

ALACHUA COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RURAL CONCERNS
MINUTES –December 15, 2020

Workshop – Virtually and
Alachua County Growth Management Department
10 SW 2nd Avenue, Gainesville, Conference Room 207

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Candace Aho, Jean Chance, Rodney Clouser (Vice Chair), Christopher De Cubellis, Larry Hall, Janet Hearn, Juan Salva, Cindy Sanders, Sandra Werner

Mr. Baines joined the meeting at 4:30 PM.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Winston Rushing

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Zeichner, Principal Planner, Growth Management

Ken McMurry, Planner, Growth Management

Regina Williams, Planning Assistant, Growth Management

General Public:

No Public present either in person or virtually.

Acting Chair (Vice Chair) Dr. Clouser started the workshop at 3:30 PM (which was the start time instead of the usual 4 PM to accommodate some logistical considerations relating to use of the County building as a location option for in-person participation by the public) after confirming that there were nine members connected via Zoom. He said that in accordance with the County Emergency Order, the Committee was meeting in a workshop setting for discussion only and that no action would be taken, and would try to adjourn by no later than 5 PM.

He said that if Committee members had any corrections to the October 20th draft minutes that had been sent to them, they should bring them up now or email it to staff after the meeting, for approval at a future regular meeting. Mr. McMurry shared the draft minutes on the Zoom screen. Committee members had no comments.

Mr. Zeichner and Dr. Clouser said that this was a workshop as opposed to a meeting, in accordance with the County Emergency Order for workshops with less than a physical quorum present. Mr. Zeichner said the public can attend

virtually with an option to participate in person, and that staff is present in the Growth Management conference room and at the building entrance to direct them to the conference room. He said the video recording of the workshop would be posted as a public record on YouTube per the Emergency Order.

Mr. Zeichner noted Mr. Johnson resigned due to time considerations relating to a new job and the position Actively Involved in Agriculture and/or Silviculture was currently posted.

Dr. Clouser thanked staff and Mr. Hall for their work to locate a meeting location that would meet the County and Governor's requirements.

I. Introduction of members, including two new members appointed by the County Commission on October 27th:

Dr. Clouser gave each Committee member an opportunity to introduce themselves. Mr. Zeichner said the current Attendance Report noted that per the attendance requirements there was one member, Mr. Baines, who needed to be in attendance to meet County Advisory Board attendance requirements. He said Mr. Baines had emailed staff earlier in the day that his flight from Dallas back to Gainesville was delayed and he would try to log in from the Dallas airport at 3:30 pm. Dr. Clouser asked if staff would contact him to let him know that if he wanted to submit information on extenuating circumstances that it would be his responsibility to do so. Mr. Zeichner said staff would do that.

II. Agenda topics for upcoming meetings and schedule:

Dr. Clouser said topics would include Election of Chair and Vice Chair, any amendments to update RCAC By-Laws, and review of the Annual Workplan. He asked the Committee members to identify additional other topics they are interested in for future meetings, and Mr. McMurry compiled the items identified by Committee members into a list on the shared Zoom screen (see attached Future Topics for Upcoming Meetings or Workshops). Mr. Zeichner asked what topics the Committee was interested in for the January 19th meeting. He said the information that staff had on the Zero Waste topic was that Mr. Olmos said he would return to the County Commission in February or March for follow up on this topic with any input from any Advisory Committees and that RCAC would be a good Committee to get input from. Mr. Zeichner said if the Committee wants a presentation on that topic to let staff know due to the above timeline.

Mr. Zeichner said an opportunity should be made for the public to comment on the topic list. Dr. Clouser said this is an opportunity for any member of the public to speak; he noted there were no public visible on the Zoom call, and asked Mr. McMurry if there were any public in the Growth Management physical meeting location; he confirmed there were not.

Mr. Baines joined the meeting by Zoom at 4:30 PM.

III. Upcoming meeting locations taking into account County Emergency Order Rules and logistical considerations:

Dr. Clouser said there were difficulties with using the Farm Credit facility as a meeting location and Mr. Hall explained the issues that had come up with use of Zoom at that facility. Dr. Clouser asked whether, if a location could be found that met all the necessary criteria, enough members would attend in-person to make up a physical quorum. Each member expressed their preference on whether they preferred or intended to attend virtually or via Zoom. Dr. Clouser said based on their responses, it seems possible the Committee might be able to make the physical quorum.

Mr. McMurry shared the list of potential meeting locations on the Zoom screen and Mr. Zeichner described the options for meetings and workshops including limitations and facility characteristics. He noted staff had tested the Freedom Center and found some technical issues with audio that may be possible to remedy with different equipment. Ms. Sanders confirmed that September or October 2021 is projected for the completion of the new County Agricultural Extension office.

Dr. Clouser said based on the Committee responses and meeting location information today, that staff should complete the testing of the Freedom Center, send out an RSVP email to the Committee, and see what the response is for a meeting with a physical quorum or a virtual workshop.

IV. Chair's Comments:

Dr. Clouser said he appreciated the responses today, and the work of staff and Mr. Hall. When the Committee can take action, it should send a thank you to Mr. Scott for his past service as Chair.

V. Committee Member Comments:

There were no Committee comments.

VI. Next Meeting: January 19, 2021

VII. Adjourn

Dr. Clouser called the workshop to a close around 5:00 PM.

Approved 3-16-2021

Rural Concerns Advisory Committee
Future Topics for Upcoming Meetings or Workshops
Identified at Workshop on 12-15-2020

- Receive presentations on Broadband
 - a) rural access
 - b) grant opportunities
 - c) other gov entities incl. School Board
 - d) Telehealth/rural education/distance learning
- Invite new County Commissioners to share interests
 - a) Commissioner Alford
 - b) Commissioner Prizzia
- Invite Commissioner Wheeler to follow up on information/data on BoCC decision to eliminate inmate labor program
- Amendment of Bylaws for consistency with BoCC attendance requirement
- Election of Officers
- Review of Annual Workplan
- Receive presentation on Food Sustainability/Local Foods
- Receive presentation from Mark Sexton – update on legislative process, County priorities
- Review and provide input on Clustered Rural Residential Subdivisions Land Development Regulations, including definitions of terms – anticipated to be brought to BoCC around February – March
- Receive presentation on Zero Waste – Gus Olmos (time sensitive)
- Presentation from Springs County leadership on:
 - a) grievances, concerns, & issues
 - b) legal process issues
- Receive Fairgrounds updates
- Receive presentation on Farmland Preservation Area
 - a) Alachua Conservation Trust
- Receive presentation on Springs Preservation Area

- a) Alachua Conservation Trust
 - b) Alachua County EPD (Stacie Greco/Shane Williams)
- Receive presentation on Alachua County Forever land use designation and management – County Parks and Conservation Lands Dept.