Agri-Business Inter-Relationship Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 29, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Hester at 8:08 a.m. Mr. Hester thanked everyone for attending.

Pledge of Allegiance: Gerald Fieser

Invocation: Steve Crump


Zoom: Sandra Boyd

Absent: Ingrid Reilly and Steve Wilson

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

Introductions were initiated by Chairman Hester. Introductions were made by all members present. The minutes of August 25, 2020 were electronically distributed prior to the meeting. All members present had received the minutes. Gerald Fieser’s last name was misspelled and corrected. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Orientation:

- Brad Burbaugh distributed and reviewed the Agri-Business Inter-Relationship Advisory Committee PowerPoint focusing on the following topics:
  - Overview – Advisory Committee was established in 2007.
  - Purpose & Roles of Members – Agricultural community needs to have an expanded role concerning the affairs of Volusia County.
  - Sunshine Law – Meetings are open to the public. Minutes of meetings must be taken.
  - Public Records Overview – Emails and text messages may also be public records even if sent on personal device from personal account.

New Business:

- Brad Burbaugh has accepted a new full-time position as Resource Stewardship Director with the county. Kalan Taylor is the interim director of UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County.
- Brittany Council-Morton is the new UF/IFAS Master Gardener Coordinator and Horticulture Agent. Brittany starts work on Thursday, July 1, 2021.
- Interviews are scheduled on Friday, July 2, 2021 for a new Sea Grant position (Flagler and Volusia County partnership) for UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County.
- Kalan Taylor announced the 40th Annual Farm tour takes place on Friday, November 19, 2021. We will return to the normal time slots. Kalan welcomes any suggestions.
Fairgrounds Facility and Development Updates:
  • Ronnie Hull gave an update.
    o 2021 Volusia County Fair is November 4 through November 14, 2021.
    o The Hester and Daugharty buildings will not be used as emergency shelters during the 2021 hurricane season.
    o Kilimanjaro Developer has not submitted any uses or plans yet for development of property next to the Fairgrounds.

Volusia Forever Discussion:
  • Steve Crump and Gerald Fieser gave an update:
    o Steve Crump and Gerald Fieser attended the Volusia Forever listening sessions around the county.
    o Gerald mentioned the first element is continuing environmentally sensitive lands and the protection of farmland/open space.
    o Steve Crump mentioned mirroring the new forests and farmlands program after the USDA/NRCS agricultural easement program.

Legislative Update and Agri-tourism Discussion:
  • Alexander Penalta and Mindy Patterson gave a Legislative update:
    o Mindy Patterson gave a thorough update on the Calvary Group, LLC who are working to defeat the onslaught of animal rights-driven legislation at the local, state and federal levels.
    o The animal rights activism goal is to end the use of animals in every possible capacity from biomedical research, food, entertainment, sport such as rodeos, dog and horse racing, horse drawn carriages, elephant rides, working animals, trapping, fishing, companion animals and pets and especially the food on your plate.
    o Gerald Fieser commented on the ballot initiative proposed in Colorado called PAUSE (Protect Animals from Unnecessary Suffering and Exploitation). The ballot initiative would include livestock and would criminalize some actions that are currently accepted animal husbandry practices.
    o Alexander Penalta gave an update on Senate Bill 37 – HR151 – Horse version. This bill is back in 2021 from Representative Mike Quigley and Fred Upton. The Act would ban the import, export and sale of live wildlife for human consumption. The Act would eliminate goat and horse purchases.

Building and Grounds Updates:
  • Chairman Hester opened discussion regarding needed improvements given the unprecedented year and the strategic importance and location of the ag. center:
    o More lighting
    o Paved roads and better drainage
    o Building improvements including technology upgrades
    o New multi-use open air facility
    o Possible expansion of Tommy Lawrence arena
A motion was made by Gerald Fieser for staff to draft a letter with recommendations for improvements to the county council and it was seconded by Tim Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:
- David Griffis questioned a yellow highlighted area on map that was given to the Volusia County Fair Association while he was the director. Ronnie Hull agreed and will look into this.

There being no further business, the meeting of the Agri-Business Inter-Relationship Committee was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.