

Bryan's Brief - January 2010

Well it's definitely turning out to be one of our colder winters, adding to that the recent flooding we've experience. Hope all is well with all of you! Thought I would update you on a few issues.

Charter Review

On November 5, 2002, the residents of Leon County adopted a Home Rule Charter that provides for local interests to be addressed locally, rather than by the State. It also provides for your County government to be reflective of the people and serve them in achieving a more responsive and efficient form of government. The Leon County Charter provides three opportunities in which amendments may be proposed. One of these opportunities is through a Citizen Charter Review Committee (CRC). The Charter provides that the Board shall establish a CRC at least 12 months prior to the general election occurring every eight years which required the Committee to be convened by November 2009. The CRC has been established and the County Commission, during a May, 2009 Workshop, identified policy issues to provide the CRC direction. The Board has asked the CRC Members for their recommendations on these issues, potentially as proposed charter amendments. The policy issues presented to the CRC by the Commission are neither exhaustive nor compulsory and include:

- Citizen utility board
- County/city consolidation and/or functional consolidation.
- Countywide stormwater standards/environmental ordinances
- Codification of the revised Tourist Development Council Structure
- Non-partisan elections
- Campaign finance reform
- Lower charter petition threshold
- Elected countywide executive or county manager
- Protection of water supply
- Annexation policy
- Charter officers/constitutional officers
- Commission structure/districting schemes

The CRC meets on Thursdays in the County Commission Chambers on the 5th floor of the Leon County Courthouse. The meetings are open to the public and are shown live via webcast each Thursday and then re-broadcast on Comcast Channel 16 the following Tuesday. The CRC takes public comment and would welcome any suggestions you may have too for their consideration. For more information on the County charter and the CRC go to <http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/charterrev/>

Bannerman Road Corridor Study

As many of you already know, there are no funds set aside for new infrastructure projects due to ongoing budget cuts. Eligibility for Federal stimulus dollars for infrastructure projects requires the engineering and design work must be completed. Since Federal stimulus dollars may be our only option for the funding of the Bannerman Road improvements, the Board directed staff to proceed with the development of the study. A contract for the study has been awarded and as a part of the process, a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) will be appointed by the Board to participate in the development of the Corridor Study. The CAC will also provide a final report summarizing the transportation

improvements the CAC would prefer to see implemented on the corridor. Each of the seven County Commission members will appoint a citizen to a seven-member CAC. If you are interested in being considered for appointment, go to <http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/bcc/committees/app.asp> for the application. Christine Coble at coblec@leoncountyfl.gov can provide the qualifications and you will need to submit your application to her by March 1 as the appointments will be made at our March 23 Commission meeting. She will see that all commissioners receive all submitted applications for consideration of their individual appointments.

Recreation Options

I'm continuing to work with some churches, the school administration and some recreation groups on options for expanding our northside park recreation facilities and hope to have something more definitive to report in my next newsletter.

FY2011 Budget

We'll begin the initial discussions on the FY2011 budget process at noon on January 26. The meeting will be aired on channel 16 and you can review the agenda item at <http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/admin/agenda/Workshops/WS120100126.pdf> Stay tuned! It appears we'll again be making some tough decisions to maintain a balanced budget and I welcome any suggestions you may have!

As always, thank you for your continuing support and I'm honored to serve as your District IV Commissioner. I welcome your suggestions on how we can improve services and operations. I hope you'll call on me if I can be of help or if you have any questions or concerns – deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov or 606-5364.

Respectfully,



Bryan Desloge
Leon County Commissioner, District IV