

MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

COMMITTEE NAME:	Conservation 20/20 Land Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee (CLASAC)		
DATE:	July 21, 2021		
LOCATION:	Administration East Building, Room 118, 2201 Second Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901		
AGENDA ITEM 1:	CALL TO ORDER – After a quorum had been achieved, Carl Barraco called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.		
DULY ADVERTISED:	Y		QUORUM: Y
COMMITTEE MEMBERS: PRESENT – 8	Carl Barraco, Derrick Botana, Christie Knight, John Paul, Christopher Robben, Elaine Sarlo, Sawyer Smith, Rae Ann Wessel		
ABSENT – 7	Karen Address, Carlene Brennan, Sharail Cluck, Ron Inge, Savannah Nease, Shane Spring, Andrew Sund		
STAFF PRESENT:	Marla Britton, Michael Jacob, Jesse Lavender, Reneé Moneta, Tommy Sandvig, Roland Ottolini,		
NOTES:			
AGENDA ITEM 2:	APPROVE MINUTES – March 17, 2021		
MOTION BY/SECONDED:	Rae Ann Wessel/Sawyer Smith		
MOTION:	Approve the March 17, 2021, Meeting Minutes as submitted.		
DISCUSSION SUMMARY:	There was none.		
VOTE:	<i>Unanimous.</i>		
AGENDA ITEM 3:	PUBLIC COMMENT		
DISCUSSION SUMMARY:	Holly Schwartz , representing Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation regarding a question on Eden Oak; and, Eyes on 20/20 regarding an update on a policy for seeking out properties. Jesse Lavender provided an update on staff initiated projects. Some of the more recent staff initiated projects that have come through may not necessarily be willing sellers but are other acquisition opportunities through potential tax deeds sales. Mr. Lavender advised that he, along with County Lands and Natural Resources Directors' meet regularly to discuss potential projects.		
AGENDA ITEM 4:	WELCOME NEW CLASAC MEMBER		
4A.:	Elaine Sarlo		
DISCUSSION SUMMARY:	Elaine Sarlo introduced herself. Ms. Sarlo was excited to be here for her first meeting. She is a fourth generation resident, and very passionate about the outdoors and the environment. CLASAC members and staff also introduced themselves.		
AGENDA ITEM 5:	ACQUISITION REVIEW CRITERIA		
5A:	NOMINATION 609		
MOTION BY/SECONDED:	Rae Ann Wessel/Sawyer Smith		
MOTION:	Approve the Negotiated Purchase Agreement for Nomination 609.		
DISCUSSION SUMMARY:	Marla Britton , Land Manager with County Lands, requested that any "no" votes be provided with a reason. She provided an overview of the 22-acre parcel located west of US-41, south of Pine Island Road and north of Pondella Road in the City of Cape Coral. The property is in close proximity to Judd Creek Park. The property scored 44 points out of 100. The purchase price is \$1.485 million which is just above the lowest of the two appraisals. The property consists of cabbage palm hammock, mesic flatwoods, pine-mesic flatwoods, oak, mixed hardwoods-coniferous, wetland forested mixed, vegetated non-forested wetlands, and oak scrub. Ms. Britton provided clarification with regard to standard language in the County's purchase agreement regarding oil, gas, and mineral rights, in response to a question from a CLASAC Member. The contract language does not state whether or not there are oil, gas, and mineral rights or		

	leases, but that the seller is obligated to perform these releases as part of the agreement. There was a question regarding connection from the nominated property to the existing County park. Staff noted there is no connection between the properties. Discussion ensued regarding additional parcels that were removed early on in the review process which caused concern from one of the committee members. Carl Barraco asked who the seller was? Staff responded that the seller is VK Judd Creek, LLC. Having no further questions the motion was called and individual votes were taken. Derrick Botana voted no and indicated his reasoning was that he didn't see a true benefit to the overall future surrounding this property as it currently stands.
VOTE	The motion carried with one no vote (Derrick Botana).
AGENDA ITEM 6A:	Oak Hammock Preserve Update
DISCUSSION SUMMARY:	Jesse Lavender provided an update with regard to this new preserve (acquired January 2021) and its initial phase for recreational amenities. He explained there is a Boy Scout proposing to perform his Eagle Scout project on this property. Mr. Lavender explained the project will be located along Carter Road, and will utilize an existing service driveway entrance. The project involves putting in a 20x20 foot shelter, and, with the help of engineers and contractors, include an at grade shell trail and parking area. This project will provide an immediate opportunity for people to visit this preserve when this project is completed. Mr. Lavender mentioned that all of Parks and Recreation's trail systems are proposed to be enhanced over the next five years where feasible. He encouraged members to visit the preserves.
6B:	West Marsh Preserve Update
DISCUSSION SUMMARY:	Jesse Lavender advised that Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (LAMSID) completed a water storage project on West Marsh Preserve. He noted West Marsh Preserve has a little over 2 miles of trails. However when combined with the trails of the adjacent preserves, South and Harns Marsh, there are 9 miles available to hike/bike. He explained, in a future fiscal year (23/24), there will be a greenway constructed along the Greenmile Canal to connect West Marsh/Harns Marsh to the Lehigh Trailhead Park. This will be a significant trail to hike/bike in the future. Parks and Recreation is asking for a \$5 million budget towards this trail system enhancement initiative over the next 3½ years for design and construction of trail systems.
6C:	Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve Update
DISCUSSION SUMMARY:	Jesse Lavender advised there was an semi-annual update report received for this preserve in June. Mr. Lavender explained that in May we had two more wells installed to continue monitoring arsenic within the aquifers on site. The report will be distributed immediately following this meeting. The trend has been consistent over the last four years of monitoring, and as such the County is moving toward a regulatory closure of the site. The previous arsenic contaminant plume is stable and no longer migrating. The County's intent is to provide necessary paperwork to DEP to have a regulatory closing due to the stable findings.
AGENDA ITEM 7:	OTHER BUSINESS
7A:	Committee Member Items
DISCUSSION SUMMARY:	Rae Ann Wessel asked about the tax deed sales near GS-10 and Eden Oak. Staff advised the tax deed sales are unsecure and take time. Ms. Wessel further inquired about an update on Eden Oak. Marla Britton noted staff has been informed the owner of Eden Oak has a new attorney.

	While the County remains in active negotiation, information regarding any offer is confidential. Ms. Wessel asked if there was any way we could receive meeting backup information at least a week in advance? Staff will do our best to get information to the committee as far in advance as possible. Rae Ann Wessel also stated it is helpful when committee members are invited to site visits, explaining the site visits allow committee members to have a better understanding of the properties being reviewed.
AGENDA ITEM 8	SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT
DISCUSSION SUMMARY:	There was none.
AGENDA ITEM 9:	SET NEXT MEETING DATE TIME:
DISCUSSION SUMMARY:	The next meeting will be tentatively Wednesday, August 18, 2021. <i>This meeting was subsequently cancelled due to lack of business.</i>
AGENDA ITEM 10:	ADJOURN: Carl Barraco adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:	Reneé Moneta