

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 – 1:30 P.M.
County Administration Building
Grace Knight Conference Room
12 Southeast First Street
Gainesville, Florida

The Alachua County Commission met in special session.

PRESENT: Chair Hutch Hutchinson, Vice Chair Ken Cornell; Commissioners Chuck Chestnut, Mike Byerly, and Lee Pinkoson

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Lee Niblock, Deputy County Manager Jim Harriot, County Attorney Michele Lieberman, and Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

The meeting was televised live on Cox Cable Channel 12.

Called to order at 1:31 P.M.

Commissioner Pinkoson moved adoption of the agenda as printed. The motion carried 5-0.

Presentations

1. I-75 Relief Task Force Update
Amount: NA
Recommended Action: Hear the presentation.

Transportation Planning Manager Jeff Hays presented the above item.

Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell requested the following amendments to the letter:

The first area relates to the accessibility of the Task Force meetings to the general public. While it is understandable for the Task Force to hold meetings throughout the study area because these meetings appear to be cumulative in nature which building on the previous, it creates a hardship on residents who must travel significant distances to attend. We would request that all Task Force meetings be videotaped and made available for streaming in order to provide for convenient public access and a complete and accurate public record of the proceedings.

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The third area relates to the Task Force “private landowner” position on the Task Force. Apparently, Mr. Todd Powell has resigned his position on the Task Force. The County would recommend that Mr. Powell be replaced with a resident landowner who owns property in the rural area of the study area but does not have a specific business interest in the outcome of the study. The County Commission could provide some recommendations on residents of Alachua County who have been involved in the process from the beginning and meet that description.

Also in the letter acknowledge the response from Mr. Wood in the letter and add language stating that the County has attached and are reviewing the previous recommendations in the final report have been attached for reference.

Commissioner Byerly stated that a request for live streaming be worked into the second sentence of the second paragraph.

Chair Hutchinson, and Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

Chair Hutchinson requested that Communications Coordinator Mark Sexton make the March 29, 2016 meeting really apparent in the County's social media and so forth.

Commissioner Byerly moved to approve the Letter as amended and to authorize Commissioner Chestnut to use the document presented as talking points at the Task Force meetings.

Commissioner Chestnut, Kayla Sosnow, and Judy Etzler presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

2. Waldo Road Job Center Proposal

Amount: NA

Recommended Action: Direct Staff to pursue primary action items necessary to pursue the Waldo Road Job Center Proposal: 1) Proceed with Florida Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) application a) Determine boundaries of Weyerhaeuser Property b) Letter of willingness from Weyerhaeuser c) Environmental analysis 2) Waldo Road Job Center a) Contact Agency for Persons with Disabilities b) Meet with State to discuss surplus property process c) Define desired boundaries of Waldo Road Job Center 3) Meet with federal, state and local land conservation agencies and organizations to seek conservation funding. 4) Engage City of Gainesville, University of Florida and Santa Fe College regarding the Waldo Road Job Center Concept

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Deputy County Manager Jim Harriot presented the above item.

Commissioner Cornell, Weyerhaeuser Representative Tim Jackson, Chair Hutchinson, Weyerhaeuser Representative Tim Jackson, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Pinkoson, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Pinkoson, Commissioner Byerly, Chair Hutchinson, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Byerly, and Commissioner Chestnut presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved the following:

1. Have EPD staff along with Growth Management determine the Boundary options of the Weyerhaeuser Property to bring back to the Board to discuss with Weyerhaeuser for the purpose of proceeding with Florida Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) application by the deadline.
2. Meet with the State to discuss the surplus property process and define desired property boundary options for the Waldo Road Job Center.
3. Meet with federal, state, and local land conservation agencies and organizations to seek matching funding options for conservation land purchases.
4. Schedule a Joint Meeting Workshop with the City of Gainesville, University of Florida, and Santa Fe College regarding the Waldo Road Job Center.

Commissioner Byerly and Nancy Darren presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

County Manager Niblock stated that Weyerhaeuser has provided the appraisals of the land for the Fairgrounds land swap. Staff is currently reviewing them and will continue to move forward in the process.

Commission General and Informal Discussion

(There were no comments offered.)

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There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

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