

RESOLUTION 20- 78

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE WILD SPACES PUBLIC PLACES CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE; ESTABLISHING A SUNSET DATE; ESTABLISHING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; ESTABLISHING THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR THE TERM OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF MEETINGS AND OPERATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2016 the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County adopted Ordinance 16-06 to impose a voter approved local government infrastructure surtax to be utilized by Alachua County and the municipalities within Alachua County to acquire and improve conservation lands and create, improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities within Alachua County; and

WHEREAS, a referendum on said surtax was held on November 8, 2016, and the voters of Alachua County approved said surtax; and

WHEREAS, the ballot language for the referendum calls for 'Citizen Oversight'; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County wishes to establish a Citizen Oversight Committee to ensure that Wild Spaces Public Places infrastructure surtax revenues are expended consistent with the ballot language approved by the voters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Advisory Board Established. The Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida (Board) hereby establishes the Wild Spaces Public Places Citizen Oversight Committee (Advisory Committee).

Section 2. Designated Special Committee. This Advisory Committee is designated as a Special Committee. The Advisory Committee will sunset when the funds generated through the Wild Spaces Public Places infrastructure surtax are fully expended.

Section 3. Membership and Qualifications. The Advisory Committee shall consist of no more than five (5) voting members plus three (3) alternate members and shall serve staggering four-year terms. All members must be residents of Alachua County. Two (2) of the members plus one (1) alternate will be appointed by the County, two (2) of the members plus one (1) alternate shall reside within the Gainesville city limits and will be appointed by the City of Gainesville, and one (1) of the members plus one (1) alternate will be recommended by the eight remaining incorporated cities and appointed by the County. Members may not be county or municipal elected officials or employees.

Section 4. Responsibilities and Duties. The responsibility of the Advisory Committee shall be to:

1. Assure citizens and elected officials that funds approved through the referendum are expended only to:
 - a. Acquire and improve environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources, water quality, and wildlife habitat, and,
 - b. Create, improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities as permitted by Florida Statutes, the referendum ballot language, and ordinances.
 - c. Notwithstanding the above, Alachua County may utilize a portion of its proceeds to establish a fund for the purpose of providing matching grants to the municipalities within the County for projects that meet the requirements of subsections (a) or (b), and which, in the sole discretion of Alachua County, have countywide significance.
2. Track overall expenditure of one-half percent sales tax revenues.
3. The Advisory Committee may perform a pre-expenditure review of proposed Wild Spaces Public Places expenditures and projects at the request of the municipalities or the County and advise them if they are surtax eligible.
4. Report annually, or as necessary, to the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners and each City Commission on expenditure of funds.
5. If the Advisory Committee believes that a project or expenditure of a municipality or the County is not eligible for Wild Spaces Public Places funding or that additional information is necessary to make a determination, the Committee may perform an in-depth audit of the expenditure(s) and request that the municipality or County making the expenditure provide additional supporting documentation. If the Advisory Committee determines that Wild Spaces Public Places funds were inappropriately expended on ineligible purchases, the Advisory Committee Liaison shall notify the staff of the offending municipality or County and advise them of the deficiencies to allow the appropriate staff to review and correct issues associated with the expenditure. If the offending municipality or County does not report to the Advisory Committee, by the next regularly scheduled Advisory Committee meeting, the steps being taken to remedy the identified deficiencies, then the Advisory Committee may immediately report its findings to the Board of County Commissioners, as well as the governing body of the offending municipality, if applicable. If the Advisory Committee finds that the municipality or the County is not taking appropriate steps to remedy the identified deficiencies, then the Advisory Committee may immediately report its findings to the Board of County Commissioners, as well as the governing body of the offending municipality, if applicable. If the Board of County Commissioners determines that Wild Spaces Public Places funds were inappropriately used for ineligible expenditures, the Board of County Commissioners shall demand repayment and may take all steps necessary to effectuate that demand.

Section 5. Operations. The Advisory Committee shall be guided by the by-laws approved by the Advisory Board and the Alachua County Advisory Board Policy. The by-laws shall include the following provisions and such other provisions as the Advisory Committee may deem appropriate.

1. Elections. The Advisory Committee shall annually elect one of its members as Chair, and such other officers as the Advisory Board deems necessary to meet its needs. Vacancies in offices shall be filled by election at the next regular meeting following the date the vacancy occurred.
2. Meetings. Meetings of the Advisory Committee or any subcommittee thereof, shall be open to the public and the media and shall be conducted in compliance with the Sunshine Law, Section 286.011, Florida Statutes. The County Manager or his or her designee shall produce minutes of the meetings which shall be submitted to the Advisory Committee for approval. The Advisory Committee shall meet at least once per year.

The Chair shall preside and conduct meetings of the Advisory Committee according to the most recent edition of Alice Sturgis' Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by any members of the Advisory Committee upon forty-eight (48) hours written notice to all members and to the County Manager or his or her designee.

3. Agenda. The Chair shall be responsible for the meeting agenda. The County Manager or designee shall serve as staff liaison to the Advisory Committee and shall aid in preparing and distributing the agenda prior to the meeting. The County Manager or designee, or any member of the Advisory Committee may place an item on the agenda by notifying the Chair prior to the preparation of the agenda.
4. Subcommittees. Subcommittees comprised of members of the Advisory Committee may be appointed by the Chair.
5. Quorum. A quorum will consist of no less than three members, where one is either a full or alternate member. Recommendations and decision of the Advisory Committee must be made by a majority vote of those present and voting.
6. Attendance. The attendance policy for the Advisory Committee shall be in accordance with the attendance policy for boards and committees set forth in the Alachua County Commission's Rules of Procedure.
7. Compensation. Members of the Advisory Committee shall receive no compensation for the performance of their duties and responsibilities.
8. Reports. The Advisory Committee will compile information received from the county and municipalities and provide annual reports to the County Commission and each City Commission consistent with its mission. The Committee will provide a final report prior to ceasing operations. The Advisory Committee shall copy all reports and communications to the County Manager or designee for forwarding to the Chair of the County Commission. Any Advisory Committee reports required by the

Alachua County Commission's Rules of Procedure shall be submitted in accordance with said Rules.

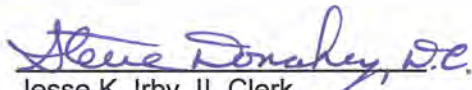
Section 6. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY ADOPTED in regular session this 11th day of August, A.D., 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Robert Hutchinson, Chair

ATTEST:


Jesse K. Irby, II, Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM


Alachua County Attorney

(SEAL)