

Land Conservation Board
Applicant Package - Citizen at Large

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Term: 12 Dec 2023 - 30 Sep 2027

Positions Available: 2

Number of applicants in this package: 1

- Blackwell, Bruce

Name: Blackwell, Bruce

Address: 5200 SW 25th Blvd., Apt. 1202, 32608

Email: 2bandb2@gmail.com

Board Name: Land Conservation Board

Primary Phone:

352-374-6922

Please list any civic and professional accomplishments/honors, training or experience related to this appointment::

Bruce A. Blackwell Birthplace: Providence, Rhode Island Education: Ed. B., Rhode Island College Night Courses in Conservation, Brown University Night School, Certificate to Operate a Sewage Treatment Plant Work, Rhode Island: Teacher, Barrington, R.I., Public Schools Community Environmental: Chair, East Providence, R.I., Conservation Commission President, Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissioners Member, Green Acres Advisory Committee, named by Gov. John Chaffee to promote the first bond issue for open space in R.I.; After it passed, handily, we were charged with picking out the lands to be purchased. Leading advocate to enact a law to protect salt marshes; led arrests of people dumping fill; many court appearances; landmark law passed defining salt marshes by their botanical characteristics and not just a high tide line drawn on a map. Started awareness of pollution of Narragansett Bay to encourage cleanup (fish are once again seen in downtown Providence) Deputy Warden, Rhode Island Fish & Game Shot at while trying to effect the arrest of a hunter for killing ospreys (case was resolved when the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Patuxent, Md., sent an undercover agent to handle the ending) Work, Massachusetts: In 1965 hired by The Natural Area Council, an offshoot of The Nature Conservancy, to start from scratch a conservation organization year 'round on the Island of Martha's Vineyard. The Vineyard Conservation Society is still going strong and has facilitated the preserving of thousands of acres of land. Worked with Wampanoag Tribe to have Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall come and dedicate the Gay Head Cliffs as a Registered Natural National Landmark. I left that and became co-owner, with Brandon Wight, of an art gallery and antiques store, The Granary Gallery at the Red Barn, which became the pre-eminent gallery on Martha's Vineyard. Showed the work of Black artist Lois Mailou Jones, who has work in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among many others. She was one of the two artists presented to President Bill Clinton and Family at the Gallery. It is thriving under the new owner. I was a member of the Tisbury Conservation Commission in Vineyard Haven, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Fort Lauderdale: Worked with the Black community on Black History Month. Loaned Haitian paintings collected from our trips to Haiti to the von Mizell Library, a library located in a Black neighborhood, for Black History Month on several occasions. Gainesville: Member, Alachua County Environmental Committee (EPAC); Member, Alachua County Land Conservation Board (LCB) Member, Gainesville Nature Centers Commission (NCC) Member, Gainesville City Beautification Board (CBB) Member, Building & Grounds Committee, Oak Hammock at the University of Florida Member, Landscape Long Range Planning Committee, Oak Hammock at the University of Florida Director, Friends of Cuscowilla Many appearances at County Commission and Gaines Commission meetings, including to urge purchase of Camp McConnell, and the for county to retain ownership Strong support for purchase of Serenola Forest Mentor, Westwood Middle School Science Fair students Judge, Alachua Region Science and Engineering Fair Marched with March For Our Lives, Gainesville Greta Thunberg Climate Rally, Gainesville City Hall Yearly participate in Pride Parade, Gainesville Some Awards, Honors, etc.: First Rhode Island Conservationist of the Year, 1965, presented by Governor John Chaffee Certificate of Appreciation, Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissioners Marquis Who's Who in the East Dictionary of International Biography, London

Please list any current/previous Advisory Board appointments:

Land Conservation Board Environmental Protection Advisory Committee

What Contributions do you feel you could make if you were selected to this board?:

I have shown consistent interest in land conservation, officially since as a 22 year old Governor John Chaffee of Rhode Island appointed me to a committee to select lands to be purchased by the state as open space. I vote on the LCB dutifully as possible, balancing the importance of a parcel to "the big picture" and being a good steward of taxpayer monies. I believe I have worked in harmony with the other Board members.

Please Agree with the following statements:

I understand this application is the property of Alachua County and subject to public records laws. I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. I understand that Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Guidelines for Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees". I understand that some boards and committees require Financial Disclosure (Chapter 112, Florida Statutes) and I am willing to file if required. I affirm that my personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations?:

Yes

Time of Submission: 10/20/23 4:02:22 PM