

Tuesday, April 3, 2018 BOCC – 10:00AM  
General Policy Discussion  
Grace Knight Conference Room  
County Administration Building  
12 Southeast First Street  
Gainesville, Florida

**PRESENT:** Chair Lee Pinkoson, Commissioners Ken Cornell, Mike Byerly and Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson

**ALSO PRESENT:** County Manager Michele Lieberman, County Attorney Sylvia Torres, and Clerk Tierra McClendon

The meeting was televised on Cox Cable Channel 12.

**ABSENT:** Vice-Chair Charles “Chuck” Chestnut

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Pinkoson called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

### **Approval of Agenda**

1. Approve the agenda

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** A Motion to Approve the Agenda: (a) approve any amendments to the Agenda; And (b) adopt the Agenda

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved** to approve the agenda with a modification removing Item 4 to be discussed at a later date.

**The motion carried 3-0** with Commissioner Cornell out of the room.

Commissioner Cornell arrived at 10:02AM.

### **Commissioner Proposed Items for Discussion**

2. Discussion of the Acquisition and Management of Conservation Easements

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Direct staff on the acquisition and management of conservation easements under the Alachua County Forever program.

Conservation Easement Presentation

Director of Parks and Conservation Lands Charlie Houser presented the above item.

Director of Parks and Conservation Lands Houser, Commissioner Hutchinson, Director of Parks and Conservation Lands Houser, Commissioner Byerly, Chair Pinkoson, Commissioner Hutchinson, Director of Parks and Conservation Lands Houser, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Hutchinson, Environmental Protections Chris Bird, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Pinkoson, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Byerly and Chair Pinkoson presented comments.

**Commissioner Hutchinson moved to** agenda the notion of an easement acquiring trust to a subsequent meeting of the Water Board to refer to the County Attorney on whether sources of funds, like Wild Spaces Public Places, would be appropriate or legal and refer to the Staff to devise a process by which the Board can follow as to how this process would function, further direct Staff to talk to the Land Trust to get an appropriate model.

**The motion carried 4-0.**

**Commissioner Byerly moved** to request that the Staff find out whether anyone is utilizing the Conservation Assessment program that allows you to receive the same tax assessment for practicing conservation rather than agriculture, from the Property Appraiser, or whoever is the most appropriate contact, and bring back to the Board a brief update at the next available opportunity about the conservation assessment program and its use in Alachua County.

Commissioner Hutchinson

**The motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Cornell, Director of Parks and Conservation Lands Houser, Commissioner Hutchinson and Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

3. Alachua County Greenways and Trail Towns Program

**Fiscal Consideration:** Any new initiatives may have fiscal impacts. No additional fiscal impacts proposed as part an element of this presentation.

**Recommended Action:** Hear the presentation and offer staff direction.

Alachua County Greenways and Trail Towns Presentation

Transportation Planning Manager Jeffrey Hays presented the above item.

Transportation Planning Manager Hays, Commissioner Hutchinson, Transportation Planning Manager Hays, Commissioner Byerly, Transportation Planning Manager Hays, Commissioner Cornell, Transportation Planning Manager Hays and Commissioner Byerly, Chair Pinkoson, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Pinkoson, Commissioner Byerly and Deputy County Manager Harriot presented comments.

**Commissioner Byerly moved** the following:

1. Direct staff as part of the Comprehensive Plan and land development regulation overhaul to develop a green infrastructure master plan, which ties together the policy objectives of the Alachua County wide bicycle master plan, the county wide recreation master plan, Old Florida Heritage Highway Work Program, and the open space policy language in the Comprehensive Plan and land development regulations into a plan that has a time frame for county wide build out, giving the county the ability to target resources and planning opportunities towards the building of a coherent network, tying together shopping, schools, neighborhoods, conservation areas. Staff should reach out to city of Gainesville and to see if there are opportunities to coordinate with their planning process on the infinity loop.
2. Direct staff to resolve contradictions in the Comprehensive Plan or code that may conflict with the corridor design manual and other parts of the code to be clear that the required design for transportation infrastructure is the corridor design manual.
3. An update and discussion by the Board regarding Celebration Pointe portion of the Archer Braid Master Trail. Staff should be prepared to discuss all possible routes but particularly the route running on the norther rim. The intent is to try and develop the trail while staying on publicly owned land. Staff should inquire of the City of Gainesville if this is a discussion they would be willing to have.
4. Authorize a letter be draft to the each elected body of the municipalities to find out if they're interested in the concept of joining the county-wide planning initiative. The letter should be brought to the Board for approval prior to transmittal.

Commissioner Cornell, Chair Pinkoson, Commissioner Hutchinson Commissioner Byerly, and Strategic Initiatives Manager Sean McLendon presented comments.

#### Public Comments

Christy Young, Marihelen Wheeler, Johnson, Transportation Planning Manager Hays, and Chair Pinkoson presented comments.

#### Commission Comments

Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Byerly, and County Manager Lieberman presented comments.

**The motion carried 4-0.**

4. CareerSource North Central Florida Update

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

~~**Recommended Action:** No action necessary. For informational purposes only.~~

5. Alachua County Comprehensive Plan Update: Natural Resource Protection

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Provide direction to staff on strategies for preparing draft policy language regarding Natural Resource Protection topic areas, as part of the next step in the Comprehensive Plan update process.

Evaluation and Appraisal and Update of Alachua County Comprehensive Plan: 2011-2030 Presentation

Natural Resources Program Manager Stephen Hofstetter presented the above item to the Board.

Environmental Protection Director Chris Bird, Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter, Commissioner Cornell, County Manager Lieberman Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter, Chair Pinkoson, Environmental Protection Director Chris Bird, Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter, Chair Pinkoson, Environmental Protection Director Chris Bird, Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter, Commissioner Hutchinson, Chair Pinkoson, Commissioner Byerly, Deputy County Manager Harriot, County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Hutchinson, and Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter presented comments.

**Commissioner Byerly moved** to request an update from staff on the next time the Board revisits the environmental component of the Comprehensive Plan discussion regarding the tree mitigation program, specifically whether or not there adequate resources to enforce it, the history of enforcement activity, and current collections and expenditures. **The motion carried 4-0.**

Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Hutchinson, County Manager Lieberman, Chair Pinkoson, Deputy County Manager Harriot, Commissioner Byerly, County Manager Lieberman, Deputy County Manager Harriot, Transportation Planning Manager Hays, County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Hutchinson, Chair Pinkoson, Environmental Protection Director Chris Bird, Commissioner Byerly, Environmental Protection Director Chris Bird, Conservation Lands Manager Vardaman, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Pinkoson, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner

Hutchinson, Conservation Lands Manager Vardaman, Chair Pinkoson, Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter and Chair Pinkoson presented comments.

**Commissioner Cornell moved** to direct staff to proceed with the strategies identified in the three white papers for updating and addressing issues and policy language during the Evaluation and Appraisal Review Comprehensive Plan update and to also integrate open space and the Green Infrastructure/Bike Ped master plan with the concept of the urban defining green belt.

#### **Potential Strategies for Addressing the Issues**

- Re-evaluating/updating conservation lands data sources is not a Comprehensive Plan issue, and is handled as an Alachua County Forever Program procedure.
- Staff will review the existing Critical Ecological Corridors Map and investigate updating the map to include the current Florida Ecological Greenways Network Priority 3 areas and those Priority 4 and 5 areas that are adjacent to the existing Critical Ecological Corridor, investigate updating the Preservation Future Land Use layer, and including a Managed Natural Areas layer.
- Staff will review existing policies in Objective 6.3 – Linked Open Space Network and recommend language establishing an urban defining greenbelt, if necessary.
- The Comprehensive Plan provides general language in COSE Objective 3.6 and associated policies that require that parcels adjacent to conservation and preservation areas shall be sited and designed to minimize impacts on conservation and preservation lands. The Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) provides the specific requirements and standards. Staff finds the current Comprehensive Plan language in COSE Obj. 3.6 and associated policies adequate and does not recommend making any changes.

#### **Potential Strategies for Addressing the Issues**

The Existing Comprehensive Plan Policies recognize the importance of reducing outdoor water use, but the County should consider updating the language to maximize water conservation potential. In particular, staff will evaluate the current language in the Conservation and Open Space Objective 4.5 Groundwater and Springs, the Potable Water and Sewer Element Objectives 4.1 and 8.1, and the Energy Element Objective 1.1. Strategies to reduce permanent irrigation and to increase the participation in the Florida Water Star program will be explored. Policies designed to encourage sustainable landscaping and reduce the trend of landscapes dominated by irrigated turf will be provided. Policies addressing reclaimed water and treated effluent will be evaluated and strengthened to avoid negative unintended consequences and inconsistencies. Additionally, language to assist with overcoming the barriers of Homeowners Associations resistance to less water and fertilizer intensive landscapes and improvements to screening requirements will be investigated. Finally, the Comprehensive Plan currently uses the outdated “xeriscape” terminology. This

term has been phased out of state and local programs and will be replaced with more current language.

### **STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING ISSUE**

Most of the enforceable policies relating to tree and vegetation retention can be found within the ULDC. As can be seen in the Comprehensive Plan policies below, there is more of a vision laid out for the ULDC to be written than hard and fast policy to enforce. The ULDC currently requires 20% canopy retention of a proposed development site's existing canopy and a requirement to mitigate for the trees that were removed. Mitigation many times is accommodated within the ULDC's requirement for 30% of the project's property to be canopies in 20 years and that 50% of the paved ground surface area (parking lot and drive isles) to be canopied in 20 years.

Since most of the specifics of the enforceable requirements are found in the ULDC, any changes strengthen or weakening would better accomplished within the ULDC than within the Comprehensive Plan.

Jim Roundtree, Commissioner Byerly, Chair Pinkoson, Environmental Protection Director Chris Bird, Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter, Commissioner Byerly, Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter, Chair Pinkoson, Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter, Jim Roundtree, Natural Resources Program Manager Hofstetter, Christy Young, Nancy Deren, Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Cornell, Principal Planner Ken Zeichner, Nancy Deren and Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

**The motion carried 4-0.**

### **Closing Comments**

6. Public comments

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Hear Public Comments

Chair Pinkoson recognized Kali Blount and Chris Rosewho presented comments to the board.

7. Commission comments

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** Hear Commission comments

Tuesday, April 3, 2018 BOCC – 10:00AM

Commissioner Cornell stated he would wish to discuss deficiencies in the Hurricane Irma response and steps taken to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.

**Commissioner Cornell moved** to direct Staff to present within the next 60 days at a future board meeting, the steps taken since Hurricane Irma to prepare for the upcoming 2018 Hurricane season.

Commissioner Hutchinson wished to clarify whether or not Commissioner Cornell's motion would be addressing coordinating with the school board in terms of shelters, etc.

Commissioner Cornell stated that there was a report that listed a variety of things such as pet shelters, fixing things in the combined communications center that were broken, and buying additional pumps to position them at certain neighborhoods. He would like an update on how those items have been addressed.

**The motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Cornell wished to discuss who to give the list of stakeholders to for the Comprehensive Plan Review Process. Commissioner Hutchinson clarified that the list of stakeholders should be given to the County Manager and Staff.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated his appreciation for the County Manager's big list of stakeholders and expressed that it was very substantial.

Chair Pinkoson wished to discuss the ten and a half million dollar reimbursement that Collier County received for hurricane relief and questioned when Alachua County can expect a similar Hurricane relief reimbursement. Further, how and why they received the relief reimbursement while Alachua County did not.

County Manager Lieberman stated that the Hurricane relief reimbursement does not go directly to the County, but first to the State, and thereafter, the State makes sure that they are able to receive the funds. She also stated that Staff can check to see what the status is for Alachua County's reimbursement relief to provide an update for the Board.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41PM