

Carpenter, Katherine

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 2:14 PM
To: Comments, BCC Agenda

CAUTION:

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. Do Not Click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Live Form

Topic Gladys Douglas Preserve - Please, ask staff to draft a proposal

BCC Agenda Date 9-22-2020

Your Stand on the Issue

Comments

We were very disheartened to learn that the 44-acre Douglas Estate property at 1900 Virginia Ave. N. is under contract with Pulte Homes. This property ranks #1 on Pinellas County's list of 60 preservation targets due to the endangered species and habitats it contains, including "elevated rosemary bald," the last of its kind in Pinellas County. The Tampa Bay Times reports that late philanthropist Gladys Douglas intended for the County to purchase the land, yet negotiations between the County and Estate crumbled. Combining this property with the adjacent SWFWMD-managed Jerry Lake property will create the largest natural preserve in North Pinellas. Pinellas County has had \$15 million budgeted for preservation since 2018, yet no properties have been purchased since 2008. Creating the Gladys Douglas Preserve (GDP) will necessitate temporarily depleting this budget - a move we support. The rarity of this land cannot be overstated, nor can the loss should we fail to save it. We hope the pending contract dissolves by the October 17th due-diligence deadline, and we ask you to support the swift drafting and approval of a proposal to create the GDP. The political will to fund this purchase is key to ensuring the County and Estate strike a deal. We will vocally support the County and City's efforts to facilitate a fair compromise, including the pursuit of state funding. Furthermore our coalition, the 'Pinellas Conservation Coalition,' will work to engage the public to elevate the conservation issue, as this is only one of many properties worth preserving. This includes raising voter awareness and increasing the conservation budget. Please, ask staff to draft a proposal and please reserve time on the calendar to promptly address this issue should the contract dissolve.

Citizen Name

Julia Meadows

Address 2510 35th Ave North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713
United States

Phone 727-7736363

Email julia.stpete@gmail.com