

The Marion County Land Development Regulation Commission met on March 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Auditorium, 601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Tillman called the Meeting to Order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Autumn Williams called roll, and the quorum was confirmed. Board members present were Chairman David Tillman, Richard Busche, Christopher Howson, Gene Losito, Jonny Heath, Robert Stepp, and Erica Larson.

Richard Busche late arrival at 7:40 PM

Chairman David Tillman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Staff members present were Chief Assistant County Attorney Dana Olesky, Growth Services Deputy Director Ken Weyrauch, Development Review Coordinator Elizabeth Madeloni, and Administrative Staff Assistant Autumn Williams.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Autumn Williams read both of the Proofs of Publication and advised that the meeting was properly advertised.

1. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING MINUTES

Gene Losito made a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 19, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Stepp. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

2. SCHEDULED ITEMS

2.1. PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration of Proposed Marion County Land Development Code (LDC) Amendments to Review and Update Section 4.2.11 Multiple Family Dwelling (R-3) Classification

Ken Weyrauch, Growth Services Deputy Director, opened the discussion regarding this item.

LDRC Board Members voiced their comments.

There was no public comment for this item.

Board Member Robert Stepp made a motion to recommend approval as presented with the amended language to Section 4.2.11 to the board of County Commissioners. Second made by Board Member Gene Losito. Motion passes unanimously, 6-0.

2.2. PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration of Proposed Marion County Land Development Code (LDC) Amendments to Revise Article 1 Administration, Division 2 – Definitions and Create New 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.

LDRC Board Members voiced their recommendations and comments regarding the current language.

The following members of the public spoke during Public Comment:

- Ernesto Saco – 880 NW 67th Place, Ocala
 - Opposed, SUP is too expensive and takes money away from the animals. Will existing kennels be grandfathered in?
- JoAnn Kittridge – 4230 SE 57th Lane, Ocala
 - Asks for clarification of hobby breeder and its requirements are?
- Jim Rollins – 3280 S HWY 314-A, Ocklawaha
 - Asks for clarification in regards to the acreage requirement?
- Debra Reggio – 10875 SE 24th Street Road, Silver Springs
 - Thanks the board members for listening to the public on their concerns.
- Janet Barber – 8580 SW 73rd Avenue, Ocala
 - Opposed, feels limits only punish responsible owners. Asks how they will regulate these proposed limits.
- Rusty Jacobs – 13100 SE 30th Court, Belleview
 - Asks for clarification on the criteria of a SUP and who makes the final decision on if it is granted or not.
- Michelle Holmes – 18852 N US HWY 301, Citra
 - Opposed, concerned about the proposed language, and feels those that are doing the right thing shouldn't be regulated. Canines bring a lot of

revenue to Marion County via dog shows, etc. Has the board worked with AKC on this language?

- Florence Sanstrom – 14757 NE 21st Avenue Road, Citra
 - Asks for clarification on if her parcel will require anything additional to be brought into compliance where she has 17 retired dogs, and if so, would she be grandfathered in.

- Lori McCray – 14770 SW 70th Place, Ocala
 - Asks how the proposed language will be enforced?

- Sarah Bittman-Hardy – 4820 SE 145th Street, Summerfield
 - Asks for clarification on rescues vs 501c3 and the SUP requirement.

- Charlyn Davis – 2351 SW 66th Street, Ocala
 - Asks for clarification on current definitions for breeders.

- Jamie Niswonger – 9302 SE 142nd Lane, Summerfield
 - Asks for clarification on if this language prohibits residential properties in any way.

- Kelly Myers – 7770 SE 41st Court, Ocala
 - Opposed, feels these issues should be handled by animal control and that this is punishment for those who, at their own expense, are taking strays off the road and keeping them out of the shelters.

- Erica Erickson – 12676 NW 8th Avenue, Ocala
 - Opposed, concerns about fairness to those with 5013c. She feels that using her own time and money doing home fostering/rescues helps the county keep these animals out of their shelters, and she should not be required to get a SUP at an additional cost to her.

- Katherine Brigman – 4614 NE 14th Place, Ocala
 - In favor, she explains she currently is facing struggles with her neighbor who has multiple dogs. Complaints of the smell. States that her neighbor's dogs have dug out of their yard and entered hers. It has made her fearful to be in her backyard. She does not feel that a high number of dogs should be allowed in high-density neighborhoods as it is not the place for them.

- Hailey Miron – 16 Cherry Court, Ocala
 - Opposed, concerned the fee associated with this licensing/permitting take away from the animals. Asks what happens to those who cannot afford these fees?

- Lori Chapman – 11857 W HWY 328, Ocala
 - Opposed, against the requirement for a SUP, feels it is a waste of money to apply for a SUP the applicant may or may not get. Ask what other animals are going to be regulated and why farm animals are not being included. States the AKC does inspections yearly and feels the county should accept that in place of what is being proposed.
- Dale Kreutzer – 259 Marion Oaks Lane, Ocala
 - Opposed, does not believe this board should be involved and that animal services should be the ones handling this topic. Concerned this will only punish those who are doing the right things.
- Anthony Tartaglia – 4610 NE 14th Place, Ocala
 - In support, disappointed in the increase to 30 animals. He explains he is currently facing struggles with his neighbor who has multiple dogs. States that his neighbor's dogs have dug out of their yard and entered his. He has witnessed the owner being unable to control those dogs when retrieving them, and he fears for his children's safety now because of it.
- Annette Sackrider – 6501 N HWY 441, Ocala
 - Opposed, neighbors have dogs as protection for her livestock from predators in the area, like coyotes. Feels this is an overreach on breeders and doesn't agree that limitations on number will be effective. These limitations will impact the revenue that breeders bring to Marion County. Feels this is not a decision this board should be making and should be handled by code enforcement. States that, in her opinion, this language eludes to people having to either get rid of or euthanize their animals.
- Shannon Fields – 5941 SW 86th Place, Ocala
 - Asks for clarification on hobby breeder and its requirements. Concerned with the kennel definition and how this affects service animals.
- Kim Pruitt – 5051 SW 133rd Avenue, Ocala
 - Opposed, concerned this new language will cause her 501c3 to be taken from her.
- Soloman Hardy – 5595 SE 140th Street, Summerfield
 - Opposed, concerns of individuals having to get rid of their animals if SUP is not approved. Fears the SUP final decision will be decided based on popularity and not facts.
- Angelo Ippolito – 10960 SE 187th Court, Ocklawaha

- Asks for clarification on what happens to people already over the limit?

Board Member Robert Stepp made a motion to deny and strike section 4.3.28 and recommend approval as presented with amended language to Article 1 Administration, Division 2 - Definitions as amended to the board of County Commissioners. Second was made by Board Member Rick Busche. Motion passes unanimously, 7-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Attest:

David Tillman, Chairman

Autumn Williams,
Administrative Staff Assistant