

Motels Undergoing Conversion to Apartments

The County purchased the Budget Inn early in 2021 to convert the motel rooms to 36 one-bedroom units for permanent housing. Renovations were needed prior to opening so staff sought alternate available funding. Staff identified, developed, and submitted a response to an RFP for CDGB-CV funding in October 2021. The County was notified in early July 2022 that the grant would be awarded and the BoCC received and signed the contract in October 2022. On March 23, 2023, the County received the fully executed contract from the Department of Economic Opportunity.

A motel conversion committee meeting has been held every two weeks since June 2021. Participants in this planning meeting include staff from Growth Management Legal, Purchasing, Contracts, Facilities, CSS, OMB as well as representatives from the Alachua County Housing Authority who is proposed to manage the complex.

Additionally, in December 2023, the County purchased the Scottish Inn which will be renovated to provide 31 efficiency units for affordable permanent housing. This property will be funded through Emergency Rental Assistance Program Affordable Housing. As we celebrated the purchases and funding, we recognize the need to have a name for the complexes other than the Budget Inn and Scottish Inn.

The County Attorney's Office provided the County naming procedure that is attached. The procedure indicates that "nominations for the initial naming, renaming or dedication of a building or facility shall be made to the County Manager." The procedure goes on to say that a "County Commissioner, or the County Manager, may also recommend naming, renaming or dedicating a building or facility." The County Manager requested that staff bring naming recommendations to the BoCC.

Following an initial name suggestion, the committee was asked to provide several choices for each property. The Motel Conversion Committee was surveyed and provided suggestions. Staff and the architects researched both properties and found the original names when the properties were initially put in operation. The Scottish Inn was Motel Tabor named for the original owners, Frank and Libbie Tabor when it opened in the 1950's. Staff have been in contact with their grandson, Frank Tabor, who is a resident of Alachua County and is supportive if the Board chose this option.

The Budget Inn was constructed and initially operated in the 1960's by Frank and Mae Helen Hobbs. Staff are continuing to try to contact their descendants as well as to research the original name. The second owner, Harvey Budd, constructed an addition in 1975 and named the complex The Apartment Inn.

Budget Inn - First 3 options

Driftwood Preserve

Nature's Edge

Willow Creek

Budget Inn - 4th Option

Hobbs Manor

Hobbs Villas

Hobbs Apartments

Scottish Inn - First 2 options

Forest Haven

Forest View

Scottish Inn - 3rd Option

Tabor Manor

Tabor Villas

Tabor Apartments
