

Monday, February 17, 2020 6:00 P.M.  
Senior Recreation Center  
5701 NW 34<sup>th</sup> Blvd  
Gainesville, FL. 32653

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met for the Special Meeting/Workshop – Truth and Reconciliation Community Remembrance Project.

**PRESENT:** Chair Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson, Commissioner Charles “Chuck” Chestnut, and Commissioner Ken Cornell

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Mike Byerly and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler

**ALSO PRESENT:** City of Newberry Mayor Jordan Marlowe, County Manager Michele Lieberman, County Attorney Sylvia Torres, Deputy County Manager James Harriott and Minutes Clerk Loretta Adams.

### **Approval of Agenda**

1. Approve the agenda

Chair Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson approved agenda at 6:05 P.M.

### **Call to Order**

2. Robert Hutchinson, Chair, Alachua County BOCC  
Chair Hutchinson called meeting to order 6:04 P.M.

Chair Robert Hutchinson recognized speakers.

3. Items for Discussion

- A. Overview – Why are We Here? (3 min) – Charles S. Chestnut, IV. Alachua County Commissioner 20-0130

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** N/A

Commissioner Charles S. “Chuck” Chestnut expressed appreciation for all of the “well wishes” he recently received from the community during his recent medical condition.

Commissioner Chestnut expressed appreciation for everyone attending and participating. Asked attendees for support and participation in the Truth and

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Reconciliation process. Expressed a need for sub committee's in the smaller municipalities. Recognized Newberry Mayor Jordan Marlowe for his extraordinary effort and leadership.

- B. History/Research (3 min) Dr. Patricia Hilliard Nunn, UF Adjunct Associate Professor, African American Studies Program **20-0131**

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** N/A

Dr. Patricia Hilliard Nunn presented an overview of her research. Discussed her sources and information that she has looked at that has been helpful in this process.

Copy of Summary of Lynching in Alachua County Jan. 30, 2020 – ltr size (001) pdf

- C. EJI Lynching Marker Project (Video) **20-0132**

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** N/A

A Video presentation on the Historical Markers in remembrance of the Lynching victims was displayed.

- D. EJI Guidelines & Community Involvement (6 min.) – Jackie Davis, Racial Justice Task Force of United Church of Gainesville & Carl Smart, Assistant County Manager, Alachua County

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** N/A

Assistant County Manager Carl Smart of Safety and Community Support Services Jackie Davis presented comments and announced they will be serving as liaisons with Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). A coalition of different representatives from different communities throughout Alachua County to coordinate activities and events ensuring EJI guidelines are met will be formed. The public was informed that the EJI website provides a lot of information and resources.

Discussed the three primary projects in the Truth and Reconciliation process;

1. Soil collection process.
2. Historical Marker project.
3. Essay contest for students in grades 9 – 12 for a \$5,000.00 scholarship.

Community Support Services Jackie Davis provided comments.

Commissioner Ken Cornell entered at 6:35 P.M.

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E. EJI Community Remembrance Project (Video) 20-0134

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** N/A

A video presentation was displayed.

F. City of Newberry Efforts (3 min.) – Mayor Jordan Marlowe, City of Newberry 20-0136

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** N/A

Mayor Jordan Marlowe recognized Alachua County Commissioners for their support in the Truth and Reconciliation process. Mayor Marlowe invited the public to two upcoming events being held in Newberry. On February 4, 2020 from 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. students are hosting a Soul Fest Raise to Equality event at the school and they will have food, poetry and paintings that they have done in efforts to raise money to fund a trip to Montgomery Alabama. On April 4, 2020 at 10:30 A.M. will have a New Soil Collection Ceremony at Lynch Hammock in Newberry. Expressed appreciation to the Alachua County School Board for their support in the current essay contest.

Concerned Citizens of Newberry. Two things coming up April 4<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM soil collection ceremony and on February 29<sup>th</sup> reflection essay 4-8 soil fest hosted by the students to raise money to go to Montgomery Alabama. Expressed appreciation to the Alachua County School Board.

G. Alachua Count Truth & Reconciliation Webpage – Joel Laguerre, ITS, Alachua County 20-0137

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** N/A

Joel Laguerre with Alachua County ITS presented above item. Encouraged everyone to visit the Truth and Reconciliation website at [truth.alachuacounty.us](http://truth.alachuacounty.us)

H. Questions 20-0389

**Fiscal Consideration:** N/A

**Recommended Action:** N/A

Gainesville Commissioner Ward, Evette Carter, Assistant County Manager Smart, Patricia Lee, Lizzie Jenkins, Alachua County Schoolboard Member Tina Certain, NKwanda Jah, Jeffrey King, Vice President of the Gator Chapter of the NAACP Rachael Rahbany, Deputy Superintendent for Operations for Alachua County Schoolboard Paul White, Kali Blount, President of the NAACP in Alachua County Evelyn Fox, Ellie Chisholm, Gentleman (could not understand his name), Anne Wolf, Pastor Carl Smith and Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

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**Commissioner Cornell moved** that the Alachua County Commission schedule a joint meeting with the Schoolboard of Alachua County to see if we can discuss the Truth and Reconciliation topic. The motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Carol Lewis, City Commissioner Warren, citizen, Mayor Marlowe has organized, Mayor Jordan Marlowe, citizen, citizen, Patricia Lee, Lizzie Jenkins, and Commissioner Charles Chestnut provided comments.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.