

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY BOARD

APPLICATION DATE: October 29 2024
BOARD NAME: Land Development Regulation Commission

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM RESIDENCE):

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

Is your address or any other personal information exempt under the Florida Statutes? Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, please cite the applicable Florida Statute: F.S. # _____

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

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

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 necessarily bar you from serving on an advisory board. The nature, severity, and date of the offense in relation to the position for which you are applying will be considered. If you are not sure or do not remember what happened in a criminal case (s), contact the appropriate county, state, or federal agency so that you can report accurate information on your criminal history. Failure to accurately report this information may result in removal from the board. If you answered "YES" please give details, an additional sheet of paper may be used.

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 AS REFERENCES)

Name: Lonny Powell
Phone Number: 352-207-4321 Email: LPowell@FTBGA.com

Name: Sara Fennessy
Phone Number: 859-533-5510 Email: sara.fennessy@horsefarmsforever.com

Name: Matt Bryan
Phone Number: 850-228-8947 Email: mbryan@smithbryanandmyers.com

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

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:  PRINT: Stephen I. Koch

MARION COUNTY BCC

RECEIVED BY BCC: OCT 29 2024

This application will be kept on file for a period of one year from date of receipt by the Board of County Commissioners. Should a vacancy occur on the board to which you have applied, you will be notified.

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 Land Development Regulation Commission

October 29, 2024

My lifetime agriculture experiences and career commitment may provide a valuable perspective to include on the Marion County Land Development Regulation 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.

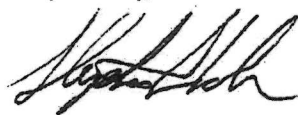
Through grad-school (University of Kentucky, M.S. Agricultural Economics) my early interests turned full-time to equine. My career began at Keeneland racetrack and followed by Woodbine racetrack (Toronto, Canada) where I stepped up as the vice president of racing.

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 & 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 LDRC.

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