### FLORIDA COMMUNITIES TRUST GOVERNING BOARD PARKS AND OPEN SPACE RANKING AND SELECTION MEETING SUMMARY FEBRUARY 13, 2024

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mara Gambineri, (Chair) Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, Deborah Denys, Former elected official of a county government, Noah Valenstein, Representative of a nonprofit organization, Frank Mingo, Former elected official of a metropolitan municipal government, Vacant, Representative of the development industry.

#### STAFF PRESENT

Linda Reeves (Program Manager); Shauna Allen (OMC Manager); Karen Armstrong (Assist. Deputy General Counsel); Madison Bloom (Legal Assist.); Roman Black (Attorney); Melanie Orozco (Planner, Region 1); William McMahon (Planner, Region 3); Callie DeHaven (Director of State Lands); Lauren Cruz (Division of State Lands); Jeremy Pe (Division of State Lands); Reilly Allman (Division of State Lands); Amy Horton (Division of State Lands); Saba Shariat-Pearce (Division of State Lands); Marjorie Karter (Division of State Lands).

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Debra Woithe, Manatee County

#### VIRTUAL VIA GOTOWEBINAR

### Item 1: Opening Roll Call/Establish Quorum Call to Order

Chair Gambineri called the February 13, 2024, meeting of the Florida Communities Trust Governing Board Parks and Open Space Ranking and Selection to order at 10:15 a.m.

Linda Reeves was introduced as the moderator for the FCT Governing Board meeting. Shauna Allen was introduced as the facilitator for the meeting. The quorum was established with four members present.

#### Item 2: Announcements

Shauna Allen provided a few housekeeping rules for the meeting including Public Comment Instructions and guiding principles for the Parks and Open Space Ranking and Selection Meeting.

## Item 3: FY 2023-24 Eligible Projects Application and Evaluation Report Review, Application Scoring Consideration, Ranking and Selection of Projects for Funding, and Contingent Funding

Shauna introduced the 14 project presentations. The first seven projects were presented by staff member Will McMahon and the remaining seven projects were presented by staff member, Melanie Orozco.

# 1. 23-003-FF24, Shaker Village Community Park and Center City of Tamarac

Staff Recommendation: Award 68 points.

Tanya Williams, Grants Administrator, City of Tamarac, presented this project's objections virtually to the Board.

**Deborah Denys**: Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

#### Second by: Frank Mingo

Tanya Williams, Grants Administrator, City of Tamarac, presented this project's objections virtually to the Board.

**Deborah Denys:** Wanted to see the application for procedures in scoring and not awarding points.

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

# 2. 23-004-FF24, Ravenswood Park Land Acquisition City of St. Augustine

Staff Recommendation: Award 62 points.

Reuben Franklin, Assist. City Manager, City of St. Augustine, presented the project virtually to the Board for approval.

**Deborah Denys:** Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

# Second by: Noah Valenstein

Mara Gambineri: Question about where the nature trail was located in master site file

#### information.

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

# 3. 23-005-FF24, Lagoon Conservation Property Town of Ocean Ridge

Staff Recommendation: Award 114 points.

Noah Valenstein: Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

Second by: Frank Mingo

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

# 4. 23-006-FF24, St. Sebastian River Property Indian River Land Trust, Inc.

Staff Recommendation: Award 116 points.

Ken Grudens, Executive Director, Indian River Land Trust, Inc. presented this project's objections virtually to the Board.

**Deborah Denys:** Motioned to award an additional 5 points to Objection #1 and an additional 5 points to Objection #2 for a total of 10 additional points to the final score.

# Second by: Noah Valenstein

Ken Grudens, Executive Director, Indian River Land Trust, Inc. presented the project excellence virtually to the Board for approval.

**Deborah Denys**: Motioned to approve the staff recommendation plus 10 points.

# Second by: Noah Valenstein

No comments from the public.

#### The motion passed unanimously.

# 5. 23-007-FF24, The Highlands Property Polk County

Staff Recommendation: Award 104 points.

Tabitha Biehl, Land and Water Natural Areas Manager, Polk County, presented the project virtually to the Board for approval.

**Deborah Denys**: Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

Second by: Noah Valenstein

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

# 6. 23-008-FF24, Athletic Complex Expansion Village of Palm Springs

Staff Recommendation: Award 120 points.

Juan Ruiz, Parks and Recreation Director, Village of Palm Springs, presented the project virtually to the Board for approval.

Noah Valenstein: Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

Second by: Frank Mingo

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

# 7. 23-009-FF24, Town of Cutler Bay-Old Cutler Road Land Acquisition Project Town of Cutler Bay

Staff Recommendation: Award 80 points.

# Objections from Applicant withdrawn from consideration to the Board.

Rafael Casals, Town Manager, Town of Cutler Bay, presented the project virtually to the Board for approval.

**Noah Valenstein:** Motioned to approve the addition of 5 points for project excellence to the total score.

#### Second by: Frank Mingo

No comments from the public.

### The motion passed unanimously.

# 8. 23-010-FF24, Crooked River Preserve Manatee County

Staff Recommendation: Award 146 points.

Debra Woithe, Environmental Lands Division Manager, Manatee County, presented the project, in person, to the Board for approval.

**Noah Valenstein:** Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

#### Second by: Deborah Denys

No comments from the public.

#### The motion passed unanimously.

#### 9. 23-011-FF24, San Sebastian Boat Ramp and Waterfront Park St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Staff Recommendation: Award 150 points.

Jamie Baccari, Assist. Director, Parks and Recreation, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners presented the project virtually to the Board for approval.

**Deborah Denys:** Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

Second by: Noah Valenstein

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

# 10. 23-012-FF24, Fryman Preserve

# **City of Sebring**

# Staff Recommendation: Award 69 points.

Jared Lee, Budget and Grants Coordinator, City of Sebring, presented the project virtually to the Board for approval.

**Noah Valenstein:** Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

Second by: Frank Mingo

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

# 11. 23-013-FF24, Nelson's Cove Hydrologic Restoration and Green Space Project Florida's Nature Coast Conservancy, Inc. and the City of Cedar Key

Staff Recommendation: Award 95 points.

Samantha Gibbs, President, Florida's Nature Coast Conservancy, presented the project virtually to the Board for approval.

**Noah Valenstein:** Moved to approve the addition of 10 additional points for project excellence to the total score.

Second by: Deborah Denys

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

# 12. 23-015-FF24, Reddie Point Preserve, Phase II City of Jacksonville

Staff Recommendation: Award 103 points.

Lauren Chappell, Project and Grant Coordinator, City of Jacksonville, presented the project virtually to the Board for approval.

Noah Valenstein: Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

Second by: Deborah Denys

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

# 13. 23-016-FF24, Fort Myers Beach Oceanfront Acquisition Project Enriching Community Access to Coastal Recreation and Environmental Resources Town of Fort Myers Beach

Staff Recommendation: Award 34 points.

Chadd Chustz, Environmental Project Manager for Operations and Enforcement, Town of Fort Myers Beach, presented the project virtually to the Board for approval.

**Deborah Denys:** Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

Second by: Frank Mingo

No comments from the public.

#### The motion passed unanimously.

#### 14. 23-017-FF24, Surfside Byron Park Town of Surfside

Staff Recommendation: Award 29 points.

Kristina Brown, Procurement and Grant Specialist, Town of Surfside, presented the project virtually to the Board for approval.

Frank Mingo: Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

Second by: Deborah Denys

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

Recess to calculate final scores and prepare preliminary priority list. The meeting was resumed at 12:25 p.m. with all members present.

# Item 4: Approve Preliminary Priority List for the Parks and Open Space Ranking and Selection

Copies of the preliminary ranking list were provided to the Board and meeting attendees and were shown on the screen.

**Staff Recommendation:** Approve the preliminary ranking list.

Frank Mingo: Motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

# Second by: Noah Valenstein

**Noah Valenstein:** Would like to see FCT and FRDAP staff work with the last two projects for community beach access.

**Deborah Denys:** Please remember to label everything; don't assume anything to be interpreted.

No comments from the public.

The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Closing Comments

# ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gambineri adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent with no objections at 12:32 p.m.