

**Wellington
Equestrian Preserve Committee Meeting
October 7, 2020
Village Hall
12300 Forest Hill Boulevard**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Jane Cleveland, Haakon Gangnes, Dr. Rachel Eidelman, and Carlos Arellano were present. Dr. Eidelman motioned to allow Annabelle Garrett and Glen Fleischer join the meeting by phone. Haakon Gangnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Dr. Kristy Lund arrived late.

Staff Present: Paul Schofield, Ryan Harding, and Michael O'Dell.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Remarks by Committee Chair

Jane Cleveland mentioned that this is the first EPC meeting since June, as the committee has been waiting for staff to finish the initial draft of the Equestrian Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Chair Cleveland then suggested that the State of the Industry report should get a 2020 update. Annabelle Garrett agreed that a 2020 update of the report would be useful.

IV. Additions/Deletions/Reordering of Agenda

Chair Cleveland re-ordered the agenda so that the Livestock Waste discussion took place directly after the Fireworks letter discussion.

V. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Eidelman made a motion to approve the June EPC meeting minutes. Carlos Arellano seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

VI. New Business

Letter to Casey Cook on Amended Fireworks Statute (SB 140)

Michael O'Dell explained that Mayor Gerwig issued a letter to the state asking for a variance for the Village of Wellington regarding amended fireworks statute, SB 140. Annabelle Garrett asked if Mr. O'Dell could send an email to EPC members with a list of which representative(s) they should contact regarding this issue, to which Mr. O'Dell responded yes. Haakon Gangnes asked if members could respond together as a committee with a letterhead. Mr. O'Dell stated yes and said staff would draft a letterhead layout for the committee.

Comprehensive Plan - Equestrian Element Draft

Village Manager Paul Schofield gave the committee a synopsis of the purpose of and guidelines for a local comprehensive plan. He then began describing the three main goals of the Equestrian Element of Wellington's Comprehensive Plan. The first goal is to preserve the equestrian lifestyle in Wellington and ensure that property values are maintained, which requires keeping competitive events here in Wellington. The second goal is to figure out how to expand the trail system in order to get people from their properties to venues. The trail system is built mostly on canal and road rights-of-way, and rights-of-way are decreasing with increased development, so easements are necessary to provide important connections in the trail system. The third goal is to support Wellington's equestrian competition industry. This will require coordination with local agencies and venue operators.

Michael O'Dell said that when the original Wellington Comprehensive Plan was developed, state statute 604.50 didn't exist. So this new plan deals with that statute, under which all non-residential farm buildings, fences, and signs are exempt from local regulations. Wellington's regulatory authority is now limited to enforcing flood plain management regulations, permitting residential and non-farm structures, regulating the volume and quality of water discharged into Wellington-owned canals, and managing Wellington-owned roads and rights-of-way.

Mr. Schofield told the committee that he would like to see them send their recommendation on the Equestrian Element to the Planning, Zoning, and Adjustment Board in either December or January.

Palm Beach Post Article on Proposed Equestrian Waste Recycling Plant

Michael O'Dell began the discussion by mentioning the Palm Beach Post article, which talks about a 5 acre parcel of land outside of Wellington which is being leased by Horizon 880, LLC. They are building a fully enclosed livestock waste recycling plant, and are going before the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners for approval in November.

Mr. O'Dell then moved the discussion to the recently conducted annual Livestock Waste Haulers meeting. The point of the meeting this year was to convey to the haulers the sum of information that they have been giving staff for the last 4-5 years. One thing that stuck out is that the Village's equestrian industry produces roughly 90,000 tons of waste annually. About 57,000 tons of what was reported was going out to the U.S. Sugar properties, and about 36,000 tons was going to the Solid Waste Authority. Staff felt as though the number being reported going out to U.S. Sugar was not correct due to a perceived flaw in recording methodology. Staff also talked to the Solid Waste Authority and found that in reality, about half of what was reported by haulers (15-20 thousand tons) is actually coming to them annually. So that means that the amount going out to U.S. Sugar from Wellington is probably more like 70-75 thousand tons.

Staff conveyed to the haulers that the Village needs a better understanding of the actual amounts of waste being moved to different locations. Mr. O'Dell said staff asked the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser if they have any idea how many horses are in Palm Beach County. They gave a figure of 4 million square feet of barn area in Palm Beach County, not including Wellington or commercial operations to the south of Wellington. When you work the math out, the estimation of manure waste generated outside of

Wellington is 96-110 thousand tons. Given this range, it is estimated that Wellington produces a little under half the total manure waste in Palm Beach County. Mr. O'Dell also mentioned that staff received a letter from U.S. Sugar that in February 2021 that they are stopping their operation. So staff alerted the haulers at the meeting that if that does in fact happen, they need to find a legal place to haul their waste.

Village Manager Paul Schofield joined the meeting, and a discussion over possible waste final location solutions ensued. Mr. Schofield ended the discussion by stating the committee's role in this should be to figure out how to get Wellington equestrians to buy into a solution, considering they have a better grasp of the pulse of the equestrian community than staff does.

VII. Staff Comments

There were no staff comments.

VIII. Board Comments

There were no board comments.

IX. Public Comments

Dr. Marilyn Connor of 1982 Canterbury Circle said she would like more opportunities for involvement in decision making for members of the equestrian community. She is an equine veterinarian with Palm Beach Equine Clinic, and they don't feel as though they have been given an opportunity to contribute to the Comprehensive Plan thus far, and that they would like to be more involved in the conversation. Mr. Schofield ensured Dr. Connor that she would receive a notice for each meeting going forward.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Jane Cleveland, Chair

D.J. Helkowski, Recording Secretary