

Fast Facts on the Proposed Crystal Beach Community Overlay



What are we voting on?

Submittal of a proposed amendment to the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan, which will establish the Crystal Beach Community Overlay, along with the boundary, community vision and supporting policies, to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners for their adoption.



Why is it important?

It will serve to reinforce the fact that Crystal Beach is an established community, with a common vision for the future, where residents care about the impact of decisions by others on their quality of life.

Including the Overlay boundary, Community Vision and supporting policies in the Comprehensive Plan is important, as the Plan represents the policy of the Board of County Commissioners, and the objectives and policies contained within it guide the Board's decision-making.

In 2006, the Board of County Commissioners put in place a framework for establishing Community Overlays as a means of identifying and protecting community identity. Essentially, the purpose was to enable unincorporated communities to better participate in planning for their future, by identifying a specific community boundary, by developing a local vision, and by establishing policies that the Board would use in decision-making and planning that affects their community's future.

In March of 2015 residents of Crystal Beach invited staff from the Pinellas County Planning Department to present at the Community Hall on the Community Overlay process. Subsequently, Crystal Beach community members took the initiative to draft an overlay document that Pinellas County Planning Department staff has reviewed and provided feedback on at the Community's request.



Who is conducting this vote?

The Pinellas County Planning Department is conducting the vote by mailing self-addressed, pre-paid postcards out to all property owners within the boundary of the proposed Crystal Beach Community Overlay and tallying the results.



How do I make sure my vote counts?

Each household or business gets one vote. For your vote to count, mail the pre-addressed voting post card, pre-paid by the Crystal Beach Community Association, back to the Pinellas County Planning Department by **June 13, 2016**. Results of the community vote will be posted on the County's website at www.pinellascounty.org/plan by June 27, 2016. The Community Vision and Policies enclosed in this letter can also be viewed at this website.



What happens next?

Before the Board of County Commissioners considers amending the Comprehensive Plan to specifically recognize the Crystal Beach community with an Overlay (including the community vision and the associated policies), they want to make sure there is sufficient support from the residents and businesses. If at least 60% of the returned postcards support the proposal, the Overlay will be presented to the Board for their action at a public hearing.

If you have any questions about the Community Overlay you can contact Christopher Moore at the Planning Department at: (727) 464-8219, or cdmoore@pinellascounty.org, or you may Crystal Beach community members Dianne Fecteau (dianne@kendiacorp.com, 727-366-1392) or Barb Witlin (varya1562@gmail.com, 727-), who helped draft the overlay document.