

May 28, 2019

The Western Nassau Heritage Preservation Committee (WNHPC) met in regular session this 28th day of May, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Callahan County Building, 45401 Mickler Street, Callahan, Florida. Committee members present were Bobby Franklin, John Stack, Linda Morris, and Chair Jimmy Higginbotham. Absent was committee member Barry Holloway. Also present were Taco Pope, Assistant County Manager; and representing the Department of Planning and Economic Opportunity were Sue Ann Alleger, Planner II; and Doug McDowell, Principal Planner. Also present was Heather Nazworth, recording secretary.

Chair Higginbotham called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Ms. Morris led the Invocation and Chair Higginbotham led the Pledge of the Allegiance to the American Flag.

It was moved by Ms. Morris, seconded by Mr. Franklin and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2019 Western Heritage Preservation Committee meeting as presented.

Mr. Pope discussed the schedule for the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan Policies in the first quarter of 2020 and area planning in the second or third quarter of 2020. He explained that tonight's role is to review and discuss draft goals and objectives based on community's feedback. He provided two handouts for a brief review tonight in presentation format. He explained that the booklet highlights the first year of the committee's effort's in collecting data and doing public outreach including the information that assisted with creating the asset based plan.

Mr. Pope referenced the asset, Natural Resources, including the goals of floodplain management, maintain or increase water quality in Western Nassau, and increase percentage of land conserved as natural areas, including wetlands, floodplains, rivers, creeks, forests and wildlife habitats. Next, he referenced the asset, History, with the goals to ensure history and heritage of Western Nassau is shared for future generations and to document and preserve existing historic buildings, architecture, and sites in Western Nassau. Mr. Pope referenced the next asset, Quality of Life, with the goals to proactively preserve rural and agricultural sense of place in Western Nassau, preserve community-based activities that help create Western Nassau's sense of place, and increase availability of diverse housing options for people of all ages and incomes. He provided examples of development patterns from communities containing rural and agricultural aspects. Next, Mr. Pope reviewed the asset, Recreation, mentioning that there has been work on updating the Recreation Master Plan for Nassau County including new Levels of Service and metrics on how to measure recreation. Mr. Pope explained that by 2045 Nassau County will need ten to twelve 75 to 200-acre regional scale parks and he provided examples of different areas located throughout the county. He referenced the goals to preserve and expand opportunities for public access to waterways in Western Nassau and expand recreation for all ages and abilities in Western Nassau.

Next, Mr. Pope reviewed the asset, Jobs and Education, including the goals to promote and increase educational opportunities around farming and agricultural in Western Nassau to provide options for future generations, plan for high wage job opportunities and job centers in Western Nassau, plan for future school sites and school needs to ensure access to quality public k-12 education, and coordinate with the Nassau County School Board and Florida State Community College regarding higher education opportunities. He referenced the asset, Public Spaces and Infrastructure, including the goals to plan for future multi-modal transportation networks, government facilities, and work with the Sheriff's Department and Fire and Rescue Departments

to identify public safety needs in Western Nassau. He advised that once the goals and objectives are adopted the next step is the strategies. He mentioned that there will need to be more public outreach and another community meeting to provide the public with the visualization of the strategies and alternatives.

Mr. Pope responded to an inquiry regarding Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) assistance with development. Mr. Pope mentioned that there have been several meetings with JEA and they understand the direction growth is going in Nassau County; however, JEA is waiting for the county to have a land use plan and population projections. Further discussion ensued.

An unidentified audience member mentioned they are excited about the steps that the county is taking.

Ms. Alleger commented that the additional booklet provided is a referencing tool to assist with planning in the county.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.