

Editorial Opinion

Naples Daily News

"You might and the people will find their own way."

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Flynt Sexy Gifts

It's up to commission to clarify Collier code

The story started on a slippery slope.

Jimmy Flynt opened his Flynt Sexy Gifts store, with a big sign out front to that effect, on Pine Ridge Road. Then Collier County government, which handled all the permitting paperwork, raised questions.

Does the store fit the description of a sexually oriented business, which could be banned because of its proximity to a church?

Since then the public has endured the spectacle of Flynt, his attorneys and county officials dancing on the head of a pin about definitions of what "sexually oriented" means and how much "sexually oriented" merchandise is sold by the store — with a certain percentage serving as the tipping point for the "sexually oriented" category and its regulations.

Good grief.

Is this store really worth all the fuss?

Is the store causing crime, diseases, urban blight and decreased property values — criteria for banishment cited in a 1991 county zoning law?

Is the store really comparable to the sexy dancing at a now-defunct North Naples nightspot that the law was drafted to remedy?

Is there anything in the store that is not available at stores with adult, sexually oriented merchandise — some of the stores are nationally known chains — elsewhere in the city of Naples and Collier County?

Whose objections are driving the second-guessing?

We agree with the concept of the county having the power to decide what can and cannot go on in various zoning categories. We are less certain that an adult store like Flynt Sexy Gifts fits the same bill as a strip joint.

Sooner or later the Collier County Commission is going to have to step in to add the clarity that is missing here — starting with why county government allowed this store to open at all if there are so many unanswered questions in its zoning definition that could stoke this kerfuffle.

NEWS ITEM: SCIENTISTS GROW CULTURED EGGS



LETTERS

Sue Gorisek, Naples

Instantly better

I've been following all the news stories about the fabulous multi-million-dollar plans for enhancing Naples-area parks — and I'm thrilled at the prospect.

But I have an idea for an instant improvement to Bayview Park that could probably be built for a few hundred bucks.

How about adding a simple (no frills) kayak launch — tucked into the corner alongside the Windstar fence? This would be a terrific access point for those of us who love kayaking on the river and the adjacent backwater mangrove islands

Urszula Wang, Naples

Let there be light —