



## Volusia Forever Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



Friday, March 19, 2021

County Council Chamber

123 West Indiana Avenue, DeLand, FL

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Anne Connors  
Steve Crump  
Gerald Fieser  
John Gamble  
Jessica Gow  
Derek LaMontagne  
Suzanne Scheiber  
Wanda Van Dam

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Suzanne Konchan, Deputy County Manager  
Clay Ervin, Growth and Resource Management Director  
Dona Butler, Community Services Director  
Ryan Ossowski, Chief Financial Officer  
Ginger Adair, Environmental Management Director  
Tim Baylie, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Director  
Russ Brown, Senior County Attorney  
Danielle Dangleman, Special Project Coordinator  
Nick Dunnam, Land Management Activity Manager  
Sarah Presley, Administrative Aide

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Clay Ervin called the meeting to order at 10:02. Roll was called with each member providing a brief introduction of themselves.

### **Presentations**

- a) Sunshine Laws and Robert's Rule - Russ Brown provided the committee with an over view of Sunshine Laws and Robert's Rule of Order.
- b) Existing Forever Program - Ginger Adair and Tim Baylie provided an overview of the history of the Forever program and how it is currently formatted.

Member Gow asked if there is a list of what project have begun under the previous program.

Mrs. Adair stated that this information is available and it will be shared later in the presentation.

Member Gow asked about matching funds and what level of commitment does the committee need to show to match timing with partners.

Mrs. Adair stated that is a tricky aspect and some properties go on hold, but we do have the ability to be reimbursed if partners are not ready at the same time.

- c) Financial Overview - Ryan Ossowski provided information on financing options and the fund balances from the previous program.

**Listening Session Discussion**

- a) Presentation of topics and format – Ginger Adair outlined the format for the listening sessions. Both in-person and virtual options are available. A quorum is required at listening sessions.

Mrs. Adair asked Sarah if calendar appointments had been sent to the members.

Ms. Presley advised calendar appointments will be sent the beginning of next week as well as a poll to ensure a quorum will be present at each listening session.

- b) Schedule Review – Ginger reviewed the schedule and process for the committee. Next steps will include listening sessions, meeting to review and coordinate a plan, joint workshop with the County Council, followed by the drafting of a resolution that will be sent to council for adoption.

**Selection of Chair and Vice Chair**

Mr. Brown asked for nominations for the committee chairperson. Member Gamble nominated Gerald Fieser.

Member Fieser nominated Mary Anne Connors, Member Van Dam seconded the nomination

Mr. Brown called for a vote, the nomination passed 8-0.

Chair Connors asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Member LaMontagne nominated Suzanne Scheiber.

Chair Connors nominated Wanda Van Dam.

Member Scheiber asked if Member Orberg was online, which he advised he was. Member Orberg asked to second Suzanne Scheiber’s nomination. Mr. Brown advised Member Orberg he could not make a motion or vote due to being physically absent. Discussion ensued of exemptions that would allow a member to participate virtually and how the absence was recorded.

Member Fieser seconded the nomination of Wanda Van Dam. A point of order was made Member Gamble who asked if the chair could make a motion.

The point of order was sustained with input from Mr. Brown.

Member Fieser nominated Wanda Van Dam for the Vice-Chair. Member Gow seconded the nomination.

Chair Connors withdrew her motion. The nomination passed 8-0

**St. Johns Water Management District (SJRWMD) Request**

Mrs. Adair presented a request from the St. John’s Water Management District to partner on the acquisition of parcels on the A list. She explained staff would have moved forward with the request if it had happened prior to the committee being established, but she was presenting for their review.

Discussion with regard to the previous rules being followed for this property or if this request from the SJRWMD should be put on hold. Concerns were raised that public input should be heard first. Ultimately, it

was decided that a meeting would be held in April for the committee to review how the current process works, and if this property should be recommended to the County Council for funding.

### **Committee Discussion**

Member Van Dam asked how much leeway should be given at the listening sessions with regard to changing the program as it exists today.

Clay Ervin explained the committee could recommend changes to criteria and process to the County Council, but the ballot language is established.

Discussion of listening session format ensued.

Tim Baylie reiterated the upcoming process which will consist of listening sessions, the committee establishing the criteria and staff drafting a resolution based on the committee input for council review and approval.

Member Van Dam reiterated her desire to make sure the program stays successful and it is what the public are expecting.

### **Public Participation**

Doug Weaver offered his assistance and guidance for the new program based on his experience from working with the program in the past. He hopes this program will be successful. He suggested the members go visit the existing lands Volusia Forever has purchased to understand the land management practices involved.

Chair Connors thanked Mr. Weaver and commended his passion.

Member Fieser reminded the committee that there was a program previous to the 2000 Forever and this is the third iteration.

With no more discussion Chair Connors adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m..