

DRAFT
ALACHUA COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RURAL CONCERNS MINUTES –
November 19, 2019
Alachua County Extension Office

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Candace Aho, Jean Chance, Rodney Clouser (Vice-Chair), Christopher De Cubellis, Larry Hall, Janet Hearn, Randy Johnson, Winston Rushing, Cindy Sanders, Ward Scott (Chair), Carolyn M. Smith

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Zeichner, Principal Planner, Growth Management
Ken McMurry, Planner, Growth Management
Regina Williams, Planning Assistant, Growth Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gina Peebles, Assistance County Manager
Kurt Lannon, Staff Liaison, Alachua County 2020 Charter Review Commission
Brianna Bedell, County Intern

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

The meeting began at 4:00 PM.

I. Approval of Agenda:

Ms. Sanders made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Aho.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes for 10/15/2019:

Vice-Chair Clouser made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Hall.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

III. Attendance Report:

Mr. McMurry said that all members' attendance was in good standing.

IV. Chair's Comments:

Chair Scott thanked everyone for their attendance and their understanding during his absence. He noted there were some recently appointed members and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

Members of the Committee suggested it would be appropriate to revise the agenda to have Election of Chair as the next item and Chair Scott agreed.

V. New Business:

a) Election of Chair (Term ending September 30, 2020)

Vice-Chair Clouser opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Ms. Sanders asked Mr. Scott if he was interested in serving again as Chair and he said yes. Mr. Zeichner noted the previous term was through the end of September, 2019. Ms. Aho nominated Mr. Scott, seconded by Ms. Sanders. Vice-Chair Clouser confirmed that Mr. Scott said he would serve another term and asked if there were other nominations.

Mr. Hall made a motion to close the nominations and elect Mr. Scott as Chair through September 30, 2020, seconded by Ms. Chance.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

b) Information on County Charter Review Commission

Gina Peebles presented information on the Charter Review Commission and showed its website, including contact and meeting information, documents and archives, and list of current members. She described the process for making a suggestion to the Charter Review Commission for discussion.

There was discussion including information and questions on various topics by Committee members and others present, including current Charter Review Commission activity, deadline for recommendations, process and schedule of hearings by the Charter Review Commission and how items would be put on the ballot, and activities and issues that had been addressed by prior Charter Review Commissions including single-member County Commission districts versus at-large districts and representation of rural areas.

Mr. Hall made a motion to bring the Charter Review procedure to the next Committee meeting as a discussion item to see what interest the Committee has in making a request to the Charter Review Commission, seconded by Ms. Smith.

Mr. Zeichner asked for clarification of whether the Committee wanted someone at the next meeting to make a presentation on the item. The Committee consensus was they did not want a presentation, and that prior to the next meeting that members would prepare by reviewing the Charter on their own.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business:

Update on Rural Agricultural Comprehensive Plan Policies/Clustered Rural Residential Subdivisions –

Mr. Zeichner said staff wanted to bring the Committee up to date regarding the County Commission's last discussion of the Rural/Agricultural policies. He said these policies were not included in the amendments to the Comprehensive Plan that were adopted November 12th, may next come before the Commission for discussion at the end of January, and the Committee may want to discuss issues such as types of agriculture in the open space as an agenda item at their next meeting.

Mr. McMurry made a short presentation on the policy issues, previous RCAC policy recommendations to the County Commission, draft policy language presented to the Commission, and related Commission discussion and motions up to March 2019. At that time, there were still questions unresolved by the County Commission so further action on these policies was deferred until after the evaluation and appraisal based amendments to the Comprehensive Plan were completed.

There was discussion by various Committee members on clarification of policy concepts on things such as open space management plans, ownership of open space and allowable uses, and definition of natural forest management. Staff reviewed and highlighted the draft policy changes relating to these topics. Questions and concerns were also raised about things such as the applicability of best management practices (BMPs) for agriculture and silviculture, prescribed burning and associated costs, ownership and responsibility of roads in subdivisions, and what the process would be for possible revisions of previously approved unpaved subdivisions to add additional lots.

Ms. Smith made a motion to put the topic on the next agenda for further discussion, seconded by Ms. Chance.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

VII. Public Comments:

No members of the public were present.

VIII. Committee Member Comments:

Ms. Aho asked about follow up on the septic systems discussion from last month's meeting. Mr. Zeichner noted that there was a presentation by County Environmental Protection Dept. (EPD) staff to the County Commission on the septic tank ordinance on Nov 12th and, as part of that presentation, staff noted the concerns expressed by members of the RCAC as well as the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC) regarding costs of nutrient-reducing systems. The County Commission was also concerned about cost estimates and directed staff to work through the Joint Water Policy Committee to get additional updated data related to estimated costs of nutrient-reducing systems. The topic is expected to be on the Joint Water Policy Committee's February 24, 2020 agenda, with staff taking any information, such as any updated pricing information, back to the County

Commission in Spring 2020, for direction. Mr. Zeichner said that if the County Commission directs staff to prepare a draft ordinance, it probably would be brought back in the summer or fall of 2020, and at that time would be appropriate to share that draft with RCAC for an opportunity to provide input.

Mr. Zeichner noted an email received by Leela Robinson asking if RCAC is interested in the topic of roadside litter as an agenda item. The Committee asked to wait until the next meeting to consider adding it to an agenda since there were already several topics under consideration.

Mr. Rushing said he had talked to a Commissioner about the topic of excused absence and would like to have it as an agenda item at the January meeting. Chair Scott agreed to have it on the January agenda.

IX. Next Meeting – December 17, 2019

X. Adjourn:

Ms. Chance made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hearn.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously

Chair Scott adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm.

Approved December 17, 2019