

November 27, 2018

The Western Nassau Heritage Preservation Committee met in regular session this 27th day of November, 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, and John Stack. Absent member was Chair Jimmy Higginbotham. Representing the Department of Planning and Economic Opportunity were Taco Pope, Director and Adrienne Burke, Assistant Director. Also present were Melissa Lucey and Heather Nazworth, recording secretaries.

In the absence of Chair Higginbotham, Committee Member Morris assumed the duties of Chair and called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Chair Morris led the Invocation and the Pledge of the Allegiance to the American Flag.

It was moved by Mr. Stack, seconded by Mr. Franklin and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2018 Western Heritage Preservation Committee meeting as presented.

Ms. Burke came forward and provided a summary of the 2018 Outreach Results. She mentioned that this will be the last update for the year. She provided a handout of the scheduled outreach meeting for 2018, mentioning the outreach efforts such as flyers, Facebook posts, and press releases, in addition to the meetings, outreach events, and roundtable events that have been held. She provided a survey tool used to share favorite memories and comments made through survey monkey, with majority of the comments regarding the sense of community, keeping the area small and manageable, rural, quiet, natural, and wetlands. Next, she provided a master list regarding a summary of the survey results of the responses gathered, noting over 6,000 responses have been provided. Ms. Burke commented that the highlights of the survey reflect preservation of heritage, access to waterways, protecting properties from flooding, preserving agriculture, and the natural aspects of the community. Ms. Burke provided an above the fold headline from the Nassau County Record regarding the town hall meeting that was held. Mr. Pope commented on the survey's ranking regarding the flood plain management and how to protect property from flooding. He mentioned that the flood plain management is a high topic at the Board of County Commissioners meetings and how it impacts existing developments.

Next, Mr. Pope addressed the roadmap goals for the Spring 2019 Western Nassau meetings and outreach. He requested that the committee consider what the statement of purpose is and review the first quarter's critical assets and issues. He commented that March 2019 is the one-year anniversary of this committee and the outreach. The goal is to have finalization of the critical assets and issues to prepare for the goals and objectives to assist in the updates for the Nassau County Comprehensive Plan. He advised that in order to stay on line, the statement of purpose needs to be completed. The next update will be to implement the Comprehensive Plan policies in manuals in the summer/fall of 2020. He stated that at some point there will need to be monthly meetings in order to receive and process public input.

Ms. Burke addressed updates on Land Acquisition Technical Advisory Group. She stated that the Board of County Commissioners have expressed an interest in working a long term plan for land preservation and acquisition. She advised that the first quarterly webinar meeting was held in October 2018 and a high level overview was provided on Nassau County regarding the challenges, geography, topography, what makes Nassau County unique, the different planning initiatives going on, and how it relates to land conservation programs. The next meeting will be held in January 2019, however, in between there will be continued work to gather data. Ms. Burke mentioned that on November 28, 2018 Mr. Pope, Ms. Alleger, and herself will be meeting

with a member from the Technical group that works with the St. Johns River Management District (SJWMD) and there will also be a representative from the Florida Trust for Public Land. She commented that there will be updates provided before the end of the year to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Western Nassau Project and Land Acquisition.

Mr. Pope commented that staff has been working with the Department of Health regarding community health and planning. Ms. Burke stated that the Planning and Economic Opportunity Department is now involved in the Health Department's Health Improvement Plan. She mentioned that a staff member attended the AARP conference regarding livable communities and planning for all ages. She advised that public transportation was not a concern in rural communities, however, Not-for-Profit agencies felt that public transportation was important to assist with health care access.

Chair Morris opened the floor for any audience input.

Dr. Eugenia J. Ngo-Seidel, Nassau County Department of Health Director, came forward to provide information. She stated that many needs came up during the community health improvement plan assessment process regarding housing in healthy places and the health departments involvement in age friendly public health initiative. She commented that the Health Department wants to look at the interaction between our environment and health results including recreation space, natural habitats, and mental health.

In response to an inquiry from the Board regarding elimination of septic tank systems in Duval County. Michael Godwin, Department of Health Manager, responded that the program is not State mandated and involves a federal grant with the local health department. He commented that if there are any complaints regarding septic tank issues, that they respond within twenty-four (24) hours. If there is a nuisance, the department goes out to review.

Mr. Pope advised that the topic of housing and care options for elderly families, including multi-generational housing, and accessory dwellings is mentioned at every meeting. Regarding the septic tank issues, there is no standard and requirements are limited in the Nassau County Land Development Code (LDC) regarding tying into water and sewer, however, there will be updates in the LDC regarding septic tanks in available areas. Mr. Godwin stated that the Florida Department of Health can require a tie in to a septic system within a certain time.

Dr. Seidel inquired regarding rural broadband. Ms. Burke advised that this is a common issue with limited internet access and cell service. She stated that this issue is effecting internet needs for students and the possibility to do healthcare online.

Ashley Beasley, an audience member, came forward to express her concerns regarding trees being cut down, gopher turtle burrows destroyed, and wetlands being demolished. She stated that she has made attempts to contact the Planning and Economic Opportunity Department, Building Department, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and SJWMD and due to unsuccessful responses the issues were not addressed timely. She requested better communication between departments. She also mentioned concerns regarding septic waste being dumped on hay fields and the effects it has in the area.

Verna Layton, an audience member, expressed her concerns regarding a park and the need for schools in Nassau County due to the growth. Chair Morris stated that the State of Florida has the authority on building schools and at this present time there is no recommendations for a school. Mr. Pope commented that he, Ms. Burke, and Ms. Morris are on the School Growth and Planning

Committee and there has been review on growth projections for jobs and housing for certain areas. They are currently researching where growth is happening and planning for schools based upon that information. Ms. Layton also expressed her concerns regarding the proposed beltway. Mr. Pope stated that he can provide her the location of the proposed beltway and that the Planning and Economic Opportunity Department is on the steering committee for North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) for the long range transportation plan update. He advised that based upon general consensus many felt it is not necessary to have the beltway south of Crawford Road through Bryceville, so staff will be reviewing the Crawford Road area as to whether a bypass road is needed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

draft