



# Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson  
Way  
Viera, FL 32940

## Consent

---

F.1.

2/22/2022

---

### **Subject:**

An Appointment to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

### **Fiscal Impact:**

No Cost

### **Dept/Office:**

Natural Resources Management

### **Requested Action:**

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners appoint Mr. Eric Mannes to the Real Estate Alternate seat on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.

### **Summary Explanation and Background:**

On November 10, 2021, Mr. Dennis Basile resigned from the Real Estate Alternate seat on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee, therefore the Space Coast League of Cities was asked to rank and nominate a citizen volunteer to fill the vacated Alternate seat. The vacancy was re-advertised and 6 volunteers applied. At their February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the League of Cities selected Mr. Eric Mannes (application, resume and recommendation letter attached) to be confirmed by the County Commission.

The County Commission holds the voting member seat for Real Estate. The County Commission's current selection for the voting member seat is Ms. Susan Hodgers.

#### **Background:**

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 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. Half of the Committee is selected by the County Commission and half the Committee is nominated by the Space Coast League of Cities, with all seats appointed by the County Commission. Terms are for 2 years, after which members and alternates can be reappointed or replaced.

### **Clerk to the Board Instructions:**

None



February 23, 2022

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Virginia Barker, Natural Resources Management Director

**RE:** Item F.1., Appointment to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 22, 2022, acknowledged the appointment of Eric Mannes to the Real Estate Alternate seat on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK**

  
Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/dt

Encl. (1)

**SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

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

*Contact Information*

Name David Eric Mannes

Mailing Address 1423 Roosevelt Ave

City Melbourne State FL Zip Code 32901

Phone 321-537-5499

Email eric.mannes@evrealstate.com

*Eligibility Questions*

1. Do you reside in Brevard County? Yes ☒ No ☐ Number of Years 33
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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Economics/Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Real Estate
<input type="checkbox"/> Education/Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism
<input type="checkbox"/> Lagoon Advocacy	

**FOR THE QUESTIONS BELOW, RESPONSES MUST FIT IN SPACE PROVIDED  
AT 12 POINT, SANS-SERIF FONT FOR SECTION 508 COMPLIANCE**

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.

I am interested in serving on the Oversight Committee because I am a lifelong resident of Brevard County who has seen with my own two eyes the decline of the Indian River Lagoon.

When I was a kid my Dad headed an aquarium project where we went seine netting in the lagoon to stock our aquarium. The diversity of life in that aquarium was incredible. We had sea horses, pipe fish, cowfish, mantis shrimp, and a number of other marine animals that are nowhere to be found now. It makes me wonder what we will lose next.

I also spent lots of time spearfishing in the river, and have seen the decline in water clarity/quality.

As a real estate professional I believe that if the negative perception of the Lagoon is not corrected it may lead to the growth we are experiencing being somewhat short lived, as many of the new residents are coming from places like Miami, where clear blue water is common place.

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.

I have four years experience in the real estate industry.

I have volunteered for and attended a number of Marine Resources Council events.

I helped start a networking group where Marine Resources Council reps attended, gave talks and used our volunteer efforts.

My father was on the board of directors for the Brevard Zoo and they have programs tied to Indian River Lagoon restoration.

My brother is an education administrator and was involved with a marsh grass restoration program to filter runoff before it reached the lagoon.

I interviewed Dr Leesa Souto on camera regarding whether or not a proposed inlet would benefit the lagoon to a degree that justified the expense of such a project.

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.

Character: I show up and work hard. Lead by example.

Judgemental: tied in with analytical in that I do everything I can to have all the information before I judge. This helps in persuasion as well.

Analytical: Will question until I'm sure I understand.

Communication: I have a knack for disagreeing without arguing, and framing a discussion around listening in order to find common ground.

Group Consensus Building: Able to lay out all the options and ask questions in an effort to arrive at the best answer at the same time as everyone else with an open mind.

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.

The battle for the Indian River Lagoon is a battle over public priorities that are shaped by public perception of the issues. Since the lagoon is facing such an uphill battle, the last thing it needs is to have those who place other issues higher on the priority list arguing that the members of the committee that aims to protect the lagoon is trying to enrich themselves by hiding behind a cause.

Members of the committee are trusted with say in how tax payer dollars are spent, and those tax payers deserve maximum benefit for the lagoon that they love. So any budget items should be shopped and any purchases made should be made with that in mind. Particularly since taxpayer goals and the goals of members of this committee should be very much in agreement.

# David Eric Mannes

1423 Roosevelt Ave, Melbourne, FL 32901 · (321) 537-5499

## Objective

To use my problem-solving and people skills, work experiences and education in business to contribute to the SOIRL Oversight Committee and do my part to help restore the lagoon.

## Employment

Partner/Realtor/Office Manager (2017-Current) -Engel & Völkers Melbourne  
*Downtown, Melbourne, Florida*

- Reconciled Rent Rolls
- Managed Vacation Rental Properties
- Sold residential and commercial properties. Multi-million dollar producer.
- Helped Organize a networking group
- Handled payroll for the office.

Public Insurance Adjuster Apprentice (2015-2016)- Paramount Adjustment/Five Star  
*Claims Melbourne, Florida*

- Business to business sales.
- Assembled contents inventories and comparative estimates.
- Negotiated settlements with insurance companies
- Conducted inspections of homes for insurable damages.

Alron Enterprises (2016-2017)- West Melbourne, Florida

- Headed Alron Enterprises' incorporations division.
- Prepared incorporation documentation
- Introduced client to some of our other services.
- Prepared taxes
- Edited the website and created a plan for facebook-website synergy.

## Education/Volunteer Experiences

University of Florida Years Attended (2000-2005)- Sports Management Major  
*Gainesville, Florida*

- Cumulative GPA: 3.3
- Graduated with honors with B.S. in Sports Management, B.A. in Business
- Completed two volunteer sport management practicums: wheelchair basketball and Tacachale developmental disability center.

## Skills

- Proficient in Microsoft PowerPoint, Word, & Excel

## SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting applications for one seat on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee (SOIRL COC). Volunteers are sought to represent one field of expertise: Real Estate.

### 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 the following field: Real Estate. 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 \$489 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 resumés and letters of recommendation or endorsement should be submitted no later than **February 1, 2022**. The League of Cities will review applications for Real Estate expertise and finalize the one appointment at their regular meeting on **February 14, 2022**. Board of County Commissioners Certification will follow the League of Cities appointment

### Additional Requirements

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and sent in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. 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. The recommendation should be emailed directly by the person providing the recommendation to Carol Gerundo. The recommendation should be typed out in the body of the email, not an attachment, with the subject, "SOIRL COC Recommendation for '*Applicant Name*.'" Scanned applications, resumes, and letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

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

Natural Resources Management Department  
Carol Gerundo, Administrative Assistant to the Director  
[Carol.Gerundo@brevardfl.gov](mailto:Carol.Gerundo@brevardfl.gov)  
Phone: 321-633-2016

**From:** Leesa Souto  
**To:** Gerundo, Carol  
**Subject:** SOIRL COC Recommendation for Eric Mannes  
**Date:** Monday, January 24, 2022 2:10:39 PM

---

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

January 21, 2022

Carol Gerundo, Administrative Assistant to the Director  
Brevard County Natural Resources Management  
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera FL 32940

Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Eric Mannes to serve on the  
Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Dear Carol;

I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation for Mr. Eric Mannes to serve Brevard County on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizens Oversight Committee as a representative of the Real Estate industry. Mr. Mannes is a member and supporter of the MRC and he is knowledgeable and appreciative of lagoon issues and solutions. We met when Eric expressed an interest in helping spread the word about the need to protect the lagoon in a popular Blog that he coordinates. The Blog event was a huge success and we were able to engage hundreds in a conversation about what is being done for the lagoon and what more needs to be done. He is a highly motivated resident who fits your requirements for an experienced real estate representative who is knowledgeable about water quality issues and pollution sources.

Mr. Mannes is a multi-million dollar producer and partner at the real estate office of Engel & Volkers, where he has been involved in well over half of the real estate transactions in downtown Melbourne, including Crafty Crane, Grey Bellies, and Ember and Oak to name a few. He is a certified Accredited Buyer's Representative with years of negotiation experience.

On a more personal note, Eric is a Brevard County native whose family has a long-standing commitment to the community. His father was on the board at the Brevard Zoo, and his mother is a veterinarian who founded Brevard Spay Neuter Clinic, the low cost clinic that supports the county's Trap, Neuter, Release program designed to humanely control the feral cat population.

Eric is an expert negotiator, who has demonstrated his real estate expertise and experience. He is community-minded and committed to science as a means to solve problems and prioritize projects. I highly recommend Eric to serve on the Citizens Oversight Committee as the real estate representative.

Sincerely;



Leesa Souto, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Marine Resources Council  
321-725-7775  
[www.SaveTheIRL.org](http://www.SaveTheIRL.org)