

Citizen Comments for the
May 12, 2020 Meeting Agenda

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Non-Agendaed Items

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Amber R. Tynan
	Address: 2477 Tim Gamble Place, Tallahassee, FL 32308
	Date Submitted: 5/11/2020 7:34:44 PM

Commissioners, on behalf of United Partners for Human Services and our member agencies - thank you so much for your support of the \$1M in Blueprint funding for nonprofits (Local Emergency Assistance for Nonprofits - LEAN grant) in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because participation in this program has been slower than anticipated and has yet to meet program capacity, we have been working with our sector partners (COCA and INIE) alongside OEV to better understand the barriers that have prevented nonprofit agencies from applying.

The biggest area to note is that many nonprofits have not yet experienced a 25% decrease in revenue, however losses of this amount are anticipated through FY2020 (just not yet realized).

Additionally, nonprofits have generally seen an increase in COVID-specific expenses but this was not originally considered as part of the criteria. With this knowledge, OEV made some modifications to the criteria on May 5th and we would respectfully request consideration of maintaining the funding for nonprofits and extending the deadline through June 1st to ensure all eligible nonprofits have the ability to apply. We have been and will continue to make phone calls to our member agencies regarding this funding opportunity, as well as, provide technical assistance as needed. This additional time will help us and our partners ensure local nonprofits gain access to this critical funding in such an uncertain and unknown time. We appreciate your consideration and your continued leadership during this trying time for our community.

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Kathleen Spehar
	Address: 1410 Chocksacka Nene
	Date Submitted: 5/11/2020 7:49:09 PM

Dear Board of County Commissioners- As we align side-to-side in our work during this pandemic, I'm grateful for support from Leon County and the City of Tallahassee for our local non-profits. They are essential in providing crucial services and meeting increased demands from our community, while handling their own revenue loss and budget cuts. The LEAN program (Local Emergency Assistance for Non-Profits), launched on April 17th by the Office of Economic Vitality (OEV), has provided much-needed stimulus to these organizations. And we've appreciated the partnership between OEV, INIE (Institute of Non-Profit Innovation & Excellence), UPHS (United Partners for Human Services) and COCA (Council on Culture & Arts) to assist non-profits in applying.

The sign of true partnership is listening and adjusting to meet the needs of the greater goal. While thousands of notifications, hundreds of emails, dozens of phone calls and targeted webinars were producing steady but slow results, we worked with applicants and our partners to problem solve. LEAN provided some challenges for non-profits to meet, including confusion around the utility bill requirements for programs without permanent spaces, and how revenue loss is reported for upcoming cancelled programs and events. We're grateful OEV responded and re-worked select parts of the original guidelines. The guideline re-launched on Wednesday, May 6th, and non-profits need to be given the chance to respond.

With this in mind, I ask the county keep the current pool of funding for LEAN intact, extend the original May 15th deadline to June 1st, and allow us more time to work with non-profits on submitting their applications.

I appreciate your consideration and continued support of our non-profit community during this vital time. With thanks- Kathleen Spehar, Executive Director, Council on Culture & Arts

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Felina Martin
	Address: 300 W Pensacola St.
	Date Submitted: 5/11/2020 8:33:01 PM

Commissioners and OEV Team, thank you for your passion and leadership in establishing the \$1 million LEAN grant. This "life-line" is greatly appreciated among those nonprofits who are eligible based on the guidelines set forth by OEV.

I am seeking your support in extending the deadline to apply for the LEAN grant in an effort to further educate the nonprofit sector of the recent changes to the qualifications. The original requirements dramatically reduced the number of nonprofits that were eligible to apply. For example, if the CEDR grant was limited to restaurants and hotels, then the demographics of those eligible businesses would be substantially smaller. So, although there are over 2,400 nonprofit organizations registered in Leon County, those who meet the review standards is substantially decreased with the limited classification.

On behalf of the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE), I respectfully request that you consider an extension of the deadline and/or consult with those leaders, who serve the nonprofit sector the eligibility classification. INIE, along with UPHS and COCA exist to serve this sector. It would be an honor to assist the OEV team in ensuring the success of LEAN.

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #1

Second and Final Public Hearing to Consider Adopting an
Ordinance Amending Section 10-6.660 of the Land Development
Code, Entitled “Lake Protection Node Zoning District”

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 1	Name: Alan Niedoroda and George E. Lewis II
	Address: 6000 Miller Landing CV
	Date Submitted: 5/10/2020 11:48:47 PM

Comments from the Friends of Lake Jackson on Lake Protection Node Amendment for 5-12-20 BCC Meeting:

There appears to be misunderstandings by the planning staff of our previous comments that have resulted in important requested changes being ignored in the present draft.

1) We requested that the provision in Section 2 – “Allowable District Location” – item d of the existing regulation which reads - “Shall be located in areas served by central sewer and central water” – needs to be stated in Section 2 of the proposed draft. This provision is key to maintaining the water quality restrictions and needs to be prominently stated near the beginning of the document.

2) We have requested a provision that proper functioning of the stormwater facility of proposed developments be demonstrated with testing before further construction precludes the possibility of facility design modifications. There have been at least three incidents involving developments along North Monroe where it was discovered that the retention ponds were unable to meet the post-storm volume recovery standards. In these three cases the County required the compliance demonstration provision that we are requesting. The initial stormwater facility designs of the SAMS Club conversion to a Walmart store and of the new Post Office were substantially modified in compliance with this provision. Infiltration testing as construction proceeded has required a substantial revision of the way stormwater is to be handled at the emergency medical facility under construction on North Monroe in spite of a similar provision recommended by the DRC and required by the Board. This provision should be required for all new development permitted in the LP Nodes.

Since our first comments were composed, we have had conversations with county personnel leading to a clearer understanding of the necessity of this provision in the new draft. The stormwater pond infiltration rate is a recurring problem in the western portion of the Lake Protection Area, and possibly elsewhere. In light of the recurrence of this issue it is clear that development in the Lake Protection Nodes should comply with this requested requirement.

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #22

Status Report on Virtual County Commission Meetings and
Additional Options for Public Participation

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 22	Name: Laura Newton
	Address: 4541 Pecan Branch
	Date Submitted: 5/11/2020 1:23:43 PM

I urge the board to postpone all major decisions until in person meetings can be held at which public participation will be safe and fair. Decisions that will affect the city and County for years to come and that are not pressing at this very moment, such as the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan Amendment TTA 2020 013 to expand the Urban Services Area to include 2,800 acres of land described as the Welaunee Arch, can be and should be delayed until full public discussion and comment can be conducted. Even if the Governor allows public meeting to resume there are many of us who would like to participate in real time but would not feel safe in any public setting because of our age, underlying physical condition, or compromised immune systems. The conditions you have outlined for in person meetings with citizens in the jury room, is not safe or fair and there is no urgent need to consider these amendments now that could possibly outweigh the need for citizens to be heard and to be safe. If you choose to continue conducting virtual County Commission meetings, there are many excellent approaches to modify current procedure to allow for direct citizen participation. It can be done, and it can be done well if you have the will to really include all citizens voices in the decision making process. Finally, I cannot imagine why staff would recommend virtual town hall meetings following each future County Commission meeting that is conducted remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. If decisions have already been made, public input would be meaningless. Why not conduct the town hall meetings before the County Commission Meeting, so that commissioners can hear from constituents before they make decisions.

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 22	Name: Deborah Lawson
	Address: 1011 Shalimar Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32312
	Date Submitted: 5/11/2020 4:19:15 PM

Commission Members,

I am a concerned citizen who is very upset with recent events that have occurred during this Covid-19 pandemic, specifically with meetings of the city commission where limited notice and virtually no real public comment was allowed. I urge you to adopt procedures for holding your county commission meetings that take advantage of available technology and will allow real time public participation. At a minimum, unless there is a serious time issue, decisions on major issues such as the comp plan should be postponed until we can return to business as usual.

By way of background, the city commission's action on April 8 in the midst of this pandemic, to amend the Welanuee Development Agreement is an attempt to bind both themselves and YOU, the county commission into adopting a comp plan amendment that is,

- 1) in direct contravention of our Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan and will promote urban sprawl,
- 2) requires a substantial amount of Blue Print monies that could be spent to help areas of our community that really need it,
- 3) is not timely as there is no plan to develop the land in the foreseeable future, and
- 4) is not beneficial to the citizens you represent.

Please, don't be fooled. The right-of-way land the city is getting in return is already part of the Urban Services Area and could be purchased for less than \$3 million rather than committing \$80 million dollars in infrastructure for what should remain rural land in the foreseeable future. Get all the facts before you take action on this critical issue!

Thank you, Deborah Lawson

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 22	Name: Jeff Blair
	Address: 1803 Old Fort Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301
	Date Submitted: 5/11/2020 4:32:42 PM

Hello Commissioners,

I have provided comments on the 5 Options provided by Staff regarding public participation at virtual County Commission meetings:

Option 1. Accept the status report and continue current practices regarding conducting virtual meetings and accepting citizen input until such time as Executive Order 20-69, or its successor, expires.

Comment: This will maintain the feel of decision-making without effective public participation. Meeting the letter of the law does not mean meeting the intent and spirit of the law.

The April 8, 2020 Virtual City Commission meeting where the Welaunee Urban Service development agreement was amended to require that the land donation for the I-10 Interchange and the ROW for the Northeast Gateway be tied to the expansion of the Urban Service Area boundary, was made without real-time public input.

Option 2. Return to hosting in-person County Commission meetings beginning with the May 26, 2020 meeting.

Comment: At this time I do not feel Option 2 is prudent, or fair to those of us who would like to attend but are older, or may have underlying health issues, or weakened immune systems. Many people who would like to attend would be excluded. The best option is to wait until it is actually safe to return to in-person County Commission meetings without the need for elaborate social distancing and health check measures, which I understand the need for since it is not yet actually safe to resume normal activities. Important policy decisions should not be made without ensuring the public understands exactly what is under consideration, and has an opportunity to comment

Option 3. Continue conducting virtual County Commission meetings and modify current procedure to allow for direct citizen participation.

Comment: This is better than the other options, but still not the best. Important decisions such as Comprehensive Plan amendments should only be made when citizens can attend and provide real-time comments. However, if this option is selected, all of the concerns expressed in staff's analysis can be easily addressed. A simple solution is to require those who wish to make public comment register with their name and address by 8:00 PM the day before. They would be admitted into a waiting room during the Commission meeting and their audio and video functions would only be activated at the appropriate time in the agenda and for the appropriate amount of time.

Option 4. Comment: Schedule virtual town hall meetings following each future County Commission meeting that is conducted remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is not an option to providing real-time public comment. What is the point of having town halls after the decisions are made? Real-time public comment should be made to the BOCC before decision-making. Having opportunities for commissioners to answer questions is great, but we also would like to make comments real-time during the meetings where decisions are made.

Option 5. Board direction.

Comment: Please direct staff to delay all important policy issues, especially Comprehensive Plan amendments until real-time meetings can occur that safely allow all citizens to attend.

Please direct staff to allow for real-time public participation for all Commission meetings going forward, irrespective of whether they are virtual or face-to-face meetings.

In addition, please direct staff to provide options at all future Commission meetings for the public to provide real-time comment including in-person and virtual to ensure fair access for all citizens.

Sincerely,

Jeff Blair

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 22	Name: Michael Rychlik
	Address: 9601-68 Miccosukee Rd.
	Date Submitted: 5/11/2020 5:50:45 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Since people are social distancing and staying closer to home, I believe that many of us elder folks will not want to attend meetings in person. You have big screens and video capabilities. I believe folks could register to speak virtually ahead of time and give their comments when their agenda item comes up and their name is called. Another option would be for folks to video their comments on their phones and send them in the day before to be played at the appropriate public comment time at the meeting. I am sure you have IT folks who could make either option work.

Respectfully,
Mike Rychlik

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 22	Name: Sarah Rychlik
	Address: 960-69 Miccosukee Road
	Date Submitted: 5/11/2020 6:11:13 PM

Regarding the meeting format that is most appropriate at this time. I agree with the notion that most decisions that can wait, should wait, during this time of pandemic. The pandemic limits the public involvement portion of our local local governments because of social distancing necessity that will linger even longer for people with vulnerabilities to the disease.

For instance, if a regular commission meeting were to be held tomorrow, or two weeks from tomorrow, I would not be able to attend because of my age and because I have a spouse with an underlying condition. Therefore, I would not have the opportunity to make a comment in real time that would be heard by the commissioners, staff and onlookers.

So- beyond that, I think the third option listed by staff could be tweaked and at some point be an effective compromise for the coming months.- Respectfully, Sarah Rychlik

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 22	Name: Scott Hannahs
	Address: 5051 Quail Valley Rd.
	Date Submitted: 5/11/2020 7:19:28 PM

Commissioners,

It is not only a state law but basic governmental ethics to have open meeting encouraging public participation. This of course needs to change and create new procedures during a public health emergency. Staff has presented a wide array of options to deal with this and awaits "Board Direction".

Primarily until face-to-face participation can be re-established all non-essential public hearings should be postponed. This should include all items that are not time sensitive and are not directly dealing with the current public health emergency. Like many of us whose life is on hold, government can pause as well until the public can participate freely. Even after the statewide emergency is lifted, there are recommended precautions for many citizens, especially those with immunosuppressed systems, and those over 60 years of age. Asking those people to risk their lives to participate in government is just flat out wrong. Therefore option 1 and 2 are not viable good government options. Option 4 also only provides

Of the options presented, option 3 allows the most public participation for meetings. Town halls after the decision is made are not useful and not timely participation in the process. The current practice of merely mentioning that some input was received does not have the impact or presence that a direct presentation to the commissioners has. Virtual participation can be organized and conducted well and meetings of many participants have been handled that I have personally attended.

In summary, I ask you to delay public hearings when possible, and support option 3 (zoom meetings) for as long as a health risk to a significant proportion of Leon county citizens exists.

<please present this message live to the commissioners>

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 22	Name: Rob Lombardo
	Address: 9601 MICCOSUKEE RD LOT 54
	Date Submitted: 5/12/2020 8:56:38 AM

Comments on the 5 Options Provided By Staff:

1. Accept the status report and continue current practices regarding conducting virtual meetings and accepting citizen input until such time as Executive Order 20-69, or its successor, expires.

This option will not ensure public participation on important development issues. Meeting the letter of the law does not mean meeting the intent and spirit of the law.

The City Commissions decision to amend a significant development request was not made with public input. Shameful!!

2. Return to hosting in-person County Commission meetings beginning with the May 26, 2020 meeting.

Covid-19 is not under control in Leon County. There are many newly found infected people every day. This option would ignore the basic science of social distancing and the success we have had with this policy. Many people who would like to attend would be excluded.

3. Continue conducting virtual County Commission meetings and modify current procedure to allow for direct citizen participation.

This is not adequate for presentations involving significant expenditure of public funds.

4. Schedule virtual town hall meetings following each future County Commission meeting that is conducted remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We need real-time public comment on important issues involving spending of MILLIONS of dollars in public funds.

5. Board direction.

The best option is to wait until it is actually safe to return to in-person County Commission meetings without the need for elaborate social distancing and health check measures. Important policy decisions should not be made without ensuring the public understands exactly what is under consideration, and has an opportunity to comment

Please direct staff to delay all important policy issues, especially Comprehensive Plan amendments until real-time meetings can occur that safely allow all citizens to attend. Please direct staff to also allow for real-time public participation for all Commission meetings going forward, irrespective of whether they are virtual or face-to-face meetings. In addition, please direct staff to provide options at all future Commission meetings for the public to provide real-time comment including in-person and virtual.

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #23

Status Report on the Development of a Land Management Plan
for Upper Lake Lafayette Lake Bottom

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 23	Name: Gerry Miller
	Address: 462 GROVELAND HILLS DR
	Date Submitted: 5/10/2020 1:47:10 PM

Good afternoon...

My name is Gerry Miller, I live at 462 Groveland Hills Dr. on the eastern shore of Upper Lake Lafayette. As some Commissions may know, I have been involved in protecting Upper Lake Lafayette and have spent a number of hours with County, City, Blueprint and Tall Timbers staff to better understand how to manage the beautiful natural resources of Upper Lake Lafayette. I spoke at the December 10th BOCC meeting regarding the request for Tall Timber's proposal... for a controlled burn of the Lake Lafayette lake bottom. At that time, staff were instructed to explore hiring a consultant to develop a "land management plan" for Lake Lafayette.

As a result of that directive, County staff have conducted site visits along with FWC staff members to assess the current condition of the lake bottom and surrounding areas. I have been involved in these site visits, as well as spoken with local environmental NGOs to personally understand the current condition of the lake and the most appropriate management plan for the unique habitat of Upper Lake Lafayette. I applaud the choice of involving FWC's Office of Conservation Planning Services (OCPS). I met with OCPS staff on May 5th to conduct another helpful site visit to the lake bottom and the southern shore of the lake. However, as I understand the scope of work the OCPS is considering, WATER is NOT a component of the proposed plan.

Upper Lake Lafayette is a prairie lake... it occasionally fills with water which evaporates and drains into the Lafayette Sink and into the Floridan Aquifer over time. The plan should take into consideration the role water has in this unique habitat--water needs to be a component of a comprehensive, effective management plan. In addition, I believe environmental NGOs, such as the Sierra Club, Apalachee Audubon Society, as well as the County's Water Resources Committee could be recruited to review and comment on a draft plan. Their insights would only strengthen and compliment the hard work of the FWC's Office of Conservation Planning Services. I am sure these groups have often worked together for the common good of our natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Gerry Miller

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 23	Name: Terry Ryan
	Address: 2538 Stonegate Dr
	Date Submitted: 5/10/2020 3:44:28 PM

A land management plan for ULL should include more issues in particular water quality as it is a direct conduit to our drinking water supply. That's why FDEP and others should be involved to comprehensively address water quality thru the SWIM program. You can't do a comprehensive land management plan without addressing the inputs from the watershed that feeds ULL. A piecemeal approach is not what is needed!

Go back to the drawing board and include a water management plan, also.

Board of County Commissioners, May 12, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 23	Name: Grant Gelhardt
	Address: 1906 Chuli Nene
	Date Submitted: 5/11/2020 11:23:02 AM

To County Commissioners

Subject

Agenda Item #23

Status Report on the Development of a Land Management Plan for Upper Lake Lafayette Lake Bottom

The Big Bend Sierra Club is glad to see that Leon County is proposing to develop a management plan for Upper Lake Lafayette. The Upper Lake Lafayette Management Plan should be developed, to ensure that the site is managed appropriately and contributes to the protection of the water quality and wildlife habitat in Leon County. This parcel is a critical link in the greenway system, wildlife corridor and aquifer recharge activity in Leon County and the Big Bend Area.

We recommend that the County move forward with an agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a management plan for this area. We also request that the management plan be developed in conjunction with other appropriate interested parties, including the City of Tallahassee, North Florida Water Management District, Big Bend Sierra Club, Tall Timbers, Buck Lake Alliance, Apalachee Audubon, and Defenders of Wildlife. The development of the plan will need to consider how this parcel contributes to the greenway, wildlife corridor, and aquifer recharge. The plan also needs to take into consideration on how adjacent activities may have on the functioning of the ecosystem and existing and potential activities on the parcel.

We agree that a plan is needed, now it is to ensure that the parcel is integrated into our greenway network, wildlife corridor and water quality protection plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Big Bend Sierra Club is looking forward in being included in the team developing and reviewing the management plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 850.274.4951

Grant Gelhardt, Chair

Big Bend Sierra Club