

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 – 1:30 P.M.
John R. "Jack" Durrance Auditorium
County Administration Building
12 Southeast First Street
Gainesville, Florida

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met in special session.

PRESENT: Chair Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson, presiding, Vice-Chair Ken Cornell, Commissioners Mike Byerly, Charles S. "Chuck" Chestnut, IV, and Lee Pinkoson

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Dr. Lee Niblock, Deputy County Manager James Harriott, Assistant County Attorney Robert Livingston, Assistant County Manager Gina Peebles, and Deputy Clerk Bob Decker

Chair Hutchinson opened the meeting at 1:32 P.M.

The meeting was televised on Cox Cable Channel 12.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Cornell moved adoption of the agenda including an item regarding I-75 relief and a public comment portion prior to commission general and informal discussion. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Byerly out of the room.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Tourist Development Marketing Program for Arts and Cultural Entities
Amount: \$422,500.00
Recommended Action: Recommend approval of items 1 through 6 as specified in the Executive Summary. Discuss and provide direction on Supplemental Staff Recommendations.

County Manager Lee Niblock presented the above item.

Commissioner Byerly entered the room at 1:33 P.M.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Tourist Development Director John Pricher who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Byerly requested copies of the Visit Florida application.

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Chair Hutchinson recognized County Manager Lee Niblock and Tourist Development Director John Pricher who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Cornell moved:

1. Maintain the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Gainesville for program administration through September 30, 2016.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Tourist Development Council has expired and is not recommended to be renewed. The Tourist Development Council will review and score the application and consider providing bonus points for room nights generated. Their recommendations, along with the County Manager's, will be presented to the County Commission for final approval.
3. Utilize the Visit Florida screen process as a recommendation for the Tourist Development Council to award 100 percent of the available grant funds. Any funds remaining at the conclusion of the fiscal year will be made available through the following year's grant cycle.
4. Keep the \$50,000 funding cap in place for government and other agencies.
5. Grant applications will have a blackout period with Commissioners during the grant process.
6. Staff is to meet with the Tourist Development Council and recipient stakeholders to develop a new application for grant awards and return for Board approval within 60 days.

Chair Hutchinson recognized County Manager Niblock, Tourist Development Director John Pricher, Randy Wells, Peggy MacDonald, Harvey Ward, Jessica Hurov, Derek Wohlust, Lynda Bucciarelli, Fred Sowder, Sharon Yeago, and City of Gainesville Parks and Cultural Affairs Director Steve Philips who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Cornell moved the substitute motion:

1. Maintain the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Gainesville for program administration through September 30, 2016.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Tourist Development Council has expired and is not recommended to be renewed. The Tourist Development Council will review and score the application and consider providing bonus points for room nights generated. Their recommendations, along with the County Manager's, will be presented to the County Commission for final approval.
3. Utilize the Visit Florida screen process as a recommendation for the Tourist Development Council to award 100 percent of the available grant funds. Any

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funds remaining at the conclusion of the fiscal year will be made available through the following year's grant cycle.

4. Keep the \$50,000 funding cap in place for government and other agencies.
5. Grant applications will have a blackout period with Commissioners during the grant process.
6. Staff is to meet with the Tourist Development Council and recipient stakeholders to develop a new application for grant awards and return for Board approval within 30 days. Staff is to return with draft language defining the purpose of this funding source for the Board to consider informing their funding recommendations including at a minimum the main purpose specified in the statute but an additional main purpose would be to promote arts and culture in Alachua County. The motion carried 5-0.

MEETING RECESSED 3:12 P.M.

MEETING RECONVENED 3:20 P.M. – Commissioners Byerly, Hutchinson, and Pinkoson present

Added Item: I-75 Relief

Transportation Planning Manager Jeff Hays presented the above item.

Chair Hutchinson recognized County Manager Lee Niblock who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioners Chestnut and Cornell entered the room at 3:27 P.M.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Growth Management Director Steve Lachnicht who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Byerly requested costs for mailing postcards to inform citizens in the proposed swath in Western Alachua County about the meeting for I-75 relief.

Commissioner Byerly moved to direct staff to proceed in all due haste to provide postcards to households within the proposed swath in Western Alachua County with the map and dates, times, and locations of the upcoming meetings along with a brief description of FDOT's proposals.

Chair Hutchinson recognized County Manager Lee Niblock who presented comments to the Board.

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Commissioner Byerly moved the substitute motion to direct staff to proceed in all due haste to provide postcards to households within the proposed swath in Western Alachua County with the map and dates, times, and locations of the upcoming meetings along with a brief description of FDOT's proposals. Funding is to come from the General Fund. The County Manager is authorized to seek out public service announcements and any other channels of communication deemed necessary to inform the public of the upcoming meetings.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Kayla Sosnow and Growth Management Director Steve Lachnicht who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Byerly moved the substitute motion to direct staff to proceed in all due haste to provide postcards to households within the proposed swath in Western Alachua County with the map and dates, times, and locations of the upcoming meetings including a meeting at Santa Fe or another potential large auditorium, along with a brief description of FDOT's proposals. Funding is to come from the General Fund. The County Manager is authorized to seek out public service announcements and any other channels of communication deemed necessary to inform the public of the upcoming meetings.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Lori Wiggins who presented comments to the Board.

The motion carried 5-0.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Transportation Planning Manager Jeff Hays, County Manager Lee Niblock, and Deputy County Manager James Harriott who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Byerly moved to direct staff to prepare a letter for use by Commissioner Chestnut on the Task Force and for the Board to communicate to the Florida Department of Transportation for consideration at the next Board of County Commissioners meeting which presents the Board's position restating the concepts in the first letter and going further to assert that on the basis of what the Board has been told so far, the Board does not believe that the recommended corridor through Western Alachua County is in the interests of the citizens of Alachua County and to expand on that case, if staff sees fit, including the arguments that it conflicts with the County's adopted planning documents.

Commissioner Pinkoson requested that the letter include that the Board's first priority is to increase existing right-of-ways and requesting a response from the Task Force.

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Commissioner Byerly moved the substitute motion to direct staff to prepare a letter for use by Commissioner Chestnut on the Task Force and for the Board to communicate to the Florida Department of Transportation for consideration at the next Board of County Commissioners meeting which presents the Board's position restating the concepts in the first letter including that the Board's first priority is to increase existing right-of-ways and going further to assert that on the basis of what the Board has been told so far, the Board does not believe that the recommended corridor through Western Alachua County is in the interests of the citizens of Alachua County and to expand on that case, if staff sees fit, including the arguments that it conflicts with the County's adopted planning documents.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Mark Goldsmith, Kayla Sosnow, Trisha Aufhammer, Transportation Planning Manager Jeff Hays, and Growth Management Director Steve Lachnicht who presented comments to the Board.

The motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Byerly moved to direct staff to return with a list of those advisory committees which have qualified seats as the beginning point for a discussion on whether the Board will keep or disband those seats.

The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Hutchinson recognized Kayla Sosnow and Transportation Planning Manager Jeff Hays who presented comments to the Board.

Commissioner Byerly moved to transmit a Chair letter to FDOT requesting to immediately shift the focus of their advertising to emphasize the swathes in order for the public to understand that the swathes will be under discussion at FDOT's upcoming workshop.

Commissioner Cornell requested that the letter include a statement that Alachua County is also going through the time and expense of advertising the upcoming workshops.

Commissioner Byerly moved the substitute motion to transmit a Chair letter to FDOT requesting to immediately shift the focus of their advertising to emphasize the swathes in order for the public to understand that the swathes will be under discussion at FDOT's upcoming workshop. The letter is to include a statement that Alachua County is also going through the time and expense of advertising the upcoming workshops.

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Commissioner Cornell requested that staff post the swathes to Map Genius.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Transportation Planning Manager Jeff Hays who presented comments to the Board.

The motion carried 5-0.

Chair Hutchinson recognized Mark Goldstein who presented comments to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 P.M.

J.K. Irby, Clerk to the Board
of County Commissioners