

September 25, 2018

The Western Nassau Heritage Preservation Committee met in regular session this 25th day of September, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Callahan County Building, 45401 Mickler Street, Callahan, Florida. Committee members present were Bobby Franklin, Ronald Green, Linda Morris, John Stack, and Chair Jimmy Higginbotham. Representing the Department of Planning and Economic Opportunity were Adrienne Burke, Assistant Director; Sue Ann Alleger, Planner II and Stephanie Kurtz, Planner I. Also present were Melissa Lucey and Heather Nazworth, recording secretaries.

Chair Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Ms. Morris led the Invocation and Chair Higginbotham led the Pledge of the Allegiance to the American Flag.

It was moved by Mr. Franklin, seconded by Mr. Stack and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the June, 26, 2018 and July 24, 2018 Western Heritage Preservation Committee meeting as presented.

Ms. Burke came forward to remind the Board that these meetings are being held during the heavy outreach phase and staff will be providing brief overviews on the outreach. She advised that these meetings will not involve any policy amendments.

Ms. Kurtz came forward and provided an analytic statement of the outreach events and preliminary results from the first two outreach events. Ms. Alleger came forward to provide a brief overview of the scheduled outreach events and outline the meetings being held for September, October, November, and December. Ms. Burke advised that a press release will be released regarding outreach events, surveys and general information on the effort; outreach information will be provided in the newsletter for Nassau County Employees; and outreach information will be posted through social media. She mentioned that Dr. Kathy Burns, Nassau County School Superintendent, has created a superintendent student's committee regarding the outreach effort and twelve (12) students will provide their feedback. She noted that the surveys are a part of feedback including areas such as live, work, play, nature, and history. Ms. Burke stated that the survey results currently show a consistent public concern regarding nature and environmental preservation.

Next, Ms. Burke mentioned a previous presentation on land conservation which relates to the feedback that has been received and other planned activities. She provided a handout regarding floodplain management and resiliency; and from the public feedback, a concern regarding flooding. She provided a memorandum to the Board of County Commissioners as it relates to the different activities related to flooding, floodplain management, and flood planning. She mentioned that Nassau County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, which is a program that communities can participate in and gather points for different activities the government undertakes; and these points can equate to a discount on flood insurance for citizens. She explained that there will be updates regarding the Coastal Management elements in the Land Development and staff will be working with the building department on updating the floodplain management ordinance. Ms. Burke advised that a grant has been submitted regarding assistance in higher level vulnerability assessment to help provide a mapping exercise to determine our most significant vulnerable areas in the County. She noted that they wish to increase community outreach and engagement regarding flood risk; researching different grants; updating codes; and floodplain management.

Ms. Burke mentioned recreation planning and provided an excerpt of a presentation presented to the Board of County Commissioners in August. She explained that Dr. David Barth is an expert planner in parks and recreation and he has been hired by Nassau County to assist with parks and recreation planning. She advised that with the guidance of the Board of County Commissioners

they are working on a study to update the recreation impact fees. She mentioned updating the Comprehensive Plan and the LDC regarding recreation; which will have a two-tier system with local and regional park systems. She stated that it is important to have management and maintenance of park systems.

Next, Ms. Burke advised that the Planning Department has formed a technical group consisting of staff working on fact finding for land conservation. She mentioned that a group of environmental experts from across the state have been invited to participate in quarterly webinars.

Ms. Burke explained that the common input and concerns from the roundtable discussions are transportation and housing. She commented that a housing assessment study was performed by the University of Florida and that the draft report is complete. She stated that a representative from the University of Florida will provide the overview of the draft findings at the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) meeting to be held on October 17, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioner Chambers.

Mr. Higginbotham opened the floor for any audience input.

Marty Fontes came forward and mentioned the development of the Westside Regional Park. Ms. Alleger advised that a grant has been applied for to assist Nassau County with the development of the Westside Regional Park.

Gary Jacques, Hugh Graham, Sandra Jacques, and Harold McClarrie, audience members, came forward to express their concerns regarding the proposed beltway through Hilliard, Callahan, and Bryceville; funding of the beltway; and the effect on wetlands. Mr. Higginbotham mentioned that the beltway is still in the planning stages. Ms. Burke came forward to clarify that the beltway is on maps but there has been no funding or official timeline. She commented that the community can provide feedback to the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), regarding their concerns.

Ms. Burke advised that the meeting scheduled for October 23, 2018 is cancelled and the next meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Shirley Graham came forward and stated that the Westside Regional Park should be a high priority. She expressed her concerns regarding the effects the beltway will have on small businesses located in Callahan and Hilliard.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.