From: Simmons, Cyndi M
To: bccassistants; Loy, Norman; Klug, Della; Smitke, Arlene L
Subject: FW: Pinellas County "Land Acquisition Discussion"
Date: Monday, February 18, 2019 8:48:54 AM

FYI - comments in regard to Thursday's meeting.

Cyndi Simmons
Executive Aide to Commissioner Karen Williams Seel
727-464-3278

From: Rick Shott [mailto:rshott10@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 17, 2019 6:21 PM
To: Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Barry Burton <burtonfore@gmail.com>; hammerandpen@yahoo.com; Rick Shott <rshott10@gmail.com>; Timothy Martin <ftimothymartin@yahoo.com>; Courtney Murphy <courtneym@suncoastsierra.org>; Barb Walker <audobonbarb@gmail.com>; Levy, Kelli H <klevy@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Vincent, Renea <rvincent@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Cathy Harrelson <cathyharrelson@gmail.com>
Subject: Pinellas County "Land Acquisition Discussion"

February 21, 2019

Attention: Pinellas County Board of Commissioners
Re: Properties located at 164th Avenue N and 49th Street N and 162nd Avenue N and 49th Street N

Request: Penny for Pinellas Funding and Multiple Funding Sources Available to Purchase Properties Listed Above

Madam Chair, Karen Seel

The Pinellas Groves Hamlet Citizen's Committee appreciates being notified about the land acquisition discussion at today's workshop. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the properties next to the Bayside Bridge. The County Commission and County Administrator, Barry Burton is in the process of accessing these listed properties and various other properties within Pinellas County. Land to be purchased through multiple funding sources and or including Amendment 1.

Our committee has spoken before the County Commission numerous times over the past "12" years. March of 2016, the Local Planning Agency rejected (4-1) land use and zoning change request put forward by Ozark Bank to construct townhomes on the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat/Property located at 164th Avenue N and 49th Street N, Clearwater, Florida. Penny for Pinellas Information listed (online) asks citizens to "get involved". We have! The County Commission's goal is to target 250 Acres for acquisition to include Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Acres, too preserve Pinellas County Communities natural resources. The aforementioned property listed certainly qualifies. The Sierra Club and Audubon Society have appeared, before the county commission, on behalf of our position concerning this Ozark Bank property, lined with Mangrove Trees at the water's edge.

Climate Change, Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge situations necessitated preserving this property. Flooding is minimized by the Mangroves and Wetlands. Mangrove roots purify and clean water. They control shoreline erosion. Protect nearby homes from wind, storm surge, and Moon Tides that cause higher tides. Numerous plants, birds, seagrass, oyster beds, scallops, wildlife, Eagles, and assorted species survive and are thriving at this section of Old Tampa Bay. We again request this property be designated "Not Suitable for Development". The nitrogen and fertilizer runoff, if the property is developed, would destroy the protection provided by the Mangroves and Wetlands for species thriving there presently. Flooding and drainage is also an important reason to preserve the property. Affordability component, flood insurance, and building in an Evac Zone A were rejected by the Local Planning Agency, citing the proximity to water as a concern.

During 2015 and 2016 the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of the Pinellas Groves Hamlet Citizen's Committee at three board meetings. Madam Chair, the Environmentally Sensitive Property is situated within District 5 at the South End of the Bayside Bridge. Recently we met with and discussed the Ozark Bank property listed and the adjacent former Bayside Reserves Development, currently under the control of the Affordable Housing Land Trust. This trust property should be returned to the Public Works Dept., and then be placed in preservation status. Please protect these Environmentally Sensitive Lands.

Respectfully,

Richard Shott, Vice President Pinellas Groves Hamlet Citizen's Committee - Dave Waddell, President