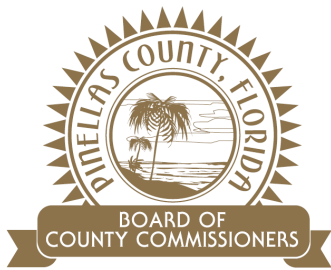


Eres, Christian

From: Lewis, Jamie E
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 2:44 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Cc: Revie, Derelynn; Overend, Ashley
Subject: 5/16 Work Session Comment File #: 24-0522A FW: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #29762092

Good afternoon,

Please see citizen's comments below on 5/16 Work Session's agenda item # 24-0522A. Thank you.



Kind Regards,
Jamie Elizabeth Lewis
Executive Assistant to
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street, 5th Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
jelewis@pinellas.gov
Phone: (727) 464-3377

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 8:58 PM
To: Lewis, Jamie E <jelewis@pinellas.gov>
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #29762092

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This information is a result of a Pinellas County Online Customer Service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

Direction of Inquiry

- Commissioner Janet C. Long - District 1
- Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2024 Vice-Chair)
- Commissioner Charlie Justice - District 3
- Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4
- Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
- Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6 (2024 Chair)
- Commissioner René Flowers - District 7
- County Administrator

Subject Unincorporated Seminole Sport Association

Message

TO: Board of Commissioners, Pinellas County
FROM: Rich Pettit, 10890 Christopher Ct, Largo, FL 33774
RE: Unincorporated Seminole Sport Association

The comments below are given in lieu of presenting them in person at the May 16th, 2024, Budget Workshop which appears to be closed for public comment.

When I was a young boy, I belonged to a little league team. I was left-handed so my coach had me play first base which made me feel special and I thought I played well. I was terrible at batting and intimidated by the fast pitches of a hardball that whizzed by me. I swung blindly hoping to hit the ball. My coach saw this and told me to step up to the plate, keep my eye on the ball and have confidence. In a short while I was hitting balls deep into the outfield. This was a life-changing lesson for me. No experience in a classroom could have given me the confidence my coach did. For that I am forever grateful and a supporter of youth sports. (I still have my baseball glove and photo of my little league team)

I am now a lot older, but still play sports – Pickleball. I am married with two adult sons. My wife and I own a home in Pinellas County, within the boundaries of the Unincorporated Seminole Sport Association MSTU.

This leaves me with a problem. We support youth athletics, but we also pay property taxes.

We live in an HOA (Collins Estates) for which I serve as its President. Our small group of homeowners lies on the fringe of the Unincorporated Seminole Sport Association MSTU. Our HOA members do not identify with the “Seminole community”. If I want to use the Seminole Recreation facility to play Pickleball I have to pay a fee and yet residents of the City of Seminole are not being assessed a tax to support the youth facilities, but we are.

The boundaries of the Unincorporated Seminole Sport Association MSTU are inconsistent with the any real benefits for taxpayers on the outer areas of the boundary perimeter.

When TRIM notices are distributed this August there will be a few HOA members knocking at my door asking me what this new Seminole tax is all about. What do I say? The HOA has nothing to do with this? Go ask your county commissioner? It’s for the kids in the Seminole area? They will not be happy.

I had the privilege of serving on the Feather Sound Community Services District MSTU as its Treasurer for about 20 years. The Feather Sound Community Services District MSTU boundaries only included households directly benefiting from the district tax. The Unincorporated Seminole Sport Association MSTU boundaries go well beyond most of those benefiting from the property tax.

The solution to this problem is to find alternative county funding or redraw the Unincorporated Seminole Sport Association MSTU boundaries to include those households using the sports fields.

Until a better funding source can be found, on behalf of our HOA and all other non-

beneficiaries of this taxing district we ask that the millage rate be reduced to one- eight (.00125).

Your Name	Rich Pettit
Your Street Address	10890 Christopher Court
City/Unincorporated County	Unincorporated
Zip Code	33774
Your Phone Number	727-599-6569
Your Email Address	richpettit@gmail.com

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