

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD

APPLICATION DATE: 7/30/2025
BOARD NAME: Planning + Zoning Commission

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: Steve Koch
Occupation: Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' + Owners' Assoc.
If Retired, previous occupation: _____
Address: 1003 SE 43rd St.
City: Ocala State: FL ZIP: 34480
Phone#: 859-230-6955
E-mail Address: SKoch@FTBOA.com

MAILING ADDRESS (If different from residence):

Address: Same
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Is your address or any other personal information exempt under Florida Statute 119.70? Yes ___ No ☒
If yes, please submit a signed Marion County Public Records Act Exempt Form (available upon request).

What is your preferred form of communication? Phone ___ Mail ___ Email ☒

The following data is collected in accordance with Florida Statute, Section 760.80, for the purpose of statistical reporting and ensuring compliance with diversity and inclusion guidelines. Your responses will be kept confidential and will not affect your application.

Gender: Male ☒ Female ___ Prefer not to disclose ___
Physically Disabled: Yes ___ No ☒ Prefer not to disclose ___
Race: African-American ___ Native-American ___ Caucasian ☒ Other ___
Hispanic/Latino ___ Asian -American ___ Prefer not to disclose ___

Are you a registered voter? Yes ☒ No ___

Do you own homestead property in Marion County? Yes ☒ No ___

Are you employed by Marion County or have relatives that are Marion County employees? Yes ___ No ☒
If yes, please provide position, department and/or relationship to County employee and their position/department

Do you currently work for an entity or agency that either receives funding from, or has a contract with the County to perform services? Yes ☐ No ☒

Are you, your spouse, or children, currently an officer, director, or partner in any entity or agency that receives funding from, or has a contract with the county? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, please submit a signed FORM 4a - Disclosure of Business Transaction, Relationship, or Interest. (Available upon request).

Have you been convicted (including a withholding of adjudication), pled guilty or pled to a Nolo Contendere (no contest) to a misdemeanor or felony (including a criminal traffic violation)? Yes ☐ No ☒

A 'YES' answer will not automatically disqualify you from serving on an advisory board. The nature, severity, and date of the offense will be considered in relation to the position. If unsure about the details of a criminal case, contact the relevant agency to ensure accuracy when reporting your history. Failure to do so may result in removal from the board. If you answered 'YES,' please provide details. You may use an additional sheet if needed.

WHY DO YOU DESIRE TO SERVE ON THIS/THESE BOARDS?

(Include current or previous work experience; community involvement; interests/activities)

See attachment.

SERVING ON OTHER BOARDS

Do you currently serve on any other boards in Florida, or are you an elected or appointed state, county (Marion County or other county) or municipal ("city") office holder? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, which board? Belle Chase Home Owners Association

(Important: You may not serve on more than one (1) Substantive Board: Board of Adjustment; Code Enforcement Board; License Review Board; Land Development Regulation Commission; Historical Commission; Hospital District Board of Trustees; Housing Finance Authority; Industrial Development Authority; Tourist Development Council; Parks and Recreation Advisory Council)

Have you ever served on a City or County advisory board? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, when, where and which board(s)?

REFERENCES - Please list three (3) personal and/or business references

(PLEASE DO NOT USE COMMISSIONERS or COUNTY ADMINISTRATION STAFF as REFERENCES)

Name:

Lonny Powell

Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Name:

Sara Fennessy

Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Name:

Jon Rees

Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]


INITIAL: SK I authorize Marion County to contact my references and I understand that all statements made on this application may be verified by Marion County.

INITIAL: SK I understand the responsibilities associated with being a board member, and I have adequate time to serve if appointed.

INITIAL: SK I agree to complete training within six (6) months from the date of my appointment.

INITIAL: SK I understand that submitting this application makes all provided information public record, subject to disclosure under applicable laws unless exempt under Florida Statute 119.071. I confirm the accuracy of all details provided and their suitability for public release.

By signing this application, I certify that the information I provided in this application is true and correct, and that any misstatements or material omissions on my application may result in my removal from my appointed position.

SIGN: 

DATE: 7/30/2025

PRINT: Stephen I. Koch

RECEIVED BY BCC:

This application will be kept on file for a period of one year from date of receipt by the Board of County Commissioners.

RETURN FORM TO:

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

Or via email to: Commissionadmin@marionfl.org

PLEASE CALL THE COMMISSION OFFICE AT (352) 438-2323 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR APPLICATION.

Marion County Planning and Zoning Commission

July 30, 2025

My lifetime agriculture experiences and career commitment may provide a valuable perspective to include on the Marion County Planning and Zoning Commission.

I began my career, like so many others, as a child born into farming. I was raised as a horseman on a major Thoroughbred breeding farm (Claiborne Farm, Kentucky), learned the realities of blue-collar cattle and horse breeding on the family's Mt. Carmel farm, and verified myself as a hard laborer at *both* farms. Throughout university I was employed as a veterinary assistant in a mobile, large animal practice and earned my cowboy-chops as lead hand on the veterinary chute at the local stockyards.

Through grad-school (University of Kentucky, M.S. Agricultural Economics) my early interests turned full-time to equine. My career began at Keeneland racetrack and followed by Woodbine racetrack (Toronto, Canada) where I stepped up as the vice president of racing.

I later joined the National Thoroughbred Racing Association where we evolved horse racing's original Safety & Integrity Code of Standards that now underpins today's federal Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority standards. It was the safety/regulatory platform that pulled me back into racetrack operations in 2019 – this time as Senior Vice President – Operations for The Stronach Group, ownership of major racetracks in Florida, Maryland and California.

In 2022 I eagerly found my way to Ocala via the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' & Owners' Association (FTBOA). FTBOA and Ocala horsemen have especially benefited from my economist and analytics skills-set as we advance policies that grow Ocala's leading industry.

To date I am lifetime invested in the long-term, thoughtful management of our unique agricultural lands and the greenspace industries that drew my family to Ocala. My career experiences in a highly regulated industry and a diverse viewpoint as a well-traveled professional all sitting atop an ag-economics academic foundation suggest I have much to offer the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Koch', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steve Koch

859-230-6955

Skoch@FTBOA.com

[LinkedIn.com/in/KochStephen](https://www.linkedin.com/in/KochStephen)