



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - Addon

J.3.

8/25/2020

Subject:

Appointment to Fill a Vacancy on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Fiscal Impact:

No Cost for appointing from existing pool of candidates. Advertising cost if new candidates are desired.

Dept/Office:

Natural Resources Management

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners consider the following options for filling the Education/Outreach alternate seat on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee recently vacated by Melissa Martin: 1) appoint Kimberly Newton from the existing pool of applicants or 2) direct staff to advertise for new citizen volunteers to apply for the Education/Outreach alternate seat.

Summary Explanation and Background:

On December 4, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners authorized staff to advertise for new applicants for multiple vacant seats on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizens Oversight Committee including the alternate seat for Education/Outreach. Advertisements were posted and Melissa Martin was selected from the three applications received. Marguerita Engle has since withdrawn from consideration. Staff has confirmed that Kimberly Newton is still interested in being appointed to the Citizen Oversight Committee.

History:

On August 23, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 1615 for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan and Trust Fund. The Ordinance called for establishment of a Citizen Oversight Committee (Committee) to make recommendations to the County Commission regarding annual updates to the Save Our Indian River Project Plan that is funded by the half cent Save Our Indian River Lagoon sales tax. The Committee structure consists of 7 members and 7 alternates representing 7 fields of expertise: Science, Technology, Economics/Finance, Real Estate, Education/Outreach, Tourism, and Lagoon Advocacy. Terms are for 2 years (expiring in February, 2021), after which members and alternates can be reappointed or replaced.

Half of the Committee is nominated by the Space Coast League of Cities and half the Committee is selected by the County Commission, with all seats appointed by the County Commission. The alternate for Education/Outreach is selected by the County Commission. If replacement members or alternates are required, the entity who selected that member can:

- 1) upgrade the alternate to the member seat,
- 2) choose a replacement from the existing pool of applicants, or
- 3) request a new call for qualified citizen volunteers.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

None



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

August 26, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Virginia Barker, Natural Resources Management Director

RE: Item J.3. Appointment to Fill a Vacancy on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on August 25, 2020, appointed Kimberly Newton as the Education/Outreach Alternate Seat for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee for the remainder of the term; and directed you to advertise the vacant seat at the conclusion of the term.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/cld

SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting applications for four seats on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. Volunteers are sought to represent four fields of expertise: Education/Outreach, Real Estate, Tourism and Technology.

Basic Requirements and Duties of Oversight Committee Members

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in one or more of the following fields: real estate or tourism. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$486 million from sales tax revenue to **Reduce** pollution sources to the lagoon, **Remove** legacy pollution from the lagoon, **Restore** natural systems within the lagoon, and **Respond** to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

Applications with resumes and letters of recommendation or endorsement should be submitted no later than **December 27, 2018**. The Space Coast League of Cities will review applications for Real Estate and Tourism expertise on **January 14, 2019**. The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners will review applications for Technology and Education/Outreach expertise and finalize all four appointments at their regular meeting on **January 22, 2019**.

As part of the application process the Board of County Commissioners requires each applicant to answer in writing each of the following questions:

Name Kimberly Newton

Mailing Address 350 Pine Tree Drive

City, State, Zip Code Indialantic, Florida 32903

Phone 407-399-2253

Email _____

Please complete the following questions and statements.

1. Do you reside in Brevard County Yes ☒ No ☐ Number of Years 2.5
2. Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings? Yes ☒ No ☐

3. Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise:

- ☐ Science ☐ Economics/Finance ☒ Education/Outreach ☒ Lagoon Advocacy
☐ Technology ☐ Real Estate ☐ Tourism

**FOR THE QUESTIONS BELOW, RESPONSES MAY BE UP TO ½ PAGE EACH
AND ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NEEDED**

4. Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee

There are several reasons why I have decided to apply to serve on this board. The most pressing issue to me, that really motivated my submitting an application, is that I have spent my entire life playing and enjoying the waters of Brevard County and I truly want to do as much as I can to insure that we restore the lagoon to the amazing habitat it truly is. Myself, with my family, have spent the greater part of this year already out in the community educating and talking with people about the issues of the IRL, and how each one of us can and must do our part to stop pollutants and work toward restoration together. We have had endless positive feedback and support, as well as had the opportunity to educate individuals how they can accomplish this goal. I believe a position on this board in either education or advocacy will continue to provide an opportunity to educate and work in the restoration efforts.

Secondarily, I know that I have served well on other community boards and that I am able to look at circumstances and proposals in a non-biased manor, for the greater good of our lagoon and our community.

5. Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the SOIRLPP and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.

There have been many opportunities to become involved with understanding the current state of, and needed plans to restore our IRL. The following is a list of our local organizations and programs that I am currently involved with that have a direct connection to the lagoon restoration.

1. Member of the Brevard Sustainability Working Group, meeting out of Brevard County IFAS Extension Office
2. The Litter Quitter program with the Brevard Zoo and Keep Brevard Beautiful
3. The Lagoon Literacy program with the Marine Resources Council, this program presents information about the IRL and current issues and resolutions to community groups from elementary schools to seniors.
4. Muck Finders with the Marine Resources Council. I have been out on two separate data gathering boat trips to measure and record muck data in the lagoon.
5. Member of the Executive Board for ReThink Energy Brevard
6. Co-Founder of Eco Earth Friends, an educational organization that educates the community at events and one on one about the current issues facing our lagoon and how we

6. Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.

Understanding that this committee is designed to over see and account for the delegation of the restoration efforts for an entire community is most relevant.

My personal strengths include excellent listening skills. I have practical training in this area through counseling and advocacy training in my professional work as an advocate and liaison with seniors and caregivers.

As well, I have literal experience as a board member for several organizations that have repeatedly asked me to retain my position from term to term, specifically for my delegation and group communication skills.

Also relevant for a position on a group committee, I am an excellent judge of character, however, even when one has questionable motives, I never let that get in the way of giving anyone the full right to speak and be heard as permitted by any bylaws that are in place to give them that right. Even when we disagree with a point being made, it is most always that you can still find useful information to work toward a compromise and mitigate any unnecessary conflict.

~~This also allows for a consistent diplomatic approach to issues at hand~~

7. Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.

This committee has been established to speak and act on behalf of Brevard County. Over the past 3-4 years as I have become extremely involved in advocacy for our IRL, I have had the opportunity to speak with and hear many of our residents concerns and ideas about how the lagoon has become so polluted and how we can fix it.

In this time I have heard many conflicting ideas for both.

However, the consistent thread in everyone's story is the passion for moving forward to clean our Lagoon. This passion, it is what will continue to drive us in the correct direction while we continue to evaluate project ideas and gather data back from test projects, such as new grasses, oyster restoration, possible new inlets, continued and additional dredging...

Whether it was the commercial clam fisheries or a mishandled infrastructure that one believes caused the deterioration of the Lagoon, we must represent the greater good for the entire County, and be able to learn from our successes and failures and try again as we go.

An understanding that this is a long road and that the driving passion for all of us is to restore our Indian River Lagoon will most likely fuel some conflict and disagreements,

~~however staying true to the greater good for our entire community will keep the integrity on~~

Additional Requirements

In addition to completing the application posted at <http://www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurLagoon>, a resume and at least one letter of recommendation are required. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization.

Send your application, resumé, and letter(s) of reference to:

Natural Resources Management Department, Carol Gerundo, Administrative Assistant to the Director
Carol.Gerundo@brevardfl.gov

Phone: 321-633-2016