MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 2, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Kerry Karl, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with all members present by 1:20 p.m.

Ginger Adair, Environmental Management Division Director, reviewed housekeeping rules and presentation equipment operation and functionality. To be recognized to speak members were asked to flip their name plates for the Chair to identify those with questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 10/05/22

Ms. Gow, moved to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Jamison seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Audience members who wished to speak were instructed to fill out comment cards and submit to Briana Peterson, seated to the right of the dais. All audience members were also asked to sign the log-in sheet located at the rear of the chambers.

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Adair reviewed topics discussed at the last meeting, and where background materials and meeting minutes could be found for future reference and updates. A PowerPoint presentation was utilized to share the outline discussions which included: Volusia County Comprehensive Plan; Volusia County Charter; land use, zoning, and land development; environmental minimum standards and implementing ordinance; low impact development; goal setting, and annual workplan. A PowerPoint slide was shared which illustrated the Regulatory Hierarchy beginning with the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use, to permitting and compliance. Comprehensive plan elements were presented, with those concerning ENRAC highlighted and further discussed.

Mr. Ervin answered questions on the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use (FLU), ten-year incremental revisions and updates, as well as notification to the public and the roles of County Council and the Planning and Land Development Regulation Commission (PLDRC). Delineation was made between large- and small-scale changes to the comprehensive plan and the current ability to make amendments throughout the year. The current VC Comprehensive Plan will be updated to 2035, with evaluation criteria discussed and explained for consideration. Clarification was provided on changes to the Comprehensive Plan going through the public hearing process, PLDRC review, local jurisdictions, and the Volusia Growth Management Council to insure consistency and compatibility within the local governments for presentation to the County Council for final approval. No changes
are moved forward without the expressed approval by the Volusia County Council who are responsible for all policy direction.

Explanation was provided for the Natural Resource Management Area Overlay (NRMA) that is another area the committee will become familiar with discussing which describes uninterrupted environmental areas that are a part of a larger system. These areas contain a wide range of wildlife; recharges the County’s groundwater supply; ensures high quality surface waters and provides recreation and open spaces. Development within these areas is more restrictive for the same activities which occur in other areas. Questions were addressed on restriction differences between NRMA and Environmental Corridor Overlay (ECO) areas.

Discussion ensued on the Volusia County Charter, history, background, benefits, and Countywide Environmental Minimum Standards as addressed in the Charter under Section 202.4. Minimum standards can be found in the Muni Code under Chapter 25 – Environment, Minimum Standards for Environmental Protection, with the Muni Code being a valuable resource for research and understanding of current standards. Options for implementation of minimum standards was described and explained for municipalities within the County.

Mr. Keith Abrahamson, Environmental Permitting Manager, County Forester, presented the Indian River Lagoon Overlay minimum standards and shared requirements and areas of enforcement by the County. Chair Karl suggested that perhaps the committee could save their questions following a brief overview of the slides being presented. Discussion ensued on water quality concerns, septic tank usage and areas of concern regarding water quality issues. Suggestions were discussed on perhaps not focusing first on Low Impact Development (LID) and to concentrate on other areas that are more focused on the current grant being sought.

Mr. Abrahamson further informed the committee on potential improvements in the Indian River Lagoon Overlay by utilizing living shorelines and moving requests for vertical seawalls from council to Development Review Committee and subject to specific criteria and County Council waiver. Clarification of this section needs to be performed.

Presentation and discussion ensued during the tree minimum standards. Discussion ensued with suggestions for modifications to the standards to include more tree species, and tree preservation calculations by lot size, replacement, and protection of trees from damage during the development process. Discussion ensued on potential improvements suggested to the Tree Protection ordinances and agricultural exemption questions.

Wetland minimum standards were presented to include clarifications on buffers, exemptions, and requirements. Wetland protection potential improvements were presented and discussed, with discussion ensuing on wetlands and uplands and impacts. Further discussion on Beaches and Dune Minimum Standards were discussed, to include stormwater minimum standards, discussion, and potential improvements. Further discussion ensued regarding fertilizer minimum standards, exemptions, and potential standard improvements to increase the fertilizer-free zone.
Topics discussed by County Council were presented which included moratorium on increased density and intensity, LID standards, through incorporation of Wildlife Corridor into Comp Plan ordinances. Discussion ensued on utility company regulations versus those regulations pertaining to developers, as many of the regulations were established in the early 70’s.

**DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE GOALS**
Chair Karl solicited committee discussion on committee submitted goals and topics. Discussion ensued on the size of the project and focus to place on products forwarded to the County Council to ensure that they are well-vetted and discussed. Recommendations suggested by staff were discussed as the committee starting point, to expand to additional topics as time permits.

Discussion ensued that included various methods on formulation of goal achievement. Chair Karl suggested to have staff return with tree preservation actions to be act on quickly, while the committee can review the Comprehensive Plan to identify some guiding principles and goals. Identification of coming to the meetings already having prepared and reviewed the information in lieu of learning about the subject matter during the meetings. Further discussion suggested that the committee was formed by the County Council to address the principles identified as being their priorities, and where the committee should begin their work.

Chair Karl suggested, and Ms. Anderson volunteered, to bring back to the Committee a review of the Comp Plan and identify the guiding principles to be shared and reviewed by the Committee. Ms. Anderson made a motion to begin with the tree preservation ordinance. Ms. Gow seconded the motion. Discussion ensued with the possibility of focusing on Beaches and Dunes as the next topic due to it nearing final completion. Future agenda items suggested included review of the LID, discussion of goal setting, and review of the original work program topics identified by Council.

Chair Karl suggested that staff return to the next meeting with tree preservation questions that need to be addressed, with an education piece on the implications, and then perform a deep dive into the subject. Ms. Adair presented past methods for addressing the issues and providing a matrix on the desired topic and whether it requires Chapter 50 or 72 changes, or both, for more clear visualization. The tree preservation priorities being brought back for discussion will be items that are relatively easy to change; identification of items requiring discussion; comp plan guiding principles, and a primer on LID. The motion to bring back discussion of tree preservation was voted on and passed unanimously.

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, December 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**
General discussion ensued and the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.