



2020 ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Committee Summary Report

Permanent Funding of Green PLACE Committee

March 12, 2020
Comptroller's 4th Floor Conference Room
4:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Camille Evans, Chair
Angela Melvin
Soraya Smith
Eugene Stoccardo
Clifford Shepard, CRC General Counsel
Noelia Perez, Senior Minutes Coordinator

Absent Member:

Lee Steinhauer

Invited Guest:

Beth Jackson, Environmental Program Supervisor

The Permanent Funding of Green PLACE Committee met to identify related issues and to address any member questions.

Committee Chair Comments

Chair Evans reiterated the committee's purpose and that is to evaluate the proposal brought forward by Member Stoccardo. Chair Evans provided a recap of the committee's organizational meeting on February 17, 2020.

Public Comment

The following person addressed the committee: Nicole Wilson.

Invited Guest

Beth Jackson introduced herself and explained she is the Environmental Program Supervisor over Orange County's Green PLACE program, which is the environmentally sensitive land acquisition and land management program. Ms. Jackson provided a history of Orange County's environmentally sensitive land acquisitions since the mid 1990's through the utilization of public service tax, general and conversation trust funds. Ms. Jackson advised that lands have not been acquired by purchase since 2009 but have been acquired by donation. Ms. Jackson mentioned two committees that were previously tasked with identifying corridors to potentially purchase environmentally sensitive lands.

The committee members asked various questions regarding Ms. Jackson's remarks and the materials included in the agenda packet. Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair Comments

Chair Evans provided remarks regarding the issue of a desire to have additional funding for environmentally sensitive lands. Based on the legal construct and current programs in place, Chair Evans provided remarks that it would appear that this topic should not be put forward as a Charter amendment since the committee is of the opinion that the Charter cannot dictate budget line items to the County. Chair Evans recommended a report to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) that asks the County to consider additional funding for Green PLACE.

Members Open Discussion

Member Stoccardo communicated his support of this topic as a Charter amendment. Discussion ensued.

Member Smith asked General Counsel Shepard to review the Aspirational Funding Directives in the Charter and Amendment 1 memorandum dated March 9, 2020. Discussion ensued. General Counsel Shepard contributed to the discussion.

Member Stoccardo presented an updated proposal to the committee members. Discussion ensued. General Counsel Shepard contributed to the discussion.

Member Smith questioned whether this particular topic could be placed on a BCC agenda. Discussion ensued. Ms. Jackson contributed to the discussion.

Chair Evans reiterated her recommendation that the committee move forward with a report that advises the BCC this is something they would like to see the County do using the mechanisms and funding structures currently in place. Further, recommend that the County reestablish the ad-hoc committee for Green PLACE to have community input on identifying lands and coming up with strategies for acquisition. Discussion ensued.

Committee Vote

Motion/Second: Chair Evans/Member Stoccardo

AYE (voice vote): Chair Evans; Members Melvin, Smith and Stoccardo

Absent: Member Steinhauer

Action: The committee moved to bring forward a report that advises the BCC this is something they would like to see the County do using the mechanisms and funding structures currently in place. Further, recommend that the County reestablish the ad-hoc committee for Green PLACE to have community input on identifying lands and coming up with strategies for acquisition.

Future Action Plan

General Counsel Shepard will begin work on the action described above. The committee will schedule their next meeting at a future date. Supporting materials, including the meeting notice, agenda, audio and summary report, may be found by visiting <https://www.occompt.com/clerk-of-the-bcc/charter-2020/meetings/>.