

VOLUSIA

V The Orlando Sentinel, Wednesday, October 23, 1996 D-3

Go-cart plan sputters but racing revs up residents

Residents of Marsh Road objected to plans for motorcycle drag racing at the DeLand airport during Bike Week.

By Gwyneth K. Shaw

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

DELAND — Go-carts were dropped from the agenda at Monday night's DeLand City Commission meeting, but Marsh Road residents still were making noise.

This time, they came out to object to motorcycle drag racing at the DeLand Municipal Airport. The annual event coincides with Daytona Beach's spring Bike Week.

The Elite Motorcycle Club, which has sponsored the races for the past two years, wanted permission for next spring and a guarantee to run for two more years.

"This is safe, clean entertainment," said Peter Thomas, the club's president. "We've had

DeLand OKs city charter committee

DELAND — A special committee will be set up to review DeLand's city charter.

DeLand commissioners, who agreed Monday night to establish the committee, said they'd like to see recommendations back by May 1997 so any changes could go to the voters during the fall 1997 elections.

While a comprehensive look at the charter is needed, commissioners said the committee should take a close look at the procedure for filling vacancies on the City

Commission, now done by appointment instead of special election.

Of the seven-member group, one will be a commission member, and the city's Planning Board, Economic Development Committee and Community Activist Task Force each will nominate one person.

That leaves three spaces open to the public. Applications can be obtained and submitted within the next 30 days to City Clerk Viola Ballentine. For more information, call (904) 736-3900.

no accidents — no problems — over the past two years. Our drag racing, I hope, wouldn't disturb anybody."

A group of area residents, some of whom spoke against a proposed go-cart track at the airport earlier this month, said the racing is not only loud, but the traffic the event creates on Marsh Road is intolerable.

They said if the go-carts are determined to be too noisy by the commission, then the motorcycles — some without street-legal mufflers — should be nixed as well.

The go-cart track, proposed by Tommy Lawrence, was put off until the Nov. 18 meeting at Lawrence's request.

"I don't think we've looked at the impact

this really has on DeLand," neighbor Cheryl Haynes said. "This is a pretty tranquil area. Look at Biketoberfest — that started in 1992, and look at it now."

Part of the problem was that 1,500 spectators at last year's Elite event had to enter and exit the airport from Marsh Road and the Spurling Sports Complex. That snarled traffic when the racing ended, DeLand Police Chief Richard Slaughter said.

Commissioners compromised, voting 3-1 to allow Elite to have the event next year only, without a promise of future support.

They also suggested the airport's main runway be closed briefly when the races are over, allowing traffic to flow out through the city's industrial park instead of Marsh Road.

Mayor David Rigsby voted against the compromise, saying "as a city, we have to be responsible for the outcome. The neighbors have a point about 1,500 extra cars."

In other business, the commission gave preliminary approval to a tax break for Aluma Shield Inc., a manufacturer of insulated metal door panels. The final vote is set for Nov. 4.