in the development of this "New Town." Each felt they were breaking new ground and taking risks as each phase of the project moved forward, without necessarily knowing if things would work out as planned. Initial assumptions and expectations did not always play out as expected and over time numerous adjustments have been made to find the right mix of uses and respond to market changes and expectations. Clearly, the Project has been a great success and people in South Florida are desirous of living in a new town type community – to the extent that it has been difficult for the City of Jupiter and Abacoa to meet some of their original objectives of incorporating affordable, low cost housing into the community.

The Trolley Tour, led by Nader Salour, Scott Hedge, and Chris Chew, provided an excellent opportunity to view several of the local communities and discuss some of the "lessons learned" and "unanticipated benefits" that have occurred as the community has developed and grown. As one of our members said, "I thought I knew everything there was to know about Abacoa, until I attended this program!" For more information about Abacoa, visit their web site at www.abacoa.com.

Special thanks to the Abacoa Development Company for providing the complimentary lunch at the Stadium Grill in the Abacoa Town Center and to the DeGuardiola Development Company for providing the complimentary trolley tour of the community.

Philippe Cousteau Presentation

Philippe Pierre Cousteau, president of The Philippe Cousteau Foundation, son of Philippe Cousteau and grandson of famed legendary Jacques-Yves Cousteau, gave a very informative presentation to the Planning Congress on January 6th. The Philippe Cousteau Foundation was created in March 2000 by his sister, Alexandra Cousteau, to carry on the legacy of their father, Philippe Cousteau. Until his tragic death in a seaplane crash in 1979, Philippe worked extensively with his father Jacques as they strove to educate the world on importance of the ocean and other environments to the future of our planet.

Guided by its mission statement, "To inspire a sense of stewardship for our planet and create an environmentally sustainable future," the Foundation has been working to identify critical problems facing our planet and forge alliances with leading organizations around the world. Their focus is to create new technological and ideological methods for lessening the worldwide degradation of our planet's resources and protecting ecologically important areas and species.

As part of implementing its five action items (alliance, conservation, education, exploration, and restoration), the Foundation recently worked with the Palm Beach County School Board, the South Florida Water Management District, Everglades National Park, and the US Army Corps of Engineers to produce an educational documentary on the Everglades that was featured as part of his presentation.

Philippe discussed several on-going projects of the Cousteau Foundation including their Coral Reef Initiative and other efforts to educate the young people of this world about the importance of being good stewards of our planet. The program also included an extensive question and answer session. Several good questions came from younger people in the audience, children of Planning Congress members. Everyone enjoyed an opportunity to speak with Philippe at the meet-and-greet prior to his presentation, and we also had a chance to meet his mother, who spent 13 years on expedition aboard the Calypso.

Membership Wall of Fame

Our database indicates the following members have taken the steps to make sure their 2003 membership dues have been paid as of printing time of this newsletter (Feb 7, 2003):

Banting, Barszewski, Bell, Blackman, Boose, Borchardt, Breese, Carpenter, Castro, Clark, Clemente, Close, Coughanour, Devick, Diaz-Carreras, Dorling, Fleischmann, Flinchum, Frakes, Frank, Gentile, Gertz, Glas-Castro, Gordon, Graff, Greene, Hamilton, Higgins, Hudson, Juran, Kino, Mather, McCall, Miessau, Miller, Miller, Moore, Moore, Palen, Perry, Pitkin, Schnelle, Sharma, Sharma, Shutt, Skokowski, Sullivan, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Thomson, Turney, Wallace, Wallace, Walter, Webb, Webb, Whiteford, Whitfield, Williams, Yeskey

Thank You!

Palm Beach County Planning Congress

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West Palm Beach, FL 33402

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