

Rural Concerns Advisory Committee

Date: October 17, 2023

Time 4:00 pm

Alachua County UF/IFAS Extension Office

22716 W Newberry Rd., Newberry, FL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Rodney Clouser (Chair), Jordan Callaham, George Mells, John Nix, Juan Salva, Amy Van Scoik, Richard Wilhelm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jennie Ford, Janet Hearn, Dr. Cindy Sanders

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken McMurry, Senior Planner, Growth Management

Regina Williams, Planning Assistant, Growth Management

Angeline Jacobs, Planner, Growth Management

John Adler, Fire Marshal/Division Chief, Alachua County Fire Rescue

Holly Banner, Zoning Administrator, Growth Management

PUBLIC:

Donna Gocek

Mark McKinney

Chair Clouser started the meeting at 4:10 pm as a workshop after confirming that there were 5 members physically present. He said that there was no physical quorum present and therefore this is a workshop at which no action would be taken by the Committee, but that if enough members arrived in person to achieve a quorum, the meeting status could be reconsidered. He said in the event there was a physical quorum that, per the County Advisory Board Guidelines, Mr. Salva as Alternate member and physically present could vote. Chair Clouser welcomed the two members of the public present.

Committee member John Nix joined the meeting at 4:15 pm and Richard Wilhelm joined the meeting at 4:20pm.

Chair Clouser said that since there was no quorum there would be no vote on the agenda, but that the workshop would follow the draft agenda.

Review and discussion of proposed amendments to the Alachua County Unified Land Development Code – Angeline Jacobs, Planner, Growth Management Dept.

Angeline Jacobs gave a follow up presentation to the September 19th agenda item on currently proposed amendments to the Alachua County Unified Land Development Code, including 1,000 Foot Roadway Lengths in New Rural Residential Subdivisions. There were questions and discussion by Committee members regarding current and historic fire rescue required access widths, maintenance standards and frequency for unpaved roads, special improvement districts and assessments for County maintained subdivision roads, regulations and methodology used by other nearby Counties for determining similar roadway lengths, and legal aspects of County liability.

Mr. McKinney described his rural property and proposed subdivision. There were questions and discussion by Committee members regarding the associated access and easement issues.

1. Call to Order

With 7 Committee members present, which was confirmed to satisfy the requirement for at least a quorum physically present under County Advisory Board Guidelines, Chair Clouser reconvened the workshop as a Committee meeting at 4:47 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Clouser asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was made by Ms. Callaham to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Mells.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

3. Welcome New Member

Chair Clouser welcomed new RCAC member John Nix.

4. Old Business

4.1 Review and discussion of proposed amendments to the Alachua County Unified Land Development Code – Angeline Jacobs, Planner, Growth Management Dept.

Ms. Jacobs resumed presentation of this item and said the next topic was proposed amendments to the Community Engagement Process and Expanded Notification. She presented background information on the item including previous County Commission direction to staff, current methods of engagement and notification, and examples from other Florida jurisdictions. There were questions and discussion by Committee members regarding information on roadside signs. Ms. Callaham and Ms. Van Scoik suggested adding a QR code to roadside signs.

Ms. Jacobs presented proposed changes to Temporary Use Permits and Temporary Filming Permits. There were questions and discussion by Committee members regarding typical quantity of filming permits per year, temporary use permit level of traffic review, timeframe for review, minimum scale threshold, and exemption for agritourism.

There was discussion of the schedule for County Commission consideration of the proposed amendments and the inclusion of Committee members' comments. Staff said they would email a summary of the comments to the Committee for their review and any additional comments.

4.2 Final review and approval of RCAC Annual Workplan and Accomplishments Report: FY2023-2024

Chair Clouser asked for a motion for final approval of the Annual Workplan and Accomplishments Report: FY2023-2024. Motion was made by Ms. Callaham to approve the Workplan with the minor changes previously made by the Committee; seconded by Mr. Wilhelm.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business

5.1 Nominations and elections of officers (per RCAC Bylaws Article IV)

Chair Clouser opened the floor for nominations.

5.1.1 Chair – Ms. Callaham nominated Dr. Clouser for Chair, seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. Chair Clouser accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously to elect Rodney Clouser Chair for a term through the end of the next fiscal year (September 30, 2024) per the Bylaws.

5.1.2 Vice Chair – Mr. Wilhelm nominated Ms. Callaham for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Salva. Ms. Callaham accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously to elect Jordan Callaham Vice Chair for a term through the end of the next fiscal year (September 30, 2024) per the Bylaws.

6. Approval of minutes for 9-19-2023 meeting

Mr. McMurry said that at the 9-19-2023 meeting he had made a clarification regarding the infrastructure surtax item discussed at the 8-15-2023 meeting. He said that clarification had been inadvertently left out of the draft 9-19-2023 minutes and asked if it could be included.

Motion was made by Ms. Van Scoik to approve the minutes for the 9-19-23 meeting with the addition of the information given by Mr. McMurry; seconded by Mr. Nix.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

7. Attendance Report

Mr. McMurry said the Attendance Report is always sent out with the meeting materials and that if members have any questions, they should ask staff. He said there is one member that has been absent for 4 of the last 6 meetings including today, which per the Board Guidelines attendance policy results in automatic removal from the Committee. He said that per the policy a member can miss up to 3 of the last 6 consecutive meetings but on the 4th absence is automatically removed. He said there are now 3 vacancies on the Committee, one in the category of Member At Large and 2 in the category of Actively Involved in Agriculture and/or Silviculture. Chair Clouser urged Committee members to let others know about the vacancies and the Committee's work.

8. Chair Comments

Chair Clouser said that the next Committee meeting would be in January 2024. He asked members to check their calendars during the break prior to that meeting so that the Committee can plan its schedule for 2024. He said he appreciated everyone's attendance and thanked staff for their continued assistance.

9. Committee Members Comments

There were no Committee member comments. Mr. McMurry gave information from Gus Olmos, Director of County Solid Waste regarding a Committee member question on recycling at County Collection Centers. Mr. Mells had a follow up question regarding residents from outside Alachua County using County waste collection facilities.

10. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

11. Next Meeting: January 16, 2024, UF/IFAS Extension Auditorium, Newberry, FL

12. Adjourn: Motion was made by Mr. Nix to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Callaham.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Clouser called the meeting to a close at 5:47 pm.

Approved January 16, 2024