

Re: Eastchester Right Away vacation notice (Marlin Conservation Square)
Letter sent to City

I Do NOT support the proposed vacation of the right of ways and city street at the location known as Marlin Conservation Square. right of way adjacent to 4815 and 4907 Eastchester Drive.

THIS PROPERTY IS NOT OWNED By the adjacent property owners, it is a CITY STREET. You can see it on the plat.

I have gone on record with the City opposing this. AND even though it says in the workshop notice that the City has provided a "No-Objection" letter, this is not proper procedure. see attached: the proper procedure is: workshop first, then City Review. I believe this is a blatant attempt by the adjacent property owners to make it seem like this is a done deal, and there is nothing we can do about it. But there is due process, and with this property, in particular, I believe it would be a breach of trust to allow it to go into private hands.

Historically, this space was a Road. When I moved here in 1998, the property was overgrown with exotic invasive plants (Brazilian Pepper Trees) growing over pavement. The property is platted as a dead-end street on public records.

I'm looking for the paperwork, but in approximately 2000, I spearheaded a grant which was funded by the SWFWMD and received by IBSSA. Many neighbors were involved with restoration effort to convert the property into the wildlife corridor and groundwater recharge zone that it is now. In fact, the City assisted with the removal of the Exotics, and the Road base. They hauled away many trucks of debris to clear the space and allow us to build the water retention area, and replant with natives.

A sign exists on the site with its designation "Marlin Conservation Square", and this is part of the IBSSA Neighborhood map of green spaces. The funding was granted in public trust that the space would remain in public control, with the effect of groundwater recharge, wildlife refuge, and public use.

BOTH adjacent property owners were aware of this historical use as a public space prior to their purchase of their adjacent property.

In general, I am opposed to the City policy of granting private enrichment at no public benefit, but in particular I am severely opposed to this proposed vacation of public property, because this "vacation" will allow one of the adjacent property owners to split their property into two developable lots, which inevitably reduces groundwater infiltration, and can impact wildlife that now depends on this lot for sustenance. not to mention it is open space our children can play in.

This property should NOT be allowed to be converted to private ownership, it is a breach of contract with IBSSA, SWFWMD, and the neighbors who enjoy this pocket park.

PLEASE join with me in opposing this. Please send your opinion to the City. Please come to the workshop.

Jesse White
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