

The Marion County Land Development Regulation Commission met on February 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Growth Services Main Training Room, 2710 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala Florida.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Tillman Called the Meeting to Order at 5:32 pm.

ROLL CALL & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Becky Brinkley called roll and the quorum was confirmed.
Board members present were Chairman David Tillman, Richard Busche, Chris Howson, Jonny Heath, and Robert Stepp.

Chairman David Tillman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Staff members present were Chief Assistant County Attorney Dana Olesky, Growth Services Director Chuck Varadin, Deputy Director Ken Weyrauch, Senior Planner Chris Rison, Planner Kathleen Brugnoli, Development Review Coordinator Liz Madeloni, County Engineer Steven Cohoon, Stormwater Engineer Jason Cambre, Land Development Manager Aaron Pool, Staff Assistant Becky Brinkley, and Administrative Staff Assistant Autumn Williams.

Several members of the public were present.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Becky Brinkley read the Proof of Publication and advised that the meeting was properly advertised.

1. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING MINUTES

Rick Busche made a motion to adopt the minutes from the January 15, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Chris Howson. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

2. SCHEDULED ITEMS

2.1. Discussion for Proposed Marion County Land Development Code (LDC) Amendments to Review and Create Section 4.3.28 Limitations on Ownership and Possession of Dogs and Cats

Dana Olesky, Chief Assistant County Attorney, opened a discussion regarding this item.

The Board reviewed changes to the proposed language based on the discussion at the last meeting. Board Members voiced their comments regarding the current language.

The Board Chair allowed public comment.

Kim Clarke, 5825 NW Gainesville Road, Ocala, FL 34475

- Opposed, currently lives on agricultural property and moved from Orlando to avoid these types of limitations. Numerous animals have been dumped in her area. She feels the proposed limitations would adversely affect her ability to work her herding dogs as she cannot limit herself to four animals. She does not agree with these limitations and feels they should be changed. Does not agree with having to get a Special Use Permit to continue her operation.

Virginia Kilmer, 1200 NW 73rd Terrace, Ocala, FL 34482

- Opposed, founder of Perpetual Care 501(c)(3). Her foundation is run on a 3 acre farm so the current language does not allow her to apply for a Special Use Permit and is concerned about the limit that is placed on her foundation because of that. Her foundation takes in pets when their owners pass and the current language would cause her to be unable to take in any more pets thus forcing her to cease operations.

Julie Karson, 6400 Ave H, McIntosh, FL 32664

- Opposed, her land is under 10 acres causing her to be unable to apply for a Special Use Permit. She breeds dogs and is concerned the proposed language will force her to make other arrangements for her dogs who she has raised their entire lives. She does not agree with the proposed limits/restrictions.

Judith Posner, 10150 NW 21st Street, Ocala, FL 34482

- Opposed to proposed limitations. Did not know about the need for a Special Use Permit. States she is a widow and her dogs are her life and she does not want to be forced to make other arrangements for her dogs.

Florence Sanstrom, 14757 NE 21st Avenue Road, Citra, FL 32113

- Opposed, states she has 60 acres plus an extra 40 for livestock. Has 17 dogs that are retired. Her dogs are on the property for their life and she wants to know what she should do with them based on the restrictions that would be imposed by the current language. She points out that as a breeder she always has pups leftover from a litter that no one wants and wants to know what she should do with those if the proposed language went into effect. She states the proposed language would force animals to be euthanized. She feels the county is trying to strangle out breeders.

Sheri Hall, 10150 NW 21st Street, Ocala, FL 34482

- Opposed to the proposed limitations. States she is afraid she will lose her dogs.

Rachel Perez, 2415 NE 7th Street, Apt 4, Ocala, FL 34470

- Opposed, states she operates a 501(c)(3) cat rescue that takes in special needs cats and offers palliative care. She has 10 permanent residents. During "kitten season" the number of cats can reach 15-20 even though she does facilitate adoption when feasible. States she is opposed to the proposed limits. Expresses concerns that there are so many animals needing homes already.

Nicole Shepard, 59 Never Bend Drive, Ocala, FL 34482

- Opposed, states she breeds and trains dogs on 2.3 acres. Expresses concern that the proposed language makes her ineligible to apply for a Special Use Permit. States she dedicates her life to each litter and this limits her ability to continue her work. She does not like the blanket language proposed.

Joanne Kittredge, 4230 SE 57th Lane, Ocala, FL 34480

- Opposed, she is a breeder here and in South Carolina. There is a big community of show breeders in Marion County. Explains breeders take their dogs back if their placement doesn't work out as per their contract with the buyers. She previously worked for animal control and suggested we enforce existing laws and institute a noise ordinance. States the proposed language is going to "kill my livelihood". Asked if the Board consulted with anyone before making this language.

Public comment was closed at 6:29 by the Chair.

Additional discussion between Board Members and staff. Board members agreed to move the proposed language to a Public Hearing on March 5, 2025 at 5:30 PM in the McPherson Auditorium.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Chuck Varadin, Director of Growth Services, opened a discussion regarding the LDC Updates Timeline table and schedule to address upcoming items.

The board discussed the possibility of changing and/or extending meeting times/length. It was agreed that moving forward the LDRC meetings would remain as scheduled and would be modified if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Attest:



David Tillman, Chairman



Rebecca Brinkley,
Staff Assistant IV

Land Development Regulation Commission Attendance Report

2025	January 15	February 5	February 19	March 5	March 19	April 2	April 16	May 7	May 21	June 4	June 18	July 2	July 16	August 6	August 20	September 3	September 17	October 1	October 16	November 5	November 19	December 3	December 17
Christopher Howson	X	X																					
James Stockton, III																							
Gene Losito	X																						
Jonny Heath		X																					
Richard Busche	X	X																					
Robert Stepp		X																					
David Tillman	X	X																					
Erica Larson*	X																						

X Present

- N/A