

The Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida, met in special session on the above date at the Fort Island Trail Facility, 12073 West Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, Florida, for the purpose of conducting a Goal Setting Workshop. The Chairman called the meeting to order. Commissioner Wooten led in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**Commissioners:** Commissioners Jim Fowler, Chairman; Gary Bartell, First Vice Chairman; Vicki Phillips, Second Vice Chairman; Roger Batchelor and Josh Wooten.

**Attorney:** Robert B. Battista

**Administrator:** Richard Wm. Wesch

**Clerks:** Betty Strifler, Clerk; Glenda Brown and Theresa Steelfox, Deputy Clerks

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## 2002 GOAL SETTING WORKSHOP

The Commissioners discussed the following items:

► **USES FOR THE FORT ISLAND TRAIL FACILITY (FORMALLY PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICE)**

Commissioner Batchelor requested staff to look into possible uses for the facility since Parks and Recreation had been relocated. He stated his concerns were the facility deteriorating and being vandalized due to lack of use.

Commissioner Fowler wanted to explore the possibility of another boat ramp and lease the facility to another governmental entity or private sector. His other suggestions were to contact the Universities to possibly use the facility for research projects, contacting the Plantation Inn Resort for their use, getting another boat ramp either at that site or somewhere in the Crystal River area, and wanting the Board to continue to have access.

Commissioner Wooten stated that the property was an income producer and would like to see the property leased by event or used as a conference center. He was concerned with the limited parking. He added that he wanted the County to continue to own, maintain, and manage the property, and would like the Board to continue to meet there.

Commissioner Bartell agreed with the need for an additional boat ramp, but mentioned some limitations due to the Manatee Protection Plan, and suggested that the Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary might be interested in using the facility.

Mr. Wesch stated that the Manatee Protection Plan (Plan) was adopted as an additional element in the Comprehensive Plan (Comp) and any changes to the Plan would have to be done by modifying the Comp. He added that staff would be taking notes throughout the meeting, investigate those items, and then report to the Board. He advised that Parks and Recreation was moved from that location in order to make them more functional as a County division. He mentioned that the Sheriff had been notified for

additional security in case of vandalism, and that he would now work on the best and highest use of the facility.

Discussion followed regarding possible uses for the facility, exploring the impacts to the Plan if another boat ramp was added, finding other locations for a boat ramp on the west side of the County, additional parking at the Fort Island site, ADA improvements needed for the facility, etc.

**Directive:** Staff to prepare an analysis as to what might be needed under the Plan and Comp to site a new boat ramp and report back to the Board with proposed locations.

▶▶ COMMUNITY PARKS

Commissioner Batchelor mentioned the need for parks around the County and suggested that other Commissioners bring ideas to the staff where community parks should be.

Mr. Wesch replied to Commissioner Batchelor regarding the Citronelle Park by stating that staff was working with the Hamilton family and others in the neighborhood toward a site plan and a partnership agreement to be brought before the Board soon. He added that Citronelle Park would be a gathering place for local children with a playground, restrooms, a playing field, basketball court, etc.

Commissioner Wooten agreed with the community park concept. He asked staff to review the possibility of expanding the Hernando Park by acquiring the property next to the Hernando Park that was available, and use it for a pavilion and parking.

▶▶ POLICY ISSUES

Commissioner Phillips expressed concerns regarding the updating of the County Personnel Manual and that according to the staff's goal report, it would not be brought back before the Board until September. She stated that the employees needed to know what was expected of them and that she would like to see the Personnel Manual updated before September. She advised of the following items that she believed needed to be addressed: Pay for Performance Plan, special merit, vacation and sick time, disciplinary action.

She addressed the need for policy and procedures for cell phones in order to define whom they were distributed to, how they should be used, and the different cell phone plans being used. She advised that there were 94 cell phones distributed to County employees with various cell phone plans, and that these expenses should be addressed.

She requested staff to look into policy and procedures for acquiring vehicles, assigning vehicles, maintaining vehicles, etc. She mentioned that there were approximately 300 vehicles with 500 employees.

▶▶ **MAINTENANCE OF COUNTY CEMETERIES**

Commissioner Wooten would like to direct more resources toward the maintenance of the cemeteries; e.g., signage improvements, benches, xeriscaping, etc.

▶▶ **LITTER CONTROL**

Commissioner Wooten expressed the need for an Adopt A Park Program for the smaller parks. He stated volunteers could go into the parks and be able to do litter patrol, xeriscaping, etc.

▶▶ **SUMMER AND YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Commissioner Wooten stated that the County needed better coordination of summer and youth activity programs. He suggested putting together a master list, work with the cities, Boys and Girls Club, etc. He also suggested the exploring and possible establishment of a Youth Advisory Committee, similar to the Pinellas County program.

▶▶ **ROADS**

Commissioner Wooten requested staff to start planning the widening of CR-486 and Croft Road prior to 2003 by doing some land acquisitions at the major intersections, find ways to finance, use funds from the increase in the impact fees, etc.

Mr. Wesch replied to Commissioner Phillips questions by stating that the land required to widen Croft Road was being acquired on a voluntary basis at this time. Commissioner Phillips stated that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) workshop would be a good time to discuss all the road projects and funding for those projects.

Commissioner Batchelor requested continued support of the Suncoast Parkway toll road.

▶▶ **LAKE RESTORATION**

Commissioner Wooten requested staff to invite the Lake Advisory Board to address the Board with their goals and accomplishments.

Mr. Wesch advised that muck removal money had been set aside for when the Army Corp of Engineers (Corp) Global Study was completed, and would be used for the global solution.

Sam Lyons stated that the Corp had just received the funding from the Basin Board for the five-year study and the County was five years from any conclusion the Corp would make. He suggested cooperative funding with the Basin Boards.

Mr. Wesch replied to Commissioner Bartell's comments by stating that the County Lobbyist was watching legislation that was in Tallahassee right now regarding this matter.

▶▶ **RELOCATION OF THE FAIRGROUNDS**

Commissioner Fowler advised that the Inverness Airport Improvements were going through and that the Citrus County Fair Association (Association) had mentioned

years ago that they would like to enter into an agreement with the County to relocate. He would like the County to purchase 100 acres of land in the central ridge area or south of Inverness to swap for the fairgrounds property next to the Airport.

▶▶ **SANITARY SEWERS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE COUNTY**

Commissioner Fowler requested staff to look into sanitary sewers on the east side of the County, due to isolated areas that would never get sewers. He suggested exploring small package plants to get rid of some septic tanks. He added that Ken Saunders, Assistant County Administrator, was investigating that possibility.

Commissioner Batchelor wanted staff to continue to pursue sewer and water grants.

▶▶ **SPORTS COMPLEX**

Commissioner Fowler stated that he would like to see a sports complex with ball fields, soccer fields, a skateboard park, etc. in the central part of the County, and the process to acquire the land needed to be done now.

Commissioner Bartell suggested purchasing property for the Little League and let them build their own sports complex to own, run, and maintain.

Commissioner Fowler also stated that Floral Park had enough land available and was in need of a couple of ball fields. He added that the County swimming pools needed to be heated so that they could remain open all year for the public, including the pool in Whispering Pines.

▶▶ **CIP WORKSHOP FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

Commissioner Fowler suggested a CIP workshop for Constitutional Officers so that they could discuss their needs for the future.

▶▶ **PLANTING OF DOGWOOD TREES**

Commissioner Fowler suggested a beautification program whereas dogwood trees and other native trees would be planted inside the tree line of the Withlacoochee Forest and along the fence roads. He suggested the trees would be grown by the Key Center, planted by the Boy Scouts, and maintained by the Maintenance Division.

▶▶ **CHANGES TO THE COUNTY CODE AND LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE**

Commissioner Batchelor requested staff to continue to review the County Code and Land Development Code (LDC). He specifically noted Section 66-1 3(e) in the County Code concerning mining. He would like staff to differentiate between the type of mine that would require the owner of property to sign a form acknowledging the existence of an active mine within one-half mile from their property, which could result in noise and periodic vibrations. He stated that requiring the owner to sign this form was good if the mine was a blasting type mine such as phosphate or rock, however, if it was a sand mine and no blasting was involved, this form should not be required. He additionally mentioned the sections of the LDC, which referred to the length of time someone could stay in a

recreational vehicle (RV) park versus a mobile home park with a RV section. He suggested that the length of time be the same for both situations.

Mr. Wesch stated that the State grant money for sewer and water projects was becoming unavailable, due to the funding being allocated to other projects. He added that funding would have to come from other means; i.e., special assessments.

Commissioner Wooten stated that discussions needed to start again about increasing the Park Impact Fees, which could cover new infrastructure.

Discussion ensued regarding methodologies to increase the Park Impact Fees and the Public Building Impact Fees, land being available in the Central Ridge Park for additional infrastructure, land possibly being available for purchase south of the airport for the fairgrounds and entering into an agreement with the Association in regard to their needs, improving the County Auditorium, etc.

**Directive:** Staff to find funding mechanisms to accelerate park projects and prepare a revised presentation on the Parks CIP.

▶▶ **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Commissioner Bartell stated that the code enforcement process needed to be expedited and asked Mr. Battista to explain some of the situations he had recently reviewed.

Mr. Battista stated that he had reviewed two cases where law enforcement had to get involved because the process had taken too long. He advised the Board of another process of code enforcement that could be utilized, which would eliminate the Code Enforcement Board. He explained that Code Enforcement Officers would issue a warning and then a citation if the situation were not resolved. He added that the case would go before the County Judge and fines would be imposed at that level, if the citation were not paid.

**Directive:** Staff to look at the costs of the current system, and review the possibilities of using Code Enforcement Officers. (IIA)

**The Chairman recessed the meeting and then reconvened at 10:45 A.M.**

▶▶ **PROCEDURES FOR LAND USE ISSUES**

Mr. Battista replied to Commissioner Bartell's question by stating that he was reviewing a ten-page draft procedure for land use issues that would establish continuity. He advised that the new procedure would be much like the procedure followed at the February 12 meeting.

The Chairman stated that he had followed the procedures for the February 12 hearing that had been discussed and agreed upon, however some people felt that he was unfair to the attorneys.

Commissioners agreed that the procedure from the February 12 hearing was orderly, but expressed concerns with the amount of evidence that was supplied at the hearing and not being able to review it, and some evidence that was presented to the Clerk and not the Board at all.

Mr. Battista stated that there would be a procedural change whereby the parties in opposition would have a time period to submit information to staff, with the significant number of copies. He added that the agenda summary would include all documents submitted.

Discussion continued regarding the need to refine the hearing process; the need for a workshop explaining the process to the Board, the Planning Development and Review Board, and the public; having procedures in place so that a Board decision would not be overturned if reviewed by the Judiciary; pursuing a legislative overturn of the Snyder Decision (Quasi Judicial process); needing the ability to represent citizens whether they can afford an attorney or not, etc.

▶▶ **VERBIAGE FOR REFERENDUM**

Commissioner Bartell requested staff to present different alternatives to the language for the referendum of where the Board should locate their offices.

Commissioner Phillips stated that the phrasing of the referendum was important and would like staff to present choices.

Mr. Battista stated that after reviewing the part of the resolution adopted concerning the referendum, he would suggest the questions being something like “May the Board of County Commissioners move to Lecanto?” He added that another resolution would have to be adopted that expressed that language and presented to the Supervisor of Elections to place on the ballot.

Commissioner Wooten stated that Susan Gill, Supervisor of Elections, did not need the wording until August, that this was a decisive issue, that it was going to be very expensive, that there was a lot of issues pending this decision, etc.

Commissioner Phillips stated that her constituents wanted this question asked, that she supported the referendum, and whatever the vote was she would live by it.

(11:10 A.M.)

▶▶ **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Morris Harvey stated that he agreed with many of the items discussed, and wanted the Board to put those words into action. He advised that the Coast Guard Auxiliary was currently using the old Yacht Club, that they launched their private boats at the Fort Island Trail Boat Ramp, and that parking should be first priority there. He suggested improvements to the US-19 Barge Canal Ramp so that more people used that area instead of the Fort Island Trail Boat Ramp. He added that the Office of Greenways & Trails (Greenways) was working on the Barge Canal area, but needed County support and involvement. He added that the Park Impact Fees should be increased to cover park

improvements, he liked the policy for vehicles in the County, he thought that the goals of Fire Services should be high priority, he agreed with overturning the Synder Decision, etc.

Commissioner Phillips agreed with more improvements to the Barge Canal Boat Ramp area, and wanted staff to see what the County could do to help with the Greenways.

Commissioner Bartell suggested placing additional signage at the Fort Island Trail Boat Ramp directing overflow to the Fort Island Beach Boat Ramp, as a temporary solution.

Dave Conant suggested choosing ten or twelve of the top priorities to think about and ask staff to work on. He asked that the words for the referendum be presented before August so that people in support would have the opportunity to address citizen groups.

Mr. Wesch responded to Mr. Conant's questions by stating that insurance policies were reviewed annually to see if it would be cost effective to combine with other governmental agencies, i.e. Cities, School Boards. He added that most of the Constitutional Offices were in the County group, with the exception of the Sheriff.

Mr. Conant also supported the increased maintenance of the County cemeteries, due to the history.

Joyce Valentino wondered why the Fire Department was not discussed. She agreed with the community park concept, the idea to make Code Enforcement issues more efficient, the procedure for land use hearings, etc. She thought that the referendum verbiage needed to be worked on now. She also agreed with the road improvements, but was concerned with the safety issues involved at the intersection of Croft Road and CR-486, and did not want to do anything until the Scott Adams issue was settled. She believed that more parking was necessary at the Fort Island Trail area, that the policy issues were important, that the Adopt a Park idea was good, and agreed with beautification programs.

Sam Lyons stated that property at Fort Island Trail was too valuable and needed to be utilized. He added that the Fort Island Trail Boat Ramp was the most popular in the County and more parking was needed. He suggested working with the Greenways for the Barge Canal Boat Ramp. He advised that the Greenways needed a trail head at the Barge Canal, and that the County might consider persuading the Marine Patrol to sell that site at the Barge Canal to the Greenways and use the Fort Island Trail facility. He agreed that the LDC should be amended so that RV parks and mobile home parks were treated the same. He suggested the County work with the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program, the Master Gardeners, and the Florida Native Plant Society to do xeriscaping at the cemeteries. He advised that the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes bill should go through this year, and the Lake Advisory Board would be absorbed into the new Lake Restoration Council. He added that because of the Corp study being five years from now, some issues needed to be addressed. He thought that the Association should be advised of the Board's discussion about the moving of the fairgrounds, so that they could remove their

request for the \$800,000 improvements. He wanted the Board to get the verbiage done on the referendum as soon as possible.

Sumner Waite agreed with improving the parking, developing access, arranging for later hours for those ramps that needed it, but not changing the Comp to add ramps. He thought that the Fort Island Trail facility should be used fully by another governmental entity. He suggested a report be put on the agenda showing the result of the Pay for Performance Plan, because it appeared that there had been higher increases than other government agencies in the area. He wanted the height requirement back in the Building Code and coordination with the City of Crystal River. He discussed the lien law and requested the Board consider a surcharge on each building permit to build up a compensation fund either managed by the Citrus County Builders Association or by the County; or require a fidelity bond of adequate amount before any permit could be pulled, which would provide funding to protect people that are the victims of the lien law. He requested the Board to evaluate staff enforcement of land developer agreements and better enforcement of letters of credit. He also suggested verbiage for the referendum.

Cynthia Cino agreed with the cemetery maintenance. She also questioned the Association grant of \$800,000 for fairground improvements. She stated that the County needed to have a fair line between property rights and what they say other people can do with their property. She discussed finding ways to help people pay for the sewers in Homosassa, having developers contribute to a fund to help people in the community, etc. She stated that she wanted Lucifer the Hippopotamus out of the river, and something had to be done to correct the existing problem with septic tanks.

The Commissioners and the public continued to discuss the following issues:

- \*Community parks and finding funding for maintenance
- \*Sanitary sewer systems and finding funding to assist property owners
- \*Youth Advisory Committee for youth activities
- \*Barge Canal Boat Ramp
- \*Building more ball fields
- \*Finding a new location for the Citrus County Fairgrounds
- \*Reviewing the lien laws (surcharge on permits or requiring a bond)

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting. (IIIA/12:30 P.M.)

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman