Agri-Business Inter-Relationship Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Hester at 9:02 a.m. Mr. Hester thanked everyone for attending.

Pledge of Allegiance: Gerald Fieser

Invocation: Steve Crump


Absent: Alexander Penalta and Steve Wilson

Minutes: Patricia Caradonna, Staff Assistant (County of Volusia)

Introductions were made by all members present. The minutes of June 29, 2021, were electronically distributed prior to the meeting. All members present had received the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business:

Volusia County Fairgrounds Master Plan – Brad Burbaugh & Kalan Taylor

- Kalan Taylor and Brad Burbaugh presented the Volusia County Fairgrounds Master Plan Research Project Results via PowerPoint. The Master Plan is available for viewing on the committee website.
- There were 3 phases of the project:
  1. Phase 1 – Existing Facilities Assessment – Tour the Fairgrounds (includes, signage, lighting, drainage, paving, landscape plan and parking).
  2. Phase 2 – Community Input – stakeholder input with interviews, public meetings and a public survey was completed.
- Volusia County is moving forward on a feasibility study regarding a sports complex facilities. They are evaluating what would be successful (baseball, soccer, etc.) and different locations including the site west of the fairgrounds. Gerald mentioned traffic concerns for the Sports Complex. A three-lane road with roundabout, traffic exiting on Prevatt Avenue, sidewalks on each side with a walkable perimeter were recommended as part of the master plan.
- Other proposals include new open arena, shaded central avenue and early Florida village were proposed as part of the plan.
• County Council approved $750,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding allocation to start work.
• Brad and Kalan submitted for a $1 million FDACS (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services). In July 2023, we will know the status of the FDACS funding.
• Chairman Hester stated that the development [Master Plan for the Volusia County fairgrounds] will be a great thing. The land was donated for agriculture purposes for training and teaching. It’s a valuable resource to Volusia County. Mr. Hester thanked Brad and Kalan.

Fairgrounds Facility and Development Updates – Ronnie Hull:
• Ronnie Hull gave an update.
  o Ronnie setup a meeting for the beginning of 2023 with the City of DeLand regarding waterlines and old well lines that are not properly vacated.
  o He has not heard from Kilimanjaro regarding progress on the development.

2023 Committee Goals/Plan of Work – Brad Burbaugh
• Brad suggested the committee think about what their goals are and topics they would like to hear at the next meeting.
  o Sandra suggested looking at income generating ideas for the fairground’s Master plan during the March meeting.

Advisory Committee Member Comments:
• Brad informed the committee, in early 2023, an increase for the Ag Center’s rental rates will be proposed to County Council. These proposed changes have been evaluated using locations in both Volusia County and surrounding counties.
• Bernie informed the committee about a newly appointed Environmental and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ENRAC) with 17 members. Bernie is on the committee and there are six main issues being addressed. The first priority is the tree ordinance.
• A motion was made by David Griffis for staff to draft a letter to the Planning and Development Services office, specifically Clay, Carol, and Patricia offering assistance if any issues regarding agriculture arise. Agri-Business Inter-Relationship committee will be here to offer assistance. The motion was seconded by Gerald Fieser. Motion passed unanimously.
• Bernie mentioned developing relationships with the new Greenbelt classification point of contact at the property appraiser’s office. It would be nice for them to come to the next meeting and do a presentation on the Greenbelt. Kalan will reach out and schedule for them to attend the next meeting.
• Steve Crump announced on Saturday, March 25, 2023, the Volusia County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers group is hosting their 2nd annual Taste of Volusia event. This is a ticketed event. It is a farm-to-table style social highlighting Volusia County local farmers and ranchers.
• Brad reminded committee members they will be up for reappointment in March 2023 for an additional two-year term. Kalan will email the application link along with the meeting minutes.
• Mr. Hester turned 90 years old this year and has wished to step down as chair. He opened the idea for the election of a new chair and co-chair. A motion was made by Gerard Fieser to nominate Steve Crump as Chair. The motion was seconded by David Griffis. Motion passed unanimously.
• Mr. Hester opened the motion for the election of a new co-chair. A motion was made by Gerard Fieser to nominate David Griffis as co-chair. The motion was seconded by Ingrid Reilly. Motion passed unanimously.
• Gerald discussed a research project being conducted in Lake George to manage invasives and the water quality issues. The project included fencing off the eelgrass, the invasive Tilapia fish could not get through. As a result of fencing off the eelgrass is coming back to life.

March 6, 2023, is the next Agri-Business meeting at 9 a.m. There being no further business, the meeting of the Agri-Business Inter-Relationship Committee was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.