

LAND ACQUISITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAAC)

The Indian River County (IRC) Land Acquisition Advisory Committee (LAAC) held a meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 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.

Present were members: **Janice Broda**, Mosquito Control District; **Mayor Sabin Abell**, City of Vero Beach; **Councilmember Andrea Coy**, City of Sebastian; **Councilmember Bud Oatway**, Town of Orchid; **Councilmember Joel Tyson**, City of Fellsmere; and **Councilmember Gerald Weick**, Town of Indian River Shores; **Dr. Richard Baker**, Pelican Island Audubon Society (PIAS); **Talmage Rogers**, Member-at-Large; **Judy Orcutt**, Sierra Club; **Michael Walther**, IRC Chamber of Commerce; and **Kevin Doty**, Civic Association.

Absent were members: **Grant Withers**, Indian River Land Trust (IRLT); **Lois Work**, Board of Realtors; **Bonnie Veron** and **Leroy Smith**, Members-at-Large; and **Denise Waddell**, IRC Historical Society (all excused).

Also present were: **Commissioner Peter O'Bryan**, IRC Commissioner Liaison; **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; and **Ralph Monticello**, IRLT.

Call to Order

Chairman Broda called the meeting to order and introductions were made. There was a moment of silence for committee member, Mr. Jim Granse who recently passed away.

Approval of the March 25, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Broda made a correction to the March 25, 2009 meeting minutes to reflect the following name change on page 5 under Other Business to Bob Emerson.

ON MOTION BY Councilmember Coy, SECONDED BY Mr. Rogers, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2009 as amended.

Consideration of Draft Florida Communities Trust Cost-Share Grant Application for the Sebastian Harbor Preserve LAAC Site

Mr. Roland DeBlois, IRC Chief of Environmental Planning, reviewed the Draft Florida Communities Trust Cost-Share Grant Application for the Sebastian Harbor Preserve LAAC Site, a copy of which is on file in the Commission Office. He briefed the committee the Florida Forever Funding was not in the state's budget for the next fiscal year. He stated there was a slight chance the Florida Forever Funding may be put back into the budget in some form, therefore the County would proceed with resubmitting the grant application.

A discussion ensued on the Sebastian Harbor Preserve grant application and the committee looked at increasing the number of points through opportunities such as tetherball, horseshoe pit, and a stormwater educational kiosk. Mr. DeBlois mentioned this would be the final funding cycle to apply for matching funds for the acquisition of the Sebastian Harbor Preserve. He explained that the County could only apply for funding up to two years past the date of acquisition of June 2007 and would ask FCT staff if the funding cycle was closed down for this year if the County's two year period could be frozen. Commissioner Liaison Peter O'Bryan noted if FCT would happen to consider the project, he recommended the committee send letters to Mrs. Ruth Sandbridge, a member of the FCT Governing Board, asking her to assist the County in promoting the excellence points.

ON MOTION BY Councilmember Coy, SECONDED BY Mr. Doty, the members voted unanimously (11-0) to support the Sebastian Harbor Preserve Grant Application and asked staff to look into tetherball, a horseshoe pit as recreational activities and a stormwater educational kiosk in order to obtain additional points.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Walther, SECONDED BY Mr. Doty, the members voted unanimously (11-0) for staff to advise the committee on the best approach to request that the Legislative Delegation revisit the statutes and regulations governing the reimbursement program and amend the provisions to allow greater time window for reimbursement of land acquisitions.

Other Business

Chairman Broda inquired the status of the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area (ORCA) Extension Property. Mr. Sexton replied the owner of the ORCA Extension Property was not interested in the County's offer to purchase the property.

Mr. Matt Sexton mentioned The Conservation Fund, was still pursuing federal funds for the Hartig Oceanfront Parcel outside of the FCT.

There was a discussion on future LAAC meeting dates. Mr. Walther suggested meeting in August 2009 to address the balance of LAAC funds and legislative issues. It was the consensus of the committee to cancel the May, June, and July LAAC meetings and meet at next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Sexton brought up a program called the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCP), a million dollar cycle grant program, of which could be applied for once in March and July for wetland preservation, wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. He stated the County had no projects at this time to apply for the NAWCP grant, however there were several projects south of the County that may qualify and required matching funds. He continued the projects requiring matching funds could be dated back two years and the only project in the area eligible would be the Padgett Branch Acquisitions. He indicated even though the grant could not be used for land acquisition, it would lock in the match to make future projects in the County more competitive.

ON MOTION BY Councilmember Weick, SECONDED BY Mayor Abell, the members voted (10-1) to support the use of matching funds from the Padgett Branch Acquisition to be applied towards a match of another acquisition in a different county that may be applying for a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Program. Councilmember Oatway abstained due to limited information.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.