

Wild Spaces Public Places

Citizens Oversight Board SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

October 7, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

Alachua County Appointed Members

Joni Ellis – Vice Chair

City of Gainesville Members

Carla Lewis – Miles

Incorporated Cities (not Gainesville) Members

Gary Kocher (alternate)

Staff Present

Gina Peebles – Alachua County

Outside Counsel Present

Patrice Boyes

Alachua County Members Absent

BJ Bukata – Chair

City of Gainesville Members Absent

David Ruiz

Deidre Houchen (alternate)

Incorporated Cities (not Gainesville) Members Absent

Dudley Wade

Other Municipal Staff Present

Damon Messina, City of High Springs

Robert Bonetti, City of Alachua

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Carla Lewis-Miles made a motion to move Public Comment to the beginning of the agenda; Gary Kocher seconded; unanimous approval

Motion: Gary Kocher made a motion to approve the agenda as revised; Carla Lewis-Miles seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comment

Damon Messina reported that the City of High Springs will determine to either fence the playground, or reimburse Wild Spaces Public Places for the playground equipment by the end of this week.

Discussion of Allowable WSPP Expenditures

Joni Ellis stated that, prior to the passage of the Wild Spaces Public Places ballot initiative, the cities and County developed a list of proposed projects.

Ms. Ellis suggested that the cities and county present their intended expenses on the front end. Gina Peebles reminded the subcommittee that the County asked for guidance on a master plan, but the Oversight Board determined that it was their responsibility to review expenditures after-the-fact. Carla Lewis-Miles stated that the Oversight Board has had lengthy discussions on the scope of the Board.

Ms. Ellis intends to propose to the full Oversight Board that the Advisory Board liaison prepare an annual report to be posted on the website and be made available to citizens.

Ms. Ellis will additionally recommend that the WSPP logo be added on all surtax funded projects signage.

Ms. Ellis questioned how the County's partnership project funding levels were determined as the City of Gainesville received a large share. Gina Peebles responded that the cities met independently of the County and made their recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners, which was accepted, rather than a competitive grant process.

Ms. Ellis believes voters voted for this surtax to purchase conservation lands and provide park amenities. She met with all five County Commissioners who did not intend for salaries to be paid for through this surtax. State Statute indicates that a new park funded through WSPP funding can pay for operations / maintenance.

Ms. Lewis-Miles stated that the Oversight Board should be cautious about bringing up expenditures that have already been reviewed.

Ms. Ellis will suggest that the Oversight Board participate in site visits or that the municipality provide a PowerPoint of their WSPP funded projects / improvements. Mr. Kocher suggested that we get on the municipalities agendas. Ms. Lewis-Miles suggested that the cities invite Oversight Board members to ribbon cuttings and ground breakings.

Ms. Lewis-Miles stated that the Oversight Board has requested more and more information and is overreaching.

Mr. Kocher stated, from a citizens perspective, if there is misspending, the city/county needs to be informed, then they need to repay it and the matter will be closed. A follow up memo with the guidelines can be sent as a friendly reminder.

Ms. Ellis offered to type a one-page spending guidelines document for distribution before the next meeting.

Robert Bonetti stated that monthly financial reports will provide a strain for the cities. Ms. Lewis-Miles stated she will bring up the frequency of reporting at our next meeting.

Old/New Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The Wild Spaces Public Places Citizens Oversight Board will meet next on October 21, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Grace Knight Conference Room.

Attendance Report for the last 7 meetings.

Wild Spaces & Public Places Citizen Oversight Committee											
Staff Liaison: Gina Peebles											
Member	Position	Mbr Start	Mbr End	2/7/2019 4:45 PM	3/11/2019 4:45 PM	4/8/2019 4:45 PM	5/13/2019 4:45 PM	7/15/2019 4:45 PM	8/19/2019 4:45 PM	9/26/2019 4:00 PM	Meetings Attended
Bukata, Mr. B.J.	County resident (alternate) - appointed by County Commission	10/1/2017	9/30/2019	P	A	P	P	P	P	NR	5 of 6
Ellis, Joni	County resident - appointed by County Commission	4/23/2019	9/30/2021	--	--	--	P	P	P	NR	3 of 3
Gaddy, Colleen M	County resident - appointed by County Commission	10/1/2017	4/8/2019	A	A	A	--	--	--	--	0 of 3
Kauper, Amy L	County resident - appointed by County Commission	12/11/2018	9/17/2019	P	A	P	P	A	P	--	4 of 6
Kocher, Mr. Gary	Representative (alternate) - Incorporated Cities - not Gainesville	4/23/2019	9/30/2023	--	--	--	P	P	A	NR	2 of 3
Kovachich, Sarah	City of Gainesville resident - appointed by City of Gainesville	10/1/2017	7/22/2019	P	P	P	A	P	--	--	4 of 5
Miles, Carla	City of Gainesville resident - appointed by City of Gainesville	10/1/2017	9/30/2021	A	P	A	A	P	P	NR	3 of 6
Ruiz, David J	City of Gainesville resident (alternate) - appointed by City of Gainesville	10/1/2017	9/30/2019	P	P	P	P	P	P	NR	6 of 6
Wade, H. Dudley	Representative (alternate) - Incorporated Cities - not Gainesville	10/1/2017	2/12/2019	P	--	--	--	--	--	--	1 of 1
Wade, H. Dudley	Representative - Incorporated Cities - not Gainesville	2/12/2019	9/30/2021	--	P	A	P	P	A	NR	3 of 5

[P]=Present [A]=Absent [C]=Cancelled [PNQ]=Present No Quorum [ANQ]=Absent No Quorum [NR]=Member Active But No Attendance Record
 [--]=Member Not Active