

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JUNE 20, 2000
(1:30 P.M.)**

Proceedings of a workshop meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, began and held in the Auditorium at the County Administration Building, #4020 Lewis Speedway (County Road 16-A) and U.S. 1 North, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were: James E. Bryant, District 5, Chair
Mary Kohnke, District 4, Vice Chair
Pal Howell, District 1
Marc Jacalone, District 3
Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator
James G. Sisco, County Attorney
Yvonne King, Deputy Clerk

Commissioner John Reardon was absent from the meeting.

(06/20/2000 - 1 - 1:36 p.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bryant.

(06/20/2000 - 1 - 1:37 p.m.)
PRESENTATION BY THE 4-H PROGRAM ON THEIR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Andy Toelle, 4-H Coordinator, gave an overview of the 4-H Youth Development Program. Toelle then entertained questions from the Board regarding the 4-H program.

(06/20/2000 - 1 - 1:47 p.m.)
STATUS REPORT FROM THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ON THE PALM VALLEY BRIDGE

Nick Perpich, Project Engineer, gave a status report on the Palm Valley Bridge. (1:48 p.m.) Jerry Scarborough, Project Manager from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, reviewed the construction schedule and the funding for the bridge. (1:50 p.m.) Fred Walker, Project Manager with Griner Engineering, made a slide presentation of the proposed Palm Valley Bridge. (1:52 p.m.) Palm Schmidt reviewed the proposed roadway design of the bridge. (1:56 p.m.) Mark Eichols reviewed the structural design of the bridge. (2:01 p.m.) Scarborough presented a picture of the proposed bridge to Kohnke and Howell since the bridge separates their two districts.

(06/20/2000 - 1 - 2:04 p.m.)
UPDATE ON THE DRAFT LAMP ACQUISITION EVALUATION CRITERIA AND MATRIX

Vickie Renna, Principal Planner, reviewed the evaluation criteria and matrix for the land acquisition. (2:19 p.m.) Discussion followed on: the matrix, the protection of water resources, the ranking of properties, and bonus points. (2:26 p.m.) Robin Nadeau, 26 Mickler Blvd., commented in favor of the evaluation criteria. (2:27 p.m.) Roger Van Ghent, 4005 Moultrie Foreside Blvd., commented in favor of the evaluation criteria.

(06/20/2000 - 2 - 2:30 p.m.)

PRESENTATION OF THE CHIPS BUSINESS PLAN 2001

Marilyn Wiles, Chair of the Community Health Improvement Partnership Council, introduced the members of CHIPS; reviewed the mission statement; explained the proposed activities for year 2001; explained the opportunities; explained the visioning concept; reviewed the visioning project goals and objectives; explained the financial plan; explained the resource requirements; then, reviewed the key issues. (2:49 p.m.) Dr. James Walker, reviewed the grant process. (2:53 p.m.) Discussion followed regarding the CHIPS Business Plan for 2001.

The meeting recessed at 3:08 p.m. and reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

(06/20/2000 - 2 - 3:20 p.m.)

DISCUSSION OF THE JULINGTON CREEK PLANTATION DRI/PUD BALD EAGLE HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Teresa Bishop, Planning Director, reviewed some parameters to be considered as a part of the Bald Eagle Habitat Management Plan: 1) that activities be specifically prohibited within the Primary Zone and Secondary Zone during the nesting season; 2) that “under-roof activities” and “dried-in” be defined; 3) that excessive outside noise be limited during the nesting season; 4) that all building permits issued within the Secondary Zone carry information about the Bald Eagle and provide that the construction must stop when the nesting season begins; 5) that traffic be limited on Davis Pond Boulevard where it passes through the Primary Zone during the nesting season; and 6) that the BCC have the task in St. Johns County to protect the Bald Eagle and only the BCC may modify or accept changes to the approved Management Plan. (3:24 p.m.) Discussion followed regarding excessive outside noise being limited during the nesting season; traffic being limited on Davis Pond Blvd. where it passes through the Primary Zone during the nesting season; and the definition of “under-roof activities” and “dried-in.”

(3:27 p.m.) Linda Connor Kane, 50 North Laura Street, Jacksonville, said their presentation would describe both the scientific underpinnings for eagle protection and specifically address the allegations of harm which purportedly took place during the nesting season. (3:30 p.m.) Steve Godley reviewed his experience with bald eagles; then, provided an evaluation and opinion as to the potential affects of development on the Julington Creek Eagle Nest, known as SJ-07. Godley reviewed Anthony Steffer’s experience with bald eagles. (3:38 p.m.) Tony Steffer reviewed the nesting chronology of bald eagles in Florida. (3:42 p.m.) Godley reviewed eagle nesting in urban settings, the diet of eagles, and whether construction activity disrupts normal behavior of eagles. Discussion followed regarding the disruption of the normal behavior of eagles.

The meeting recessed at 4:08 p.m. and reconvened at 4:16 p.m.

(4:17 p.m.) Roger Van Ghent, St. Johns County Audubon Society, explained the bald eagle habitat, the nesting of eagles, the eagle young, eagle migration, and the approximate number of bald eagle nests in St. Johns County. (4:22 p.m.) Deborah Andrews, Council for the Audubon Society, reviewed the federal and state laws applicable to the protection of eagles; discussed the Primary and Secondary Zones; then, addressed the protection of the roosting sites. (4:34 p.m.) Resee Collins, Director of Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, addressed the loss and degradation of eagle habitat. (4:42 p.m.) Roger Van Ghent offered the following recommendations: establish a 750' Primary Buffer and another 750' Secondary Buffer around the nest; prohibit activities within the Primary Buffer and Secondary Buffer during the nesting seasons (approximately October 1 to May 15 for bald eagles); establish a buffer to restrict human activity such as target shooting, harassment, and predation; avoid development in the wetland flyway until the nest is abandoned;

avoid excessive noise around and in the buffers during the nesting season, including loud trucks, building equipment, outside hammering, especially with air guns, etc.; limit traffic on roads in the Primary Zone; the developers inform all owners and potential buyers of property within and near the Secondary Zone of the existence of the nest and the restrictions on noise and construction; and protect the American Bald Eagles in St. Johns County. (4:48 p.m.) Lucy Seeds, 144 Catfield Circle, reported of some findings she has regarding Nest SJ-07; then provided her educational background and her experience with eagles.

(4:50 a.m.) Deputy Clerk Yvonne King left the meeting; Deputy Clerk Lenora Newsome entered the meeting.

(4:57 p.m.) Don Beattie, 808 Mill Pond Court, spoke on watching this particular pair of eagles and showed the area where they lived using visual display.

(5:01 p.m.) Kohnke mentioned speaking to Mr. Anthony Steffer about all the work being done outside the nesting season. Anthony Steffer, Raptor Specialist, mentioned in his opinion, in the secondary zone, pounding on the roof wasn't that big of a problem, it's more of a problem for the people than for the birds. He voiced more concern with the birds seeing people instead of hearing the noise of the construction. Discussion followed on the primary zone already being interfered with, and the birds having a comfort level with the activities going on around them. Bishop stated that Staff was looking for direction, if the Board wanted them to come back with a generic plan that will apply throughout the County or come back with a plan that applies to Julington Creek Plantation only. She explained how the Eagle Management Plan read at this point. Jacalone recommended that inside activity would be permitted under a completed roof structure, no dry in type language, if the house is to the phase where the roof structure is completed, then activity can go on under that completed roof during the nesting season. The Board should have to approve changes to the Management Plan in the future and the residents should be notified of any changes that are proposed to the Management Plan and have the opportunity to attend the hearings that the changes will be discussed at. Kohnke stated that she concurred with taking out #5. Bishop stated that the direction is to work with the developer and bring a plan back to the Board that pertains to Julington Creek Plantation through a Notice of Proposed Change. Any inside activity can occur under a completed roof structure, the Board will approve any changes to the Plan and item number #5 was deleted. Cain stated that they brought a letter to the Board as a compromise, back when they wanted to keep going through the present season and mentioned that they would like to work with Bishop using the concepts from the letter making them more specific.

(06/20/2000 - 3 - 5:19 p.m.)

DISCUSSION ON THE FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (CDD) TO NOTIFY THEIR RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PRIOR TO ANY BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITH THE COUNTY

Kohnke remarked that she placed this item on the agenda because of Louise Thrower. Jacalone stated that he thought it was a great idea and it was something that the County should do. Sisco mentioned that it was a unique idea and the County has the right to make their own rule, but don't have the right to arbitrarily discriminate. Jacalone asked if the Board can do a notification process to the residents on the CDD. Sisco stated that the Board can do whatever they reasonably determine for a public purpose. Jacalone questioned if the County has the authority to mandate a notification requirement to a Community Development District on these types of transactions. Sisco relayed that the County can't require them to do something, if they are going to contract with Joe Smith Road Paving Company, but if they want to contract with the County to do something, the County could do business with the CDD. Discussion followed.

(5:28 p.m) Don Beattie, 808 Mill Pond Court, stated that the problem he sees is that the only CDD that is operating in the County now is the Julington Creek Plantation CDD and they are the only experience that the County has had so far. There is a problem of keeping track on what is happening in the CDD.

(5:32 p.m) Sarah Bailey, 2202 Bishop Estates Road, spoke on needing to know what is going on in the CDD.

(5:33 p.m.) Louise Thrower, 288 Orange Avenue, spoke on safeguarding the peoples' rights. She questioned who paid the land parcels fees, what happened to the money, spoke on the Julington Creek Civic Association. Kohnke requested to work with Beattie on coming up with a resolution. ***It was the consensus of the Board for Kohnke to do as she requested.*** Bryant stated that this type of item would be on the Regular Agenda instead of the Consent Agenda.

(5:42 p.m.) **Motion by Kohnke, seconded by Jacalone, carried 5/0, to adjourn the meeting.** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Approved _____ July 11 _____, 2000

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
James E. Bryant, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk