



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 23-00658

Agenda Date: 12/12/2023

Agenda Item Name:

Update on the US Army Reserve Equipment Concentration Site and Santa Fe College Heavy Diesel Mechanic Training Program

Presenter:

Sonia Suggs, US Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager
Sean McDonald, US Army Reserve Director of Public Works, 81st Readiness Division
Tyran Butler, PhD Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Santa Fe College
Sean McLendon, Economic Development & Food System Manager 352 548 3765

Description:

Update on the progress to date on the USAR Equipment Concentration Site and related effort to create a heavy diesel mechanic training program with Santa Fe College.

Recommended Action:

Hear update.

Prior Board Motions:

At the July 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, Commissioner Cornell moved the following: Adopt the resolution to: 1. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the lease agreement as an interim step in the donation of the Fairgrounds Redevelopment Area and; 2. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the necessary documentation to subsequently donate of the Fairgrounds Redevelopment Area to the US Army Reserve at such time as the US Army Reserve is prepared to receive it, with conditions for ownership of the property to revert back to the County as previously approved by the Board. 3. That the Deed be amended to match the language in the lease agreement.
The motion carried 5-0.

At the May 12, 2020, Regular Meeting the Board authorized the Chair to sign the letter of intent to donate the Fairgrounds Redevelopment Area to the US Army Reserve.

The motion carried 5-0.

At the February 25, 2020, Regular Board Meeting Commissioner Cornell moved the substitute motion to postpone this item to the first meeting in April of 2020 and direct staff to reach out to the Airport Authority for their written input regarding their outparcels and responding to the Board with opportunities to combine those or how having the Army facility would affect those outparcels. Direct staff to contact Weyerhaeuser regarding interest in the land swap proposal. If the deadline will close out

the Army facility opportunity, then the Board will schedule a meeting to address the matter within in the necessary time frame. Staff to follow the timeline presented to the Board.

The motion carried 5-0.

At the December 2, 2019, Joint Board Meeting Commissioner Cornell moved the following:

1. Direct county staff to present the Board with comparable data to share with the community from other locations where the Army Reserve has located these type of equipment concentration sites.
2. Staff to ask the Army Reserve to help identify the necessary job skills and workforce training efforts to help our community prepare for this.
3. Staff to ask the Army Reserve to review the preliminary site plan and determine if one to three acres on the corner of Waldo and 39th could be carved out.

The motion carried 5-0.

At the May 28, 2019, Regular Meeting the Board Authorized the Chair to sign the Temporary Right of Entry Agreement between Alachua County and The Department of the Army for due diligence related to the Army's potential use of the Fairgrounds Redevelopment Area, once the final terms have been negotiated by parties and approved by the County Manager and the County Attorney.

Fiscal Note:

There is no direct financial impact to the County at this time.

Strategic Guide:

Social and Economic Opportunity

Background:

This presentation will review the benefits of the ECS and provide an estimated time to completion/ribbon cutting. It will also discuss the County's collaboration with Santa Fe College to create the diesel mechanic training program using its fleet facilities as a temporary training location. A US Army Reserve Equipment Concentration Site is a \$36 million investment estimated to bring over \$13.4 million annually in economic benefit to the local economy. In addition, the facility will support approximately 110 direct, indirect, and induced jobs. The County has authorized the donation of the property to the US Army Reserve. It is currently under a long-term lease to the Army Reserve as a placeholder action while the Army works through the long process to accept the land donation. The Fairgrounds property was valued at \$1,640,000.00.