

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller <noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Comments, BCC Agenda
Categories: SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Topic agenda number 35

BCC Agenda Date 9-21-2021

Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

Comments No more tax increases. Please, cut the community some slack. We have all had a rough couple years. Please do not pass mileages that will force us to pay even more in taxes.

Citizen Name Sherry Fiorenzo

Address 459 Corvette Dr
Largo, Florida 33771
United States

Phone

Email safiorenzo74@gmail.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller <noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 8:57 AM
To: Comments, BCC Agenda

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Topic	Preservation Lands
BCC Agenda Date	9-21-2021
Your Stand on the Issue	Support

Comments

September 19, 2021 Dear County Commissioners, We are writing to offer our comments regarding the proposed county budget. We are not seeing any funds specifically for the purchase of environmentally protected lands, an issue which has come before the commission in many ways over the past few years and continues to concern county residents. With the majority of the county being built out (98%) we recognize that the few natural parcels remaining free from development are becoming more valuable than ever to both county residents and developers. Prices are increasing, making it more difficult for the county to purchase these lands even if there were a specified fund for this purpose. In the past year, several environmentally sensitive sites, Anclote Harbor, the Tides, the West Klosterman Preserve (WKP) and the Gladys Douglas Property (GDP) have been assessed for development leaving the county to scramble to find ways to ensure that they remain public. The best protection, of course, is public purchase of these lands. Each site has used a very different approach to try to gain protection. Some have used a combination of private-public purchase, such as GDP, some have instigated political dissent to stop necessary political approval of the development, such as the Tides, and some, such as the WKP, rely on public purchase only with promises to deliver the title over to the county for preservation as we have agreed with the County. It is obvious, by their actions, that the Pinellas public is today very supportive of public ownership of environmentally sensitive lands. While several members of the Pinellas County Commission have been supportive of public lands purchase, we fear that lands will be developed or promised for development too quickly for the public to react. The Tides, adjacent to a preservation site developed in earlier years by the county, and climate change affected, should be under consideration. Anclote Harbor, located

in a beautiful and serene part of the Anclote River, is important for climate change purposes and environmental preservation purposes, and is another piece that the county should consider purchasing. And we should also mention that we have received indications of support and cooperation from the County for our acquisition of the WK Preserve to convey to the County to become an extension of the County's Mariner's Point Management Area. All of these projects, and several others that are familiar to the County's Parks and Recreation team should be considered and included in the budgets that the County is creating and will be asking the public to support. It is our hope that within budgets of various departments, the Commission has included funds for outright purchase of environmentally sensitive and climate-change sensitive lands. We recognize that you have done a wonderful job in the past in preserving some of our important areas. With the risk of development hovering, this may be the most important year for preservation. In appreciation for your difficult work, we remain sincerely, WK Preservation Group Inc.

Citizen Name	Beth Hovind
Address	1996 Whispering Way Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 United States
Phone	727-809-1686
Email	bethse@gmail.com