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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Alan Ryker Recipient of the 2016 Sam Noe Award**

Naples, Florida – Today, at its April 6, 2016 Regular Meeting, the Naples City Council passed a Resolution naming Alan Ryker as the recipient of the 2016 Sam Noe Award.

Although Mr. Ryker served on many boards and committees in the City for over 15 years, he also served the community at-large. He is committed to preserving and completing the Gordon River Greenway Project through his service as a board member of the Southwest Florida Land Preservation Trust. In addition, through his many years serving on the Naples Pathways Coalition, he participated in efforts ultimately resulting in Naples receiving the Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community Award for 2015-2018 from the League of American Bicyclists, and was responsible for publication of the City of Naples bicycle map.

Mr. Ryker was appointed to the first Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board in 2003. As a member of the CRAAB, Mr. Ryker provided public input and technical advice on land use, economics and other issues within the City's redevelopment district as well as reviewed petitions within the district. He served on the CRAAB until 2007, serving as Vice Chair, and then was appointed to the Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB) from 2008 to 2013, leaving that board as the Chair. On the CSAB, Mr. Ryker reviewed and made recommendations on issues involving parks and recreation programs, and reviewed applicable budgets and capital improvement programs. Mr. Ryker was also appointed to another term of the CRAAB from 2011 to 2015.

Mr. Ryker also served on the following boards and committees:

**Downtown Naples Association Director** – 2001-2007;  
**Planning Advisory Board** – 2004-2005;  
**Fifth Avenue South Action Committee** – 2007-2008;  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee** – 2009-2010.

*"Ethics above all else ... Service to others before self ... Quality in all that we do"*

Mr. Ryker, a full-time resident and both an avid pedestrian and a cyclist, began coming to City Council meetings in 2004 requesting connectivity to the 41-10/Heart of Naples area, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. He cited public safety, traffic reduction and fundamental overall health as the necessity for sidewalks; namely, from Fifth Avenue South to the Fishing Pier, which eventually came to fruition. Mr. Ryker worked very hard to complete the Pathway Plan and develop connectivity with bike lanes and sidewalks. In 2006, Mr. Ryker participated in the Trent Green (Gateway) Study and the Four Corners Charrette. He never stopped pushing for sidewalks, connectivity and safe thoroughfares.

Mr. Ryker was also instrumental in making recommendations for Third Avenue South improvements, signage on various streets that would inform motorists that they are entering a residential area, as well as installing brick paver crosswalks and sidewalks, all of which he thought would reduce traffic speeds.

Prior to his service with the City, Mr. Ryker had no experience working with government; however, he suggests that government experience is not necessary to become a volunteer board member and recommends that anyone with a passion for improvement to the City become involved.

The Sam Noe Award was established in 2006 to honor outstanding service by a member of a City board or committee in memory of Sam Noe who served on the Planning Advisory Board from 2002 to 2006. Sam was a distinguished academic, planning consultant and advisor. He was a strong supporter both of community revitalization and historic preservation. Sam became an advocate for master planning the City's gateway at the Gordon River and also worked diligently on legislation to save structures of importance to the community's heritage.

Each year, an award is presented to a current or past member of a City of Naples appointed committee or board in Sam Noe's honor to recognize exemplary service within the particular mission of that body by members of the City's boards and committees.

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