

LAND ACQUISITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAAC)

The Indian River County (IRC) Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (LAAC) held a meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in Room "B1-501" of the County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida. You may hear an audio of the meeting; review the agenda and the minutes on the IRC website - www.ircgov.com/Boards/LAAC/2009. Please note the times listed at the end of each agenda item refer to time on the recorded minutes.

Present were members: **Dr. Richard Baker**, Pelican Island Audubon Society (PIAS); **Jim Granse**, Taxpayers' Association; **Leroy Smith**, **Bonnie Veron** and **Talmage Rogers**, Members-at-Large; **Councilmember Bud Oatway**, Town of Orchid; **Michael Walther**, IRC Chamber of Commerce; **Kevin Doty**, Civic Association **Toni Robinson**, Indian River Land Trust (IRLT); **Judy Orcutt**, Sierra Club; **Councilmember Andrea Coy**, City of Sebastian; **Janice Broda**, Mosquito Control District; **Joel Tyson**, City of Fellsmere; **Denise Waddell**, IRC Historical Society; and **Councilmember Frannie Atchison**, Town of Indian River Shores.

Absent was: **Sabin Abell**, City of Vero Beach; **Lois Work**, Board of Realtors; and **Commissioner Peter O'Bryan**, IRC Commissioner Liaison (all excused).

Also present were: **Marian Fell**, IRC Senior Assistant County Attorney; **Roland DeBlois**, IRC Chief of Environmental Planning; and **Terri Collins-Lister**, Commissioner Assistant, District 4. Others present were: **Matt Sexton**, The Conservation Fund; **Henry Stephens**, Press Journal; **Ralph Monticello**, IRLT; **John Baker**, Realtor and Applicant Representative, **Margaret Durwin**, Durwin Real Estate, and **Lee Comeau**, Interested Citizen

Call to Order (00:00:06)

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and introductions were made.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman (00:01:30)

ON MOTION BY Mr. Rogers, SECONDED BY Mr. Doty, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to elect Ms. Broda as Chairman.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tyson, SECONDED BY Ms. Broda, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to elect Mr. Rogers as Vice Chairman.

Approval of October 29, 2008 Meeting Minutes (00:03:15)

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tyson, SECONDED BY Councilmember Coy, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 29, 2008 as presented.

Report on Status of Funding (00:03:28)

Mr. Roland DeBlois, IRC Chief of Environmental Planning, indicated the Florida Forever Funding Program was proposed to be cut for this fiscal year 2008-2009; however Governor Crist vetoed the cut. He noted the Florida Forever Funding Program would proceed with the funding cycle starting this February 2009 through May 2009. He hoped to resubmit the application for the Sebastian Harbor Preserve Project which could reimburse the County in the amount of \$5.5 million dollars.

Mr. DeBlois reviewed the information contained in backup from the IRC Budget Department on the Estimate of Available Funds, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office.

Review of New Project Proposals/Evaluation of Project List (continued from last meeting) (00:08:43)

Mr. DeBlois gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the New Project Proposals, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He discussed a parcel for sale that had been submitted to LAAC for consideration prior to the meeting which would connect the two portions of the St. Sebastian River Greenway Plan. A discussion followed on the property and it was noted the parcel included a house and the only access to the St. Sebastian River was through a gated community.

ON MOTION BY Councilmember Coy, SECONDED BY Ms. Waddell, the members voted (15-0) to ask staff to decline the parcel for purchase submitted by Norris & Company that would connect the two portions of the St. Sebastian River Greenway Plan.

Mr. DeBlois brought up a parcel which was part of the Oyster Bar Marsh remainder. He pointed out the parcel was adjacent to County owned property and was mainly marsh land. He concluded it was staff's perspective the opportunity to purchase the parcel was at a value that was low to reflect the fact it was virtually undevelopable except for the mitigation values.

ON MOTION BY Councilmember Coy, SECONDED BY Councilmember Atchison, the members voted unanimously (15-0) to remove the parcel which was part of the Oyster Bay Marsh remainder from the Land Acquisition Advisory Committee list of potential sites.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the availability of funds, setting criteria in order to rank the LAAC sites, and whether LAAC had the ability to go to other environmental groups that may have an interest in the same LAAC sites.

Mr. DeBlois added bond funds could be used as leverage to obtain a grant for land management or retaining a base level of funds for improvements on already acquired property.

Chairman Broda asked if staff could review the project list and bring back to the next LAAC meeting, additional backup on the sites as well as look at already acquired properties for which bond funds could be used for initial improvements as well as initial public access improvements.

It was suggested to continue with the ranking of the LAAC sites and identify those properties that may have Florida Community Trust and U.S. Fish and Wildlife benefits.

Other Business (01:14:12)

It was the consensus of the committee to cancel the February 25, 2009 LAAC meeting. The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2009.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.