

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
FROM: Richard B. Szpyrka, P.E., Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Administrative Complex Native Plant Garden Agreement
DATE: November 23, 2021

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

On May 18, 2021 the Board of County Commissioners discussed the possibility of installing a native plant garden in front of Building A at the Administrative Complex. It was the decision of the Board to allow a native plant garden on the eastern side of the main entrance to Building A within the area just east of the sidewalk and to encompass the two existing palm trees. Staff was directed to work with representatives of the Pelican Island Audubon Society on a design and to bring the design back to the Board for Approval. The Board also directed staff to draft an agreement between the County and the Pelican Island Audubon Society to guarantee the plant survival.

On August 17, 2021 the Board discussed the Native Plant Garden configuration proposed for an area in front of County Administrative Complex Building A. The Board directed staff to work with Dr. Baker and his design team to reduce the size of the proposed area of the garden, include a 5-foot buffer between the garden and the existing hedge, consider lesser-known native plants as appropriate, and have Public Works staff coordinate the changes and present the revised design to the Board approval. The County Attorney was also directed to provide documents for the plant warranty and any necessary waivers.

On October 5, 2021 Public Works presented the final conceptual drawings for the native garden to the Board for action. The Board approved the final conceptual drawings to allow the final full design of the native garden to move forward.

The final construction drawings are nearing completion and in order for the project to move forward to the construction phase, staff is presenting the Native Plant Garden Agreement between the County and Pelican Island Audubon Society to the Board for action. The agreement allows for the plantings to be placed on County property in the location approved by the Board and sets a 12-month period for the Pelican Island Audubon Society to maintain the native plant garden. The 12-month period is also a warranty to ensure that the native plants will establish growth. The agreement also allows the Public Works Director the discretion to require an additional 12-month period for maintenance if the native plants do not grow as expected.

FUNDING.

County funding is not required for this project.

RECOMMENDATION.

Staff recommends that the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners approve the Native Plant Garden Agreement with the Pelican Audubon Society, and authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement.

Attachment: Indian River County Administration Complex Native Plant Garden Agreement

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR: December 7, 2021