

Citizen Comments for the January 26, 2021 Meeting Agenda

The following Citizen Comments were received for
Non Agendaed Item

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Non Agendaed Item	Name: Alesha Waller
	Address: 8701 Freedom Road
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 6:31:00 PM

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of Country Commissioner on which I am now about to enter. So, help me God."

Do these words sound familiar? As you all know, prior to entering your position each Commissioner vowed to "support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Florida." nothing more, nothing less. I am here today to argue that the Mask Ordinance currently in place is in violation of the Constitution and is in opposition to the oath that each of you claim to uphold.

Of the Florida state Constitution is clarifies our **Basic rights**. In these terms:

"All natural persons, female and male alike, are equal before the law and have inalienable rights, among which are the right to enjoy and defend life and liberty, to pursue happiness, to be rewarded for industry, and to acquire, possess and protect property. No person shall be deprived of any right because of race, religion, national origin, or physical disability."

Masking your constituents violates each person's right to enjoy life and liberty, limits their ability to pursue happiness and in addition it encourages others to deprive their fellow man rights potentially because of religion and/or physical disability. No longer those who believe masking is a risk to their personal health, does not line up with their religious standards or cannot mask due to physical disability can they easily or freely move about Leon County without harassment.

The enforcement of Masking Religious entities also is prohibited by the Florida State constitution.

describes Religious freedom as such, —There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof.

Requiring face coverings in churches around the county is essentially "prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof." As people are being asked to cover their faces during worship muffles their voices, restricts their speech, and can press them to go against their religious convictions.

In addition, **the Florida State Constitution section 6: article VIII section (j) states that:**

(j)"Persons violating county ordinances shall be prosecuted and punished as provided by law."

The Florida State Statue 876.12 Wearing mask, hood, or other device on public way.—No person or persons

over 16 years of age shall, while wearing any mask, hood, or device whereby any portion of the face is so hidden, concealed, or covered as to conceal the identity of the wearer, enter upon, or be or appear upon any lane, walk, alley, street, road, highway, or other public way in this state.

Though you may believe this Statue does not apply to this particular issue it isn't within the Commissioners responsibility or duty to decide whether or not current statues should be upheld. It is your responsibility to uphold the law and the constitution of the state of Florida as is.

Furthermore, **SECTION 23. of the Florida State Constitution addresses the issue Right of privacy.**—Every natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person's private life...

With these unconstitutional Mask Mandates in place the government is encouraging people to intrude into other citizens private life when they can not mask or choose not to, due personal and/or health reasons. Moreover, HIPPA laws are being violated daily as people are being asked to give up their medical information to

simply walk into a store to get necessities.

With the utmost respect I beg each of you to consider your role as County Commissioners. Have you been making decisions for this community based off the Constitution and your oath of office? As clearly stated previously when it comes to the Mask Mandate, I do not believe this to be so. Thank you for your time and please reconsider your decision on this matter.

-Alesha Waller

The following Citizen Comments were received for
Item 12 - Homeless Encampments Status Report

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 12 - Homeless Encampments Status Report	Name: Rodney MacKinnon
	Address: 1438 Lucy Street
	Date Submitted: 1/26/2021 8:28:00 AM

Good evening, I'd like to strongly object to the continuing operation of the "temporary" homeless shelter at 1709 Mahan Drive. I live nearby and since it has opened up, we have seen an increase in litter (i.e., used alcohol containers) on our street. Additionally, I have three young daughters who stay home during the day and am no longer comfortable having them play in the front yard due to the sex offenders at the shelter. Surely there is a less residential area these people can be moved to.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 12 - Homeless Encampments Status Report	Name: Brian Webb
	Address: 2487 Elfinwing Lane
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 6:27:00 PM

How is City Walk able to stay open a homeless shelter when the City and County both know that they have not secured or even applied for the necessary permits required to operate a homeless shelter to include sexual offenders?

It is accurate that Renee Miller apparently stated "that they have now secured a project manager to secure that the shelter has necessary permits and is compliant with the City's codes"?

If so why are the allowed continue to operate until such time while putting the neighborhood families and businesses at harm?

Do the commissioners not feel this is breach of their responsibility for them to inform the public who rely on government to keep their citizens informed and safe?

The following Citizen Comments were received for
Item 23 - Sale and Purchase of Land to Relocate Proposed Northeast
Park

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 23 - Sale and Purchase of Land to Relocate Proposed Northeast Park	Name: John Bailey
	Address: 5855 Centerville Road
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 7:07:00 PM

Dear Commissioners,

We, at CeRCA, are glad that the commission is moving forward with the active recreational park in NE Tallahassee!

CeRCA is very much in support of moving the park to Welaunee and believe that it is a excellent location that will benefit the local community greatly.

Sincerely,

John D. Bailey

Centerville Rural Community Association President

The following Citizen Comments were received for
Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's
Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Terri Sue Aldridge Lawson
	Address: 501 E. Tennessee Street, Suite A, Tallahassee, FL 32308
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 5:41:00 PM

Dear Leon County Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding Agenda Item #25 on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 board meeting. Today, I write to you to ask that you adopt Option # 3 or 4 provided for Agenda Item #25.

For the past 53 years, Springtime Tallahassee has been a driving force in showcasing Tallahassee in all its splendor. Over the years, our annual event—The Springtime Tallahassee Festival—has grown from a small parade to a two-day festival that includes a Friday night MusicFest followed by our Grand Parade and Jubilee in the Park on Saturday. This weekend event has become an award-winning festival with a \$6-9 million economic impact for Tallahassee-Leon County.

As we know, 2020 was an incredibly challenging year for all of us in a variety of ways. Like everyone else, we were faced with making tough decisions, including the cancellation of the 2020 festival two weeks prior to the kickoff.

Now, almost a full year later when we all thought COVID-19 would be a memory, we are still facing the virus and its impacts.

Safety is our number one concern as we look to host the 2021 Springtime Tallahassee Festival. Our Board of Directors voted earlier this month to move the festival from the end of March to May 14-15th due to the current COVID-19 data and the roll out of the vaccine. We have developed a multi-level contingency plan for the festival in addition to a COVID Safety Protocol plan that continues to be modified based on new data and recommendations from the medical community.

The festival is outdoors creating a safer environment for attendees. As mentioned previously, we have developed a COVID safety protocol plan. That plan includes increased space between vendors, a pre-registered ticketed MusicFest event to enable us to properly space family groups, increased hand washing and sanitizing stations throughout the festival event to name a few. Additionally, we will require all Springtime Tallahassee Festival staff, volunteers, and vendors to wear face masks while strongly encouraging festival attendees to wear appropriate face coverings. Finally, we are setting the stage for various components of the festival to be hybrid—both in-person and virtual. For those that do not feel comfortable coming to the festival, we can still bring parts of the festival to them while promoting our All-American city.

To go another year without the festival would have tremendous ramifications for our nonprofit organization's short- and long-term sustainability. Another year without a much-loved event that has become part of the fabric of our Tallahassee community would be painful. Our community is looking for something positive in this dark time—Springtime Tallahassee Festival can help provide that light and joy.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Terri Sue Aldridge Lawson

Executive Director, Springtime Tallahassee

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Ben Betts
	Address: 3529 Gallagher Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32309
	Date Submitted: 1/26/2021 9:18:00 AM

Commissioners,

I am respectfully writing to request your support on Option 3 for Item 25. As director of the ASG Invitational, we have annually run a successful youth soccer tournament at a large outdoor venue for ten years.

The size of our venue(s) allows for youth athletes to get outside and participate in an activity that is both helpful to the physical and psychological well-being of each player in this time of uncertainty. It provides a small amount of normalcy with friends in an outdoor environment where players are not close by each other and spectators have plenty of outdoor space to socially distance and watch youth play a game they love.

Our event staff is working hand in hand with facility administrators to build a safe event plan based on CDC recommended COVID-19 guidelines. Tournament staff has also visited other similar sized events held in Jacksonville, Tampa and Foley, AL., drawing on best practices from each of those events to incorporate into our 2021 event plan. The event safety plan will continue to be modified in preparation for the event.

Key points

- Outdoor venue(s)
- Players are not in constant close contact during a game
- Spectators will be spaced out and asked not to gather together during games
- Safety plan will be utilized with facilities to ensure a properly clean and sanitized venue.
- Safety plan will be utilized to ensure players, spectators and staff remain socially distant and encourage the continued use of masks when unable to maintain social distance and/or when inside facility building or restrooms.
- The tournament will bring visitors to the event, allowing hotels to experience increased occupancy for the weekend.

We ask the board to approve Option 3 that allows for the funding of tourism grants to resume, ensuring events can return and help our local community begin to move to a changed and new normal.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Sharon Bragg
	Address: 1136 Spinney Court
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 5:57:00 PM

Dear Leon County Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding Agenda Item #25 on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 board meeting. Today, I write to you to ask that you adopt Option # 3 or 4 provided for Agenda Item #25.

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Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Bob Braman
	Address: 5528 Pimlico Drive
	Date Submitted: 1/23/2021 6:10:00 PM

We really need the Grant money in order to put on the FSU Relays. The event has no other sponsorship, no ticket sales and only entry fees in order to put it on. 10 NCAA Division 1 teams will participate with about 50 athletes per team.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: John Allen Corry
	Address: 3508 oak hill trail
	Date Submitted: 1/22/2021 1:35:00 PM

Approving use of county parks during covid is extremely important to many citizens! We need ways to reduce stress an get exercise and stay active! There minimal risk in an outdoor environment and by maintaining 6' from others and wearing a mask we should be allowed to use public park. There's also valuable tourism dollars that would be lost from our already struggling businesses.... spend some time at tom brown park around the new pump track or the RC track and you will meet many people who travels hours to come enjoy our parks! I've met guys from Miami that tracked here for the weekend just to ride the bike trails and the pump track for the weekend! There's groups of traveling RC racers that travel 2-3 hrs to come spend money in our area and take part in RC car races! I understand that we need to take precautions and stop the spread of corona but we also don't need to strangle our local economy any more than it's already been.

Thank you for your consideration.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Kelly Dozier
	Address: 2101 E Randolph Cir, Tallahassee, FL. 32308
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 3:48:00 PM

The Chain of Parks Art Festival (CoP) is seeking support from the commission to fully fund the Legacy Events for the Spring events of 2021. We believe that a second cancelation will cause severe damage to the festival's ability to continue. Our sponsors and supporters stayed with us through 2020's cancelation, however, we fear that they will not be able to continue through another cancelation.

The CoP team has gone to great lengths to plan a Covid-19 safe festival for our community. These adjustments include shrinking attendance by 65%, reducing and spacing artists and vendors, requiring face masks, adjusting to a FREE ticketed event with time slots and limited entrances, directional walk ways, and remove key gathering locations. Additional details can be seen at ChainofParks.com

Even though the 2021 event will be a much smaller event, we believe it is an investment in the future. It is vital for the CoP to provide a version of our festival in order to provide continuity for the public and our organization. We have consistently demonstrated that the economic impact of this event far exceeds the grant funds utilized.

Our festival is a key in financially supporting artists and food vendors, many of which depend on us for their survival. In order to plan this festival, commitments and expenses must be incurred well before the festival happens, and often happens before funding commitments are completed.

An additional note: because we are a fine art festival and our main focus is art, culture and heritage, the visitors that come to our festival will likely be more inclined to follow our guidelines and safety precautions. This is an outdoor event and with strict guidelines, we believe we can provide a safe event that will benefit our community, artists, LeMoyne Arts, city and county.

Thank you for your consideration!

The Chain of Parks Art Festival team

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Elizabeth Emmanuel
	Address: 300 S. Duval St. Unit 504
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 4:38:00 PM

Agenda Item #25

Commissioners, thank you for your leadership during trying times. The decisions you all have to make tonight about our Communities safety are not easy decisions. The report for Agenda Item #25 is a complex, thorough, and well written example of the weight of your decisions on both the economic success of our community, and its safety.

As staff aptly stated, the festival and leisure events ARE a major contributor to the economic and social fabric of our community. While nationally we've got more reasons to hope we can unify, the fractures of our society have been driven deep over the past year, with no shared community experiences to bring us together to heal. We all have so much work to do to repair and rebuild trust in each other and community. Arts and Cultural Events were always a way to accomplish this.

I humbly request you all allow funding for outdoor community events in the Spring on behalf of our downtown businesses. Our Downtown is the host of many of these wonderful community events. The foot traffic brought in is incredibly helpful to the restaurants, hotels, and offices in the area. It allows us to showcase our well suited outdoor infrastructure with its public parks and amphitheaters, contributes greatly to the TDT taxes with nearly 1,000 hotel rooms, and generates business for over 30 restaurants in the area.

2020, and 2021 have nearly broken the heart of our community. Because of COVID-19 We've seen thriving hotels go from 300 to 2 employees, slowly and safely coming back online now. Restaurants that used to staff 100 people are hardly at 50, with revenues still down 50%, these are often entities that employ ALICE populations, meaning less tips, less income, and more disparity. Outdoor downtown events help keep 25,000 people working downtown employed.

2020 and 2021 have been difficult for us because of the negative news regarding rallies, protests, civil unrest, and insurrection at our Nation's Capitol. While most events at the Florida Capitol have been peaceful, the negative perception has damaged our safe streets. This affects visitors perception of our community, greatly. Outdoor downtown events help dispel the unfairly negative headlines clouding our community.

2020 and 2021 have shown us we are resilient. It has been impressive to watch our businesses innovate, the workforce adapt to a virtual environment, our events prioritize safety like never before, and our citizens engage in local politics and policy with zeal. Outdoor downtown events will continue show how resilient we are with innovative, safe, new practices.

Funding the events who have proven they are capable of adapting to COVID procedures is incredibly beneficial to the success of the events, as your staff mentioned in their report. If you chose not to fund the events, it is likely some will cancel- but many will still happen. Reduced budgets reduce quality. To put on COVID safe events, budgets are increasing drastically, with less options for sponsors. Having these events without Visit Tallahassee's grant puts organizations in a bad financial position.

As an entity that has held events consistently throughout the pandemic, we have seen much smaller crowd sizes for our free events than we would have anticipated. Attendees have followed our COVID precautions with respect. We have been glad to see reduced crowd sizes, even on top of the reductions in scope for safety, as it ensures safer operations.

The City's Parks and Recreation staff have handled the changes and now the ability to allow community events in public spaces wonderfully. They are working closely with event organizers and it has been better communication and dialogue than we have ever experienced- we're so grateful for their dedication to community safety. Not only do event organizers have to submit COVID plans to Visit

Tallahassee, but the City of Tallahassee; it's a great deal of effort to meet everyone's requirements, but it is an important part of this process that has added more accountability and safety standards. Public Safety is forefront in every decision made by the City, county, and outdoor event organizers.

You all have placed your trust well in the staff of Visit Tallahassee and the TDT. They have been given difficult decisions to make as well. Allowing the amazing staff at Visit Tallahassee and Tourist Development Board to continue to allocate funding based on the quality of the proposals by organizations is a wise move, procedurally. They have dedicated their time and talent to reviewing the proposals and ranking them, and the meetings and communication with organizers. Allowing the payments to be made honors their time and effort, too.

As it is in the best interest of Tallahassee Downtown's businesses, restaurants, and hotels, our residents and workforce, we hope you will allow funding to be allocated to the outdoor events proven to generate economic benefit for all of our community. I look forward to seeing you all at these fun and SAFE outdoor events in our downtown. Thank you for your consideration.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: William Faulkner
	Address: 1102 victory garden drive
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 6:22:00 PM

Leon County Commissioners

As a resident and the incoming President of Springtime Tallahassee, I beg of you to consider funding of special events. This is one of the ways we can give back to our communities and our children. We have put on this festival for the past 53 years with an economic impact of \$ 6-9 million dollars for our local economy. As you know, 2020 was a challenging year for all of us. We have moved the festival date to May 14-15 in hopes of bringing it to life.

Thanks again for your consideration.

William "Trey" Faulkner

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Shawn Frase
	Address: 320 Starmount dr
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 8:02:00 PM

Time to get back to allowing us to use parks for events and gatherings. The risk is microscopic and survival rate is just shy of 100%. We need to stop pushing fear and do what the science shows. The risk is almost non-existent and time to get back to living. Let's stop costing local businesses money and get back to work. Events, gatherings, and nightlife make tallahassee great again.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Gary Griffin
	Address: 856 N Forest Dr
	Date Submitted: 1/21/2021 1:23:00 PM

As President of the Friends of Maclay Gardens, Inc. and chairperson for the May, 2021 Maclay Tour of Gardens, (an event approved for grant assistance subject to the current limitations), I support the Commission's approval of Option 1 as recommended.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Robert Hicks
	Address: 6364 Belgrande Drive
	Date Submitted: 1/23/2021 2:26:00 PM

The Tallahassee Comets, Inc. (Comets), is a Florida non-profit organization that concentrates on four strategic areas, which are: competitive teams, **event management**, financial coaching, and community outreach. The event management area provides this organization the opportunity to host multiple tournament events in our great city of Tallahassee! These tournament events attract teams from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and other southeastern states. Beyond these team's hotel rooms cost/tax, they create local economic impact to our city, which we always need and now even more. Covid-19 Protocols will be fully implemented in accordance with appropriate guidelines.

Amanda Heidecker's team is efficient and effective in attracting and supporting events to Tallahassee. The tourism grant program supports organizations like ours with hosting events, in which is a very competitive market across our country. We enjoy working with Amanda's team and appreciate the work efforts displayed. Although our organization has expanded our reach to other cities within Florida, we remain home-based in Tallahassee and host 8-10 events here locally annually. Other Florida local communities are aggressive with their support in luring organizations like ours to host events in their city. Amanda's team needs your support so that Tallahassee can remain competitive.

The Comets organization strongly recommend support of Option #1.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Robert Hicks
	Address: 6364 Belgrand Drive
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 8:49:00 PM

The Tallahassee Comets, Inc. (Comets), is a Florida non-profit organization that concentrates on four strategic areas, which are: competitive teams, event management, financial coaching, and community outreach. The event management area provides this organization the opportunity to host multiple tournament events in our great city of Tallahassee! These tournament events attract teams from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and other southeastern states. Beyond these team's hotel rooms cost/tax, they create local economic impact to our city, which we always need and now even more. Covid-19 Protocols will be fully implemented in accordance with appropriate guidelines.

Amanda Heidecker's team is efficient and effective in attracting and supporting events to Tallahassee. The tourism grant program supports organizations like ours with hosting events, in which is a very competitive market across our country. We enjoy working with Amanda's team and appreciate the work efforts displayed. Although our organization has expanded our reach to other cities within Florida, we remain home-based in Tallahassee and host 8-10 events here locally annually. Other Florida local communities are aggressive with their support in luring organizations like ours to host events in their city. Amanda's team needs your support so that Tallahassee can remain competitive.

The Comets organization strongly recommend support of Option #1. We humbly ask for your consideration and support of Option #3. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at 850.559.1351.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Robert Hicks
	Address: 6364 Belgrande Dr.
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 7:23:00 PM

I do need to update my recommendation from option #1 to option #3.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Joel Jarrett
	Address: 6532 Montrose Trail
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 7:34:00 PM

Dear Leon County Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding Agenda Item #25 on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 board meeting. Today, I write to you to ask that you adopt Option # 3 or 4 provided for Agenda Item #25.

As the current President of of Springtime Tallahassee for the past 53 years we have been a driving force in showcasing Tallahassee in all its splendor. Over the years, our annual event—The Springtime Tallahassee Festival—has grown from a small parade to a two-day festival that includes a Friday night MusicFest followed by our Grand Parade and Jubilee in the Park on Saturday. This weekend event has become an award-winning festival with a \$6-9 million economic impact for Tallahassee-Leon County.

As we know, 2020 was an incredibly challenging year for all of us in a variety of ways. Like everyone else, we were faced with making tough decisions, including the cancellation of the 2020 festival two weeks prior to the kickoff.

Now, almost a full year later when we all thought COVID-19 would be a memory, we are still facing the virus and its impacts.

Safety is our number one concern as we look to host the 2021 Springtime Tallahassee Festival. Our Board of Directors voted earlier this month to move the festival from the end of March to May 14-15th due to the current COVID-19 data and the roll out of the vaccine. We have developed a multi-level contingency plan for the festival in addition to a COVID Safety Protocol plan that continues to be modified based on new data and recommendations from the medical community.

The festival is outdoors creating a safer environment for attendees. As mentioned previously, we have developed a COVID safety protocol plan. That plan includes increased space between vendors, a pre-registered ticketed MusicFest event to enable us to properly space family groups, increased hand washing and sanitizing stations throughout the festival event to name a few. Additionally, we will require all Springtime Tallahassee Festival staff, volunteers, and vendors to wear face masks while strongly encouraging festival attendees to wear appropriate face coverings. Finally, we are setting the stage for various components of the festival to be hybrid—both in-person and virtual. For those that do not feel comfortable coming to the festival, we can still bring parts of the festival to them while promoting our All-American city.

To go another year without the festival would have tremendous ramifications for our nonprofit organization's short- and long-term sustainability. Another year without a much-loved event that has become part of the fabric of our Tallahassee community would be painful. Our community is looking for something positive in this dark time—Springtime Tallahassee Festival can help provide that light and joy.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Joel Jarrett,

President of Springtime Tallahassee

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Ken Martin
	Address: 1205 Conservancy Dr E
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 11:02:00 PM

Please continue to support our local festival, Like Springtime Tallahassee and the music festival. We really need this to brighten life.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Ann Melder
	Address: 1242 Ronds Pointe Drive E
	Date Submitted: 1/25/2021 6:16:00 PM

Dear Leon County Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding Agenda Item #25 on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 board meeting. Today, I write to you to ask that you adopt Option # 3 or 4 provided for Agenda Item #25.

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Safety is our number one concern as we look to host the 2021 Springtime Tallahassee Festival. Our Board of Directors voted earlier this month to move the festival from the end of March to May 14-15th due to the current COVID-19 data and the roll out of the vaccine. We have developed a multi-level contingency plan for the festival in addition to a COVID Safety Protocol plan that continues to be modified based on new data and recommendations from the medical community.

The festival is outdoors creating a safer environment for attendees. As mentioned previously, we have developed a COVID safety protocol plan. That plan includes increased space between vendors, a pre-registered ticketed MusicFest event to enable us to properly space family groups, increased hand washing and sanitizing stations throughout the festival event to name a few. Additionally, we will require all Springtime Tallahassee Festival staff, volunteers, and vendors to wear face masks while strongly encouraging festival attendees to wear appropriate face coverings. Finally, we are setting the stage for various components of the festival to be hybrid—both in-person and virtual. For those that do not feel comfortable coming to the festival, we can still bring parts of the festival to them while promoting our All-American city.

To go another year without the festival would have tremendous ramifications for our nonprofit organization's short- and long-term sustainability. Another year without a much-loved event that has become part of the fabric of our Tallahassee community would be painful. Our community is looking for something positive in this dark time—Springtime Tallahassee Festival can help provide that light and joy.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Board of County Commissioners, January 26, 2021 Citizen Comments

Item 25 - Use of County Parks During COVID-19 and the County's Sponsorship of Visitor-Generating Community and Athletic Events	Name: Fred Varn
	Address: 1405 Manor House Drive
	Date Submitted: 1/26/2021 9:21:00 AM

Dear Leon County Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding Agenda Item #25 on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 board meeting. Today, I write to you to ask that you adopt Option # 3 or 4 provided for Agenda Item #25.

Now, almost a full year later when we all thought COVID-19 would be a memory, we are still facing the virus and its impacts. COVID permitting, Tallahassee is in need of it's own booster shot. In conjunction with the Springtime Tallahassee Festival, the MusicFest on the Friday before the big celebration, brings lots of enjoyment and fun for our residents. Not to mention income to the county in the form of tax dollars.

We are in the midst of challenging times and we all need to pull together. Funding this event would certainly go a long way to easing the pain for all of us.

Our Board of Directors voted earlier this month to move the festival from the end of March to May 14-15th due to the current COVID-19 data and the roll out of the vaccine. Hopefully, the vaccine will work and this date will allow us to get back to some form of normalcy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

H. Fred Varn

Springtime Tallahassee Board Member