

RESOLUTION 2021- 11

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, CREATING THE VOLUSIA FOREVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION 2020-80; OUTLINING THE PURPOSES OF THE BOARD; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA, TERMS OF ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS, AND FILLING OF VACANCIES; PROVIDING FOR AN ORIENTATION AND GOAL SETTING; ESTABLISHING RESTRICTIONS ON MEMBERSHIP; APPLYING THE CODE OF ETHICS; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEETINGS, OFFICERS, BY-LAWS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT; PROHIBITING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES, REPEALING RESOLUTION 2007-79; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the voters of Volusia County approved the Volusia Forever ballot initiative, as outlined in Resolution 2020-80, and affirmed their desire to continue to have a long-term program for the acquisition and improvement of environmentally sensitive lands, forests and farmlands, and water resource and outdoor recreation lands, and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-80 sets forth policies, procedures and acquisition goals for the Volusia Forever program and requires the creation of an advisory oversight committee by June 1, 2021, to conduct an ongoing review of all projects under consideration and make recommendations thereon to the County Council, and

WHEREAS, there is a continued need for a citizens advisory committee to provide recommendations and advice to the Volusia County Council regarding implementation of the Volusia Forever program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA, IN OPEN MEETING AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE CITY OF DELAND, FLORIDA, THIS 19TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2021, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I. Creation of the Volusia Forever Advisory Committee

There is hereby created and established the Volusia Forever Advisory Committee (hereinafter "committee") which shall be appointed by the county council.

SECTION II. Purpose.

1 The following are the stated purposes of the committee:

- 2 A. To oversee the review of proposed acquisitions and improvements by the Volusia
3 Forever program and make recommendations to the county council;
- 4 B. To review the applications to ensure that such requests meet the objectives, criteria,
5 procedures and guidelines of the Volusia Forever program;
- 6 C. To periodically review program procedures, guidelines, and criteria established by the
7 county council for acquiring property utilizing Volusia Forever funds and make
8 recommendations to the county council for modification;
- 9 D. To oversee the review of proposed acquisitions and improvements for consistency
10 with the intent and goals established in Resolution 2020-80;
- 11 E. To assess program priorities and recommend the ranking of properties and projects
12 for acquisition or improvement;
- 13 F. To make recommendations regarding applications for and participation in federal,
14 state and district land acquisition and capital improvement grant programs;
- 15 G. To review and/or assess the land acquisition, water resource protection, forests and
16 farmlands, and outdoor recreation needs of the Volusia County community and make
17 recommendations on how the Volusia Forever program can address them; and
- 18 H. To recommend further evaluation of properties through resource assessments in order
19 to determine program interest in acquisition or improvement.

20 SECTION III. Membership.

21 The county council shall appoint nine (9) electors as members of the committee, who
22 shall be nominated as follows:

- 23 A. One elector residing in a council district as nominated by the district council member.
- 24 B. Two electors residing in the county nominated each by the at-large council member
25 and the County Chair; one elector from the west side of the county and one elector
26 from the east side of the county.

27 Criteria for selection of applicants for service as a member on the committee by county
28 council should include a balanced representation of the interests of Volusia County citizens

1 including but not limited to environmental, land management and conservation interests,
2 agricultural and business interests, educational interests, general civic and citizen interest, and
3 commitment to the Volusia Forever program. Additionally, committee selection should include
4 members that demonstrate experience, expertise, knowledge, or interest in ecology, biology,
5 conservation of natural resources, real estate or land acquisition, land appraisal, land
6 management, eco-tourism or environmental education, or farming and forestry experience.

7 Committee members shall remain in office only so long as they are qualified registered
8 electors and residents of the county council district, as to those nominated pursuant to subsection
9 A above, or residents of the county, as to those nominated pursuant to subsection B above, and
10 so long as not removed in accordance with Section IV below.

11 SECTION IV. Terms of Committee Members.

12 A. Members of the committee shall be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the county
13 council for two (2) year terms expiring on March 31 of odd numbered years or until
14 their successors are duly appointed and qualified if that be later.

15 B. If any member fails to attend two (2) meetings, during any calendar year, ending
16 December 31, regardless of the reason, the member's seat shall be deemed vacant.

17 SECTION V. Orientation.

18 The county manager or designee will conduct a committee orientation in the first quarter
19 of the year in which appointments are to be made. The orientation will acquaint committee
20 members with parliamentary procedures, sunshine law, public records law, appropriate program
21 resolutions and policies, and county personnel that will be assigned to the committee.

22 SECTION VI. Goal Setting.

23 The committee shall conduct an annual goal setting session where it will outline its work-
24 plan for the year. The committee will make an annual report to the county council on
25 accomplishment of the committee's work-plan. The committee will also review Volusia Forever
26 program audit reports and make recommendations as needed to the county council.

27 SECTION VII. Vacancies.

1 A committee vacancy shall be filled upon nomination by the council member who shall
2 have made the nomination to the vacated position or the successor to that council member.
3 Appointments to fill any vacancy shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.

4 SECTION VIII. Membership Restrictions.

5 No committee member who is a board member, officer, employee, consultant, advisor or
6 has a contractual or beneficial relationship with any entity that is an applicant for or grantee of
7 funds from the Volusia Forever program shall vote or participate in consideration of or vote on
8 any matter concerning that entity. A committee member may not have any ownership of or other
9 beneficial interest in any property considered for acquisition or improvement. A person may only
10 serve on two (2) Volusia County boards or committees at a time, and no elected official or
11 employee of the county government shall be appointed on the Volusia Forever Advisory
12 Committee.

13 SECTION IX. Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

14 Committee members shall disclose all ownership of and beneficial interest in all
15 properties in Volusia County.

16 SECTION X. Meetings, Officers, and Administrative Support.

17 A. The committee will meet at least quarterly, unless otherwise needed, in order to
18 accomplish those issues outlined in their county council approved work-plan.
19 Meetings may be called by the chair of the committee or the county manager or
20 designee.

21 B. The committee shall annually elect by a majority vote a chair and vice-chair. No
22 committee member may serve more than two (2) consecutive years as chair or vice-
23 chair.

24 C. The county manager shall assign personnel appropriate to provide administrative
25 support to the committee including staff processing and analysis of applications and
26 preparation and retention of committee records including notices, agendas, minutes
27 and correspondence to the county council in accordance with the Florida public
28 records law.

29 SECTION XI. Prohibitions.

At other than committee meetings, the committee and each member thereof are prohibited from soliciting offers or negotiating or otherwise engaging in contact with the owners or representatives of owners of properties that may be considered for acquisition or improvement of lands by the Volusia Forever program. The responsibility for publicizing the program and soliciting, contacting and negotiating with property owners, potential sellers, or representatives thereof is the sole responsibility of the county manager or designee. Members of the committee are prohibited from representing the Volusia Forever program or county interests to any public or private land acquisition or preservation support entity including the St. Johns River Water Management District, the State of Florida and the United States of America unless otherwise directed by the county council or county manager or the designee.

SECTION XII. Conflicting Resolutions and Bylaws.

Resolution 2007-79 is hereby repealed and this Resolution shall prevail over any other conflicting resolution or Volusia Forever Advisory Committee By-Laws.

SECTION XIII. Effective Date.

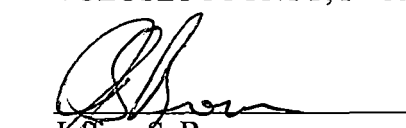
This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

DONE AND ORDERED IN OPEN MEETING.

ATTEST


George Recktenwald,
County Manager

COUNTY COUNCIL
VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA


Jeffrey S. Brower,
County Chair

