

Cone Ranch BOCC Discussion from  
June 3, 2009 BOCC Meeting

>>PAT BEAN: ALL RIGHT COMMISSIONERS NOW I THINK YOU CAN TAKE ITEM B-8 THIS IS TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY PANEL AND OF THE TECHNICAL RESOURCE GROUP RELATED TO THE CONE RANCH PROJECT.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: COMMISSIONERS I DON'T KNOW IF EVE IS GOING TO -- EVE IS GOING TO COME FORWARD BUT I'LL INTRODUCE THE ITEM.

I WANT TO FIRST OF ALL THANK EACH MEMBER OF THE -- WHO IS GOING TO SERVE ON THIS PANEL FOR CONTRIBUTING THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER I WANT TO THANK EACH OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR MAKING THEIR THOUGHTFUL EXPERT APPOINTMENTS.

AND STAFF DESERVES A CREDIT, AS WELL FOR PUTTING TOGETHER THE TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE.

I APPRECIATE THE WORK THERE.

AND I PARTICULARLY WANT TO THANK EACH MEMBER OF THE PANEL FOR AGREEING TO SERVE.

THIS IS -- THEY ARE ALL IF YOU LOOK AT THE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL THEY ARE ALL ENVIRONMENTALLY ASTUTE AND I AM CONFIDENT THEY WILL ASK THE TOUGH QUESTIONS.

CONSIDER THEIR RESPONSES AND THOROUGHLY VET THIS CONCEPT.

AT THIS TIME I THINK SOME OF MY INITIAL THOUGHTS BEAR REPEATING.

CONE RANCH IS A INVALUABLE SLOTH OF LAND TO THIS COUNTY AND DISCUSSION ABOUT IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT.

TRUTHFULLY I'M A BIT DISAPPOINTED BY -- FROM THE MISCHARACTERIZATIONS OF MY POSITION ON THIS AND I WANTED TO JUST TAKE A MOMENT AND REITERATE MY POSITION.

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MY ONLY INTEREST IN BRINGING THIS FORWARD IS TO PERMANENTLY PROTECT,  
PRESERVE AND RESTORE THIS LAND.

AS I STATED DURING OUR INITIAL DISCUSSION A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, WE DO  
NOT KNOW YET WHAT THE BEST METHOD IS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

IT COULD BE THE FCEG CONCEPT.

IT MAY WELL BE THAT IT'S BEST TO GO THIS ROUTE TO FREE UP E LAB  
DOLLARS TO PRESERVE ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND.

BUT IN ANY EVENT, I WELCOME AND AM OPEN TO ALL IDEAS AND WAYS TO  
ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL.

MY HOPE IS THAT AFTER RESEARCHING ALL OF THE LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND REAL  
ESTATE ISSUES THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO US ABOUT JUST THAT.

IF IT TURNS OUT THAT THIS FCEG CONCEPT IS NOT THE WAY TO GO, THEN SO  
BE IT.

IF THERE IS A BETTER WAY TO PRESERVE AND RESTORE THIS LAND, I WANT THE  
PANEL TO RECOMMEND IT.

AND I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THIS BOARD DOES, AS WELL.

SO I DON'T THINK I CAN BE ANY CLEARER ON MY POSITION.

MY BOTTOM LINE IS AND HAS BEEN ALL ALONG THAT NO MATTER HOW WE  
PRESERVE AND RESTORE CONE RANCH, IT MUST BE DONE.

AND BY CREATING THIS PANEL AND ELEVATING THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE  
IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING, RESTORING THIS LAND, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AND  
OUR RESIDENTS CAN ONLY BENEFIT.

A COUPLE OF THINGS I WANTED TO TOUCH ON, I STATED IN THE FIRST MEETING

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AND TERRI FLOTT HAD SIMILAR COMMENTS THIS MORNING ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS COMMITTEE OPERATING IN A VERY PUBLIC AND TRANSPARENT MANNER.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PUBLIC HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK DURING THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

AND THAT THE MEETINGS SHOULD BE FILMED.

AND THERE'S ALSO BEEN COMMUNICATION WITH EDITH STEWART ABOUT THAT AND PLANS ARE UNDER WAY TO FILM THE MEETINGS.

ALSO I THINK THAT THIS BOARD SHOULD DETERMINE WHO THE CHAIR SHOULD BE. AND IF THERE ARE NO OBJECTIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND THAT WE MAKE DEE LANGE THE CHAIR OF THIS PANEL.

I'VE SPOKEN WITH HER ABOUT IT AND SHE'S AMENABLE TO SERVING AS CHAIR BUT THAT'S UP TO THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD.

SO WITH THAT I'LL OPEN IT UP FOR COMMISSIONER COMMENTS COMMISSIONER BECKNER.

>>COMMISSIONER BECKNER: THANK YOU DO WE HAVE AN ESTIMATED STARTING AND MEETING TIME FOR THE COMMITTEE OR IS THAT SCHEDULE THEN OUTLINED.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: I'LL LET EDITH COME FORWARD BUT I BELIEVE THE INITIAL MEETING DATE IS JUNE 29TH.

AND WITH THE GOAL OF REPORTING BACK AND CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG REPORTING BACK TO US WITH A TIMELINE AND JUST THE IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT YOU NEED TO ADDRESS AT OUR WHAT IS THAT JULY 15TH BOARD MEETING. I BELIEVE THAT WAS THE TIMELINE.

BUT PLEASE --

>>EDITH STEWART: CORRECT.

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WE'VE BLOCKED SOME TIME FOR A ROOM FOR THE MEETING FOR MONDAY THE 29TH FROM 9 TO NOON.

BUT WE HAVEN'T PHONED THE COMMITTEE SINCE YOU HAVEN'T ENDORSED THIS COMMITTEE AS YET.

BUT IT WILL BE SOME TIME WITHIN THAT TIME BLOCK.

>>COMMISSIONER BECKNER: GOING BACK TO STAFF HAVE WE GOTTEN ANY OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM FCEG AS FAR AS THE INFORMATION WE WERE -- STAFF WAS REQUESTING SO THAT WE COULD BE ABLE TO EVALUATE THIS PROJECT?

WHAT INFORMATION IF ANY HAVE WE RECEIVED.

>>EDITH STEWART: NOT AS YET BUT THE DIRECTION THAT WAS GIVEN WAS THAT IT BE PROVIDED TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST MEETING. AND THE MEETING DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE 29TH. SO I WOULD EXPECT THE MATERIALS TO BE FORTHCOMING.

>>COMMISSIONER BECKNER: WE WOULD ASSUME WE SHOULD RECEIVE THOSE AT LEAST BY JUNE 19TH OTHERWISE WE MIGHT HAVE TO RESCHEDULE IT FOR ANOTHER TIME FOR THE START OF THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

>> CORRECT.

>>COMMISSIONER FERLITA: THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN JUST A COUPLE OF COMMENTS AS WELL IN TERMS OF THIS WHOLE PROCESS. OBVIOUSLY I SENSED AND I'M SURE MANY OF US SENSED A LOT OF FRUSTRATION THIS MORNING FROM THE COMMENTS THAT WERE MADE UNDER PUBLIC COMMENT AND I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU THAT IN SOME CASES BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO INTERRUPT THE MEETING A LOT OF THE PARTICIPANTS SOUNDED LIKE THEY FELT

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HELPLESS ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING HERE BECAUSE WE MOVED FORWARD AND WE HAD THIS ADVISORY PANEL AND LET ME JUST SAY FOR ONE AND I'M SURE MY COLLEAGUES FEEL THE SAME WAY YOU CAN READ WHAT YOU WANT TO READ AND YOU CAN LISTEN TO QUOTES THAT PEOPLE QUOTE.

BUT ULTIMATELY YOUR FOCUS SHOULD BE ON US.

AFTER ALL OF THE DATA IS IN.

AND AFTER THE ADVISORY PANEL HAS HELD ENOUGH MEETINGS TO GIVE US ENOUGH INPUT.

THEN AND ONLY THEN WE WILL MAKE OUR CHOICES AND MAKE SURE THAT OUR DECISIONS ARE THE RIGHT DECISIONS, ARE THE BEST DECISIONS FOR THIS COUNTY.

SO IT'S TOO PREDETERMINED NOW IN TERMS OF WHAT PEOPLE SOUNDED LIKE THIS MORNING.

GIVE THIS PROCESS ENOUGH TIME TO UNFOLD.

AND ULTIMATELY LOOK AT US.

BECAUSE WE ARE THE ONES THAT ARE GOING TO BE RESPONSIBLE TO CAST THE VOTE THAT'S BEST FOR YOUR COUNTY AND OURS.

SO I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT.

>>COMMISSIONER HIGGINBOTHAM: YES AND WELL SAID COMMISSIONER FERLITA.

BUT I DON'T KNOW THE PROTOCOL AS FAR AS THE BOARD.

AND THIS KIND OF REFLECTS WHAT I HEARD THIS MORNING AND SEEING THE E-MAILS.

BUT WHAT THE BOARD -- THE BOARD'S ROLE IN THIS AND WHEN I MADE MY

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APPOINTMENT I INTERVIEWED SEVERAL FOLKS WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST THAT THEY WERE GOING TO BE INDEPENDENT IN THEIR RESEARCH AND WASN'T GOING TO LEAN ON THEM FOR ANY VOTE OR INPUT DURING THE PROCESS BUT I WANTED TO CLEAN -- JUST AS CLEAN AND CLEAR INFORMATION BACK TO US WHEN THEY MAKE THE RECOMMENDATION.

AND I'M JUST CONCERNED IF THE BOARD TELLS THIS GROUP WHO TO NAME AS THE CHAIR WOMAN, ARE WE STEPPING IN TOO SOON AND SHOULD WE NOT LET THE BOARD SELECT WHO THEY WANT AMONGST THEMSELVES IN THAT FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING TO LEAD THEM.

AGAIN I DON'T KNOW PROTOCOL WHEN WE SET THESE UP BEFORE.

BUT I DIDN'T TALK TO MY APPOINTMENT AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD HAVE AN INTEREST.

I DON'T KNOW THAT HE WOULD.

AND MAYBE IT'S BEST TO LET THEM MAKE THAT SELECTION.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: MS. BEAN I WANT TO ASK YOU IF WE REALLY HAVE PROTOCOL.

I KNOW LIKE WITH THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS TASK FORCE WE NAMED THE CHAIR.

I THINK IT'S PROBABLY BEEN DONE BOTH WAYS.

BUT I'LL ASK YOU FOR A BETTER HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THAT.

I'M OPEN TO WHOEVER -- IF WE DO NOT -- IF WE WANT TO PICK THE CHAIR, OR NOT, I JUST THINK WE HAVE DONE IT IN THE PAST BUT I CAN GO EITHER WAY.

>>PAT BEAN: IT HAS BEEN DONE BOTH WAYS.

IT'S REALLY THE PLEASURE OF THE BOARD.

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THERE ISN'T ANY WRITTEN PROTOCOL THAT I'M AWARE OF ON THAT.

I KNOW THAT IN SOME CASES WHERE IT'S BEEN A BOARD MEMBER, A BOARD MEMBER HAS STEPPED FORWARD AND SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE THE CHAIR. AND YOU'VE DONE THAT.

BUT EVEN IN THAT, I DON'T THINK THERE'S A WRITTEN POLICY THAT SAYS THAT IT HAS TO BE THAT WAY.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: AND I HAVE NO OBJECTION IF OUR BOARD WOULD LIKE THAT PANEL TO CHOOSE THE CHAIR.

I DON'T MIND THAT.

IT'S UP TO THE DISCRETION OF US.

>>COMMISSIONER HIGGINBOTHAM: I THINK THEY GOT A MESSAGE THAT THERE'S SOME SUPPORT HERE FOR HER BUT I WOULD JUST LIKE TO LEAVE THAT DECISION UP TO THEM IF THE CHAIRMAN WOULD BE WILLING TO JUST LET IT PASS WITH THAT.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: OKAY.

COMMISSIONER NORMAN?

>>COMMISSIONER NORMAN: THANKS.

AND ALSO IN RESPONSE TO A LOT OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT THIS MORNING, I KNOW THERE WERE -- STANDING BACK IF THERE WAS A PERFECT STORM KIND OF IN A GOOD WAY SITUATION HERE THAT THE ENVIRONMENT WAS PROTECTED THIS ONE ON THE TAX ROLLS THE SALE OF THE LAND AND CONVERTED TO LOWERING OUR WATER RATES AND WE GOT A PROPERTY TAX REVENUE FOR 100 YEARS, WE WIN EVERY CORNER.

IF THAT'S THE WAY IT COULD BE CRAFTED AS FAR AS AN AGREEMENT.

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BUT IN GOING OVER EVEN ALL THOSE SCENARIOS, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HOPE OUR COUNTY ATTORNEY LOOKS AT -- AND I'VE TRIED TO LOOK AT TRYING -- TAKING A STAND BACK AND LOOKING AT ALL SCENARIOS THAT -- HOW HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COULD LOSE CONTROL OF THIS.

AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT JUMPED OUT OFF THE PAGE TO ME WAS ANY AGREEMENT THAT GOES FORWARD HAS TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE'S NO ANNEXATION EVER.

OF THIS PROPERTY INTO ANOTHER CITY.

MEANING WE MAKE THE DEAL, WE LOSE ALL PROPERTY TAXES IN THE FUTURE.

I'M NOT SAYING THAT WILL EVER HAPPEN.

BUT CRAZIER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.

BECAUSE I JUST RECALL NEW TAMPA LARGE PROPERTY OWNERS GOT TOGETHER.

AND EXTENDED THE CITY OF TAMPA.

THEREFORE, WHAT HAPPENED WAS HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY LOST TAX REVENUE, WE LOST CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT.

ALL THOSE KIND OF THINGS.

THAT -- IF YOU LOOK AT THE ANNEXATION RIGHT NOW, IT'S ALL THE WAY UP TO THE BORDER OF THIS PROPERTY.

SO THOSE ARE THE KIND OF THINGS I HOPE -- THOSE ARE THE KIND OF THINGS I WAS TRYING TO THROW OUT THE OTHER DAY ABOUT TAX ATTORNEYS AND LAND USE ATTORNEYS AND STUFF -- PEOPLE THAT ARE A LOT SMARTER THAN US KIND OF ON THIS DEAL.

BECAUSE I MEAN FROM A REGULAR GUY LIKE ME CAN SIT THERE AND THINK THIS COULD BE ANNEXED AND WE LOSE EVERYTHING LIKE NEW TAMPA, I WOULD HATE

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TO SEE THOSE KIND OF SCENARIOS GO DOWN.

WE WOULD -- THEN EVERYTHING THAT EVERYBODY WAS SAYING AT THAT PODIUM  
COULD OCCUR.

I MEAN IF YOU GET FOUR OUT OF THE SIX THAT WANT TO ANNEX, THEN ALL OF  
THE DEVELOPMENTAL THINGS GO AWAY UNDER NEW -- ANYWAY.

SO I HOPE YOU ALL ARE LOOKING AT THAT.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: COMMISSIONER SHARPE.

>>COMMISSIONER SHARPE: THANK YOU.

I THINK THE POINT MADE BY COMMISSIONER HIGGINBOTHAM IS WELL TAKEN.

I WOULD SAY THAT CONSIDERING WHAT WE'RE LOOKING -- WHAT THE TASK FORCE  
IS GOING TO BE LOOKING AT ASKING SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN SCEPTICAL OF  
THIS TO CHAIR IS NOT A BAD IDEA BUT I THINK THAT SHOULD BE LEFT --  
EVEN THOUGH I APPRECIATE WHO THE CHAIRMAN WAS TRYING TO DO I THINK IT  
WOULD BE BEST LEFT TO THE TASK FORCE ITSELF WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THE  
MISSION OF THE TASK FORCE IS VERY CLEAR THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT IS  
THEY ARE BEING ASKED TO DO.

AND SO THEY ARE GOING TO COME BACK AT A SET TIME WITH A RECOMMENDATION  
AS TO WHETHER OR NOT TO GO FORWARD IS THAT CORRECT?

>> WELL, WHAT I'VE ASKED THE GROUP TO DO IS NOT ONLY COME BACK  
WITH A RECOMMENDATION ON THE PROPOSAL BUT TO COME BACK WITH A  
RECOMMENDATION ON THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THIS LAND.  
SO DON'T STOP JUST WITH THIS PROPOSAL BUT LOOK AT WHAT IS --

>>COMMISSIONER SHARPE: LOOK AT OTHER OPTIONS.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: WHAT IS BEST MANNER.

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>>COMMISSIONER SHARPE: COULD THEY COME BACK AND SAY THIS IS -- WE THINK THE BEST MANNER IS TO -- THIS PROPERTY.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: THEY COULD COME BACK AND SAY THIS IS A GREAT IDEA BUT THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IS IN SUCH DIRE SHAPE WE SHOULD PUT IT OFF FOR FIVE YEARS.

>>COMMISSIONER SHARPE: COULD THEY MAKE A RECOMMENDATION THAT THERE BE A NEW APPRAISAL WITH THE PROPERTY ITSELF WITH REGARD TO THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY WHAT THE POTENTIAL MAY BE BECAUSE I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK -- NOT THE MAJORITY.

A NUMBER OF THE INDIVIDUALS THAT ACTUALLY ARE GOING TO SERVE ON THIS ADVISORY PANEL.

I THINK EACH OF THE BOARD MEMBERS HAVE DONE GOOD JOBS OF GETTING INDIVIDUALS.

THIS IS A GROUP THAT I THINK IS DEFINITELY SKEPTICAL AND I'LL TELL YOU I'M SCEPTICAL.

THAT'S NOT -- AND I THINK IT'S A HEALTHY SKEPTICISM BUT I AM SCEPTICAL SO I'M GOING TO BE WATCHING THIS WITH INTEREST AS IT GOES TO THIS COMMITTEE AND WE'LL SEE WHAT COMES OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: COMMISSIONER WHITE IS NEXT BUT I AGREE THAT'S WHY IN MY OPENING COMMENTS I -- STATEMENTS I SAID THIS GROUP IS ENVIRONMENTALLY ASTUTE THEY WILL ASK THE QUESTIONS AND I DON'T THINK ANY OF US DOUBT THAT FOR A SECOND BUT AGAIN I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE'RE NOT ASKING THEM JUST TO COMMENT ON THIS PROPOSAL.

WE CERTAINLY WANT THEM TO REVIEW IT AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION BUT WE

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ALSO WANT THEM TO LOOK AT AND RECOMMEND THE BEST MANNER TO PROTECT,  
PRESERVE AND RESTORE THIS LAND.

AND THE BALL IS IN THEIR COURT.

>>COMMISSIONER SHARPE: WHAT'S THE -- WHAT ABOUT WHAT COMMISSIONER  
NORMAN ASKED.

BECAUSE THERE ARE TECHNICAL LEGAL -- THERE'S A LOT OF ISSUES THAT HE'S  
ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

WE MIGHT NOT BE PREPARED TO ASK THOSE QUESTIONS BUT THESE ARE  
QUESTIONS THAT ABSOLUTELY MUST BE --

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: I WOULD HOPE THE INDIVIDUALS ON THE RESOURCE  
COMMITTEE YOU KNOW THE ATTORNEYS THAT ARE ON HERE, BOND COUNSEL ARE  
THE ONES THAT CAN ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS.

>>COMMISSIONER SHARPE: THIS WILL BE THE NIGHTMARE.  
WE GO FORWARD AND GO THROUGH THIS WHOLE DEAL AND THEN FIND OUT THERE'S  
SOMETHING WE MISSED AND I WOULD WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WHETHER IT'S  
COMMISSIONER NORMAN OR ANY OF THE OTHERS WE MAKE SURE EVERY ONE OF  
THESE THINGS IS FULLY EVALUATED BY THE BOARD AND IF THEY HAVE TO ASK -  
- IF THIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS TO HAVE OTHER PEOPLE COME ON BOARD TO  
PARTICIPATE, THEY SHOULD.

>>COMMISSIONER NORMAN: I'M JUST SAYING I LIVED THAT AND I SAW HOW  
ONE LARGE OR MAJORITY OF LARGE PROPERTY OWNERS COULD DO THAT AND WE  
NEED TO ANTICIPATE THINGS THAT MAYBE EVEN LOOK AT OTHER THINGS LIKE  
THAT.

THAT'S A REAL -- IF IT'S NOT AN ENCLAVE IT'S NEXT TO A CITY ALL OF

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THAT IS POSSIBLE.

SO ANY AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE -- THAT HAS TO BE SOMEWHAT DRAWN UP BY OUR COUNTY ATTORNEY THAT THAT CAN'T HAPPEN.

EVEN IF THE DEAL GOES THROUGH WE GET THE FUTURE PROPERTY TAXES.

IT'S GOT TO BE THAT WAY.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: COMMISSIONER WHITE.

>>COMMISSIONER WHITE: THANK YOU.

COMMISSIONER NORMAN AND COMMISSIONER SHARPE'S CONCERNS ARE VERY WELL VALIDATED.

BUT I THINK WE MAY BE JUMPING THE GUN JUST A LITTLE BIT BECAUSE THIS IS JUST AN ADVISORY PANEL THAT IS JUST LOOKING AT THE BEST WAY TO DISPOSE OF THIS LAND AND I THINK THEY ARE GOING TO BE BRINGING THE RECOMMENDATIONS BACK TO US AND THESE ARE GREAT QUESTIONS TO RAISE AT THIS TIME BUT THEY STILL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR BEFORE OUR LEGAL STAFF TO FIND OUT HOW WE WOULD EVEN PUT THESE THINGS TOGETHER.

BUT AS FAR AS THE SKEPTICISM PART, I THINK THAT'S ON THE ONUS OF EVERYONE, INCLUDING ALL OF OUR CITIZENS IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HERE. AND I PERSONALLY DON'T THINK AT THIS POINT IN TIME THAT WE SHOULD BE TIEING THE HANDS OF OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT THIS POINT BY ELECTING THEIR CHAIRMAN FOR THEM RIGHT NOW.

I TRULY BELIEVE THAT JUST LIKE WHEN THIS ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD TAKES ITS SEAT IN NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR, THE GROUP IN ITSELF SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK AND ELECT WHO THEIR CHAIRMAN OF THAT PARTICULAR BOARD IS

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BECAUSE I THINK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US HAS DONE OUR DUE DILIGENCE TO PUT SOMEONE ON THAT BOARD WHO IS SENSITIVE NOT ONLY TO HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BUT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND SENSITIVE TO EACH ONE OF OUR CONCERNS, AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS.

AND I THINK THAT AMONG THAT PARTICULAR GROUP OF PEOPLE THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DECIDE WHO THEIR CHAIRPERSON IS AND WHO THEY FEEL WOULD BE BEST TO REPRESENT THAT GROUP AS THE CHAIRMAN AND BRING BACK AND BRING FORTH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THAT BOARD AND IF IT'S GOING TO COME TO A VOTE, THAT'S THE WAY I WOULD BE LEANING TO LET THE ORGANIZATION PICK THEIR OWN CHAIR IN THEIR OWN ADMINISTRATION.

>>COMMISSIONER FERLITA: THERE WERE TWO DISCUSSIONS I THINK ONE -- I THINK GOING ON AT THE SAME TIME.

MR. NORMAN IS TALKING ABOUT BEING VERY THOUGHTFUL, PENSIVE, VERY COMPREHENSIVE AND WHAT WE'RE GOING TO GET INTO ULTIMATELY SO THAT SOME OF THE EXPERIENCE HE HAD IN THE PAST HE DOESN'T EXPERIENCE AGAIN.

AND I UNDERSTAND THAT BUT THAT'S WHY WE HAVE SO MUCH DIVERSITY IN THIS BOARD.

MOST OF OUR PICKS HAVE HUGE -- I KNOW I WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO PICK SOMEBODY I MET YEARS AGO.

SHE HAS A HUGE RESUME IN TERMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTISE BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE LEGALITIES OF A CONTRACT.

BUT THAT'S WHY WE HAVE MS. LEE AND HER STAFF THEY WILL TRY TO FINE TUNE THAT TYPE OF THING ONCE AND IF WE GO ALONG WITH SOME

RECOMMENDATION OR CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT OR ARRANGEMENT THAT THE PANEL

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RECOMMENDS AND OF COURSE WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TO ACCEPT THEIR  
RECOMMENDATION BUT WE'RE CERTAINLY GOING TO TAKE IT INTO  
CONSIDERATION.

ONCE THAT'S DONE THEN WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE  
CONTRACT.

AND I THINK THAT'S WHERE MR. NORMAN IS GOING WITH THAT.

I DON'T THINK THAT MR. HAGAN WAS ABSOLUTELY INSISTENT THAT MS. LANE BE  
THE CHAIRMAN I THINK MAYBE PERHAPS IN SO DOING SOME OF THAT WE  
FACILITATE SOME OF THE PROCEDURAL STUFF AT THE FRONT AND CERTAINLY  
SHE'S IN TUNE WITH ENVIRONMENT AND THAT'S A GOOD THING BECAUSE THAT'S  
WHAT WE WANT ON THIS PANEL.

THAT BEING SAID AND I UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS DOING, I STILL PAY HIM  
THAT COURTESY BUT I DON'T AGREE WITH HIM.

I THINK THAT WE'LL LET THE PANEL IF THE MAJORITY OF US WANT THEM TO DO  
THAT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN CHAIRMAN.

I THINK IT WAS A THOUGHTFUL SUGGESTION.

AND I DON'T MEAN TO BE SINGING YOUR DEFENSE HERE, MR. HAGAN.

AND IF WE DO DECIDE TO GO IN THAT WAY WITH LETTING THEM PICK THEIR OWN  
CHAIRMAN AND I WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND OR UNLESS SOMEBODY HAS AN  
OBJECTION OR IF LEGAL COUNSEL SAYS WE SHOULDN'T I THINK BECAUSE ALL OF  
THEM ARE DOING THIS ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS BECAUSE THEY WANT THE BEST  
FOR THEIR COMMUNITY JUST LIKE WE DO IT MIGHT FACILITATE SOME OF THIS  
PROCESS IF WE PROVIDED EACH OF THEM WITH RESUMES OF ALL THE REST.  
CAN WE DO THAT.

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>>PAT BEAN: I THINK THAT WOULD BE FINE.

>>COMMISSIONER FERLITA: BECAUSE THERE MIGHT BE TWO PEOPLE, TWO PEOPLE, TWO PEOPLE AND THEN SOMEBODY WHO HAS NEVER HEARD SOMEBODY HERE SO WE MAY END UP WITH VOTES THAT WILL LAST LONGER THAN THE ADVISORY PANEL WILL BE TOGETHER SO I THINK THAT WILL HELP THEM AT LEAST RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER AND BE INTRODUCED TO EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF THEIR QUALIFICATIONS.  
SO THAT'S MY TWO CENTS ON BOTH OF THOSE ISSUES.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: JUST TO WRAP THINGS UP I THINK THEY WERE ALL EXCELLENT COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS.  
AGAIN, I APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION AND GOING TO THE EXTENT OF ACTUALLY INTERVIEWING POTENTIAL APPOINTEES.  
CLEARLY A LOT OF HARD WORK HAS BEEN PUT INTO THIS AND I APPRECIATE IT.  
WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT PANEL.  
AND IF WE COULD HAVE A MOTION TO APPROVE BOTH THE ADVISORY PANEL AND THE RESOURCE GROUP AND WE'LL LET THE GROUP NOMINATE AND CHOOSE THEIR OWN CHAIRPERSON.  
MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HIGGINBOTHAM.  
SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WHITE NO FURTHER COMMENTS PLEASE RECORD YOUR VOTE.

>>CLERK: MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

>>CHAIRMAN HAGAN: NEXT ITEM.