



# Mission Estates

## HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



July 22, 2021

Hello MEHOA residents,

As you know, MEHOA has been working with Andrea Lipstein, Sarasota County for the past few months to resolve historic issues regarding the buffer section at the flagpole area and more recently two sections along Sonoma Drive East. An onsite meeting with Andrea, Tom Ushio, Eddie Fatica and Mike Commons occurred Wednesday morning, July 14, 2021 with the purpose of walking the areas in question and coming up with solutions to bring these areas into compliance. The results of this meeting are summarized in the attached report including additional information about planting in right of ways and possible access to Legacy Trail.

To expedite the process of bringing the flagpole area into compliance, the flagpole was moved this morning to the pond area near the bench and crane sculpture. Our thanks to veterans Eddie Fatica, Mike Commons and Dale (Roger) Arabie for making time to move the flagpole to the new location in a very timely manner. See the attached photo of the flag in the new location.

As required by Sarasota County, our contracted vendor, Solitude will be responsible for leading and performing the restoration activity of the buffer areas along Sonoma Drive East and the old flagpole area.

MEHOA continues to foster a very positive working relationship with Andrea Lipstein and Sarasota County and we are grateful for the patience, support and guidance she provided to help develop the solutions.

Updates will be provided as this process continues and thank you all for your patience and support.

MEHOA Board of Directors & MEHOA Volunteers





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### **MEHOA & Sarasota County Onsite meeting: Wednesday, 7/14/2021, 9:30am**

Subject: Preserve/Buffer Areas & Boundary Lines – Flagpole and Sonoma Drive East

Attendees: Andrea Lipstein (Sarasota County), Tom Ushio, Eddie Fatica, Mike Commons (MEHOA)

Andrea Lipstein (Sarasota County Environmental Compliance and Enforcement) met with Tom Ushio, Eddie Fatica and Mike Commons (MEHOA). The primary purpose of the meeting was to address issues with preserve buffer areas at the flagpole and along Sonoma Drive East and West. The following key points were covered:

1. Walk the flagpole area and sections along Sonoma Drive East and make sure there was agreement with boundary lines for buffer areas at these locations. The 3 sections in question were measured and marked with flags along the buffer zone prior to the meeting.
2. Develop solutions to address the flagpole area being in the buffer area as well as two sections of “dip encroachment” along Sonoma Drive East.

Additional topics of discussion in the meeting included:

3. Access to Legacy Trail
4. Clarify the types of plants that can be planted in buffer and non-buffer areas along Sonoma Drive East and West.
5. Determine if non-native plants can be planted in “right of way” areas that are adjacent to buffer zones along Sonoma Drive East and West.

The following list summarizes discussion and actions from the meeting:

- Flag pole is in the preserve/buffer area and needs to be removed and relocated
  - a. Flag pole location has been an unresolved issue for several years
  - b. MEHOA plat maps do not accurately designate preserve/buffer area at flagpole
  - c. Preserve/buffer boundaries are referenced in “As Built” maps
    - Grandfathering flagpole at existing location is not an option
    - Increasing preserve area is not an option
  - d. Move flagpole to pond area near bench & crane sculpture
    - Andrea Lipstein reviewed the “as built” drawings and confirmed that the new location was acceptable
    - need to make sure no drain/culverts are buried there
    - lighting will need to be an “approved night lighting” (<https://myfwc.com/conservation/you- conserve/lighting/>)
  - e. Restoration plan for the old flagpole area (Solitude):
    - Remove flagpole, ornamental plants, banana trees, kill grass
    - Plan and work must be performed by licensed contractor (Solitude)
    - Plantings must be native plants that are currently in the area
    - Temporary irrigation will be used (MEHOA)



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- Dip encroachment along Sonoma Drive East – two sections to be addressed
  - a. Restoration plan for Sonoma Drive East including a section to the sump area (Solitude)
    - Plan and work must be performed by licensed contractor (Solitude)
    - Kill grass
    - Plantings must be native plants that are currently in the area
      1. plant loosely (not close or dense)
      2. Plan and work must be performed by licensed contractor (Solitude)
    - Temporary irrigation will be used (MEHOA see planting plan)
  - Access to Legacy Trail – see attached photos and notes from Andrea Liptsein
    - a. Mesic Hammock – width to plant outside of hammock (MEHOA)
      - need to measure distance to Right of Way and width of area to put plants
    - b. Andrea to check about access requirements to Legacy Trail
      - Resolution sent on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Environmental Reviewer said to first obtain the Legacy Trail access permit and then contact him to apply for a land development modification to properly revise the building plans depicting the access.
    - c. Hammock area in very good condition
    - d. Check in to having Solitude cut vines on a regular basis and kill invasive plants
      - An approved management plan is required to conduct any work within the Mesic Hammock (Solitude)
  - Landscaping vs grass
    - a. Planting ornamental plants between buffer areas and street curb (MEHOA volunteers)
      - Requires approval from Sarasota County – Right of Way Permit (<https://www.scgov.net/home/showpublisheddocument/34064/637256735217370000>). As part of the ROW permit, a drafted maintenance agreement will be included in the ROW permit.
      - A landscape planting plan including types of plants, materials to be used, and edging to contain materials will be required (MEHOA to provide)
      - Irrigation will be installed in right of way area between buffer and street curb. Describe where the irrigation is coming from and that no need to add lines will be needed. Further description of the landscape irrigation design may be required.
      - Mr. Fatica can contact IFAS for further recommendations.