



Alachua County Special Meeting

Minutes

February 3, 2026, 10:00 AM

Present: Commissioner Mary Alford, Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair Ken Cornell, Vice Chair Anna Prizzia, Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler

A. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Prizzia moved adoption of the agenda as printed. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Alford out of the room.

2nd Commissioner Chestnut

B. Items for Discussion

1. 2025 Farmers Market Needs Assessment Report - 26-00102

Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator Bailey McClellan presented the above item.

Commissioner Alford entered at 10:02 a.m.

Ms. McClellan presented the result of the Customer Survey for the Farmers Market.

Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Wheeler, Chair Cornell, Tourist Development Director Jessica Hurov, Commissioner Chestnut, and County Manager Lieberman presented comments.

Commissioner Prizzia moved the following:

1. Continue to expand marketing efforts and our short-term efforts to support our local food system and local food economy initiatives.
2. Migrate the small farming grant funding (\$100,000.00) to grants to support the farmers markets for this upcoming budget year.

3. Work with the City of Gainesville to explore a Farm Stop Concept for access to food in East Gainesville. Add to the Joint Meeting for discussion.

(The Board is approving doing the first 3 proposals and staff is to bring back recommendations on how to accomplish these tasks.)

4. Explore with IFAS a Community Garden Coordinator position and discuss it at the Joint Meeting.

5. Request the Self-Insurance Committee explore a food is medicine program for County employees.

(The budget items are intended to be implemented in the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year.)

2nd Commissioner Chestnut

Chair Cornell recognized Kali Blount, Nancy Darren, and Rebecca Fox who presented comments to the Board.

Sean McClendon provided an update on the Food of the Almighty Food Bank emergency funding.

The motion carried 5-0.

C. Closing Comments

1. Public Comment

Chair Cornell recognized Kali Blount, Mark van Soestbergen, and Nancy Darren who presented comments to the Board.

2. Commission Comment

Find Help Service

Commissioner Prizzia stated that there is a collaborative effort to develop the Find Help Guide. She stated that her intern has been working on it as well with groups such as UF Health, The Children's Trust, Find Health and others. She inquired how her fellow Commissioners feel about having the County Logo on the guide when it is produced.

County Manager Lieberman stated that the County is not a partner with the organization. She stated that there is a paid feature to this service and the County is not paying for the service. She stated that there would need to be details looked into regarding this matter.

Chair Cornell expressed reservations about the County Logo being on the product. He stated that similar groups such as the Salvation Army as well as many others will be requesting the same treatment. In the past the Logo was only for County Sponsored endeavors.

Communications Coordinator Mark Sexton stated that the County can do a tremendous amount of work getting the message out to the public regardless of the Logo being used or not.

By consensus, the Board agreed to help get the message out to the public but not use the County Logo.

Eco Loop Update

Commissioner Wheeler stated that she would like to hear an update on the Eco Loop and the Weseman Property as far as what the concept is for the use of the properties and what restrictions the County put on the property. She feels that the County restricted certain technologies from being used on the site. She would like to have a discussion to see what the new technologies are and see if the County still has the same opinion.

Commissioner Prizzia stated that she is looking forward to expanding the opportunities at the site, but she is not interested in the waste to energy opportunities.

Commissioner Chestnut stated that he recalls a large citizen effort against the waste to energy.

D. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.