

MEETING OF THE DISTRICTS
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
9:30 AM
600 S. Commerce Ave. Sebring, FL 33870
AGENDA

DISTRICTS LIST

AVON PARK ESTATES S. B. D.	ORANGE VILLA MOBILE HOME ESTATES S. B. D.
BONNETT CREEK ACRES S. B. D.	PLACID LAKES S. B. D.
DESOTO CITY S. B. F. D.	PLACID LAKES S. B. F. D.
HICKORY HILLS S. B. D.	RED HILL FARMS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
HIGHLANDS PARK ESTATES S. B. D.	SEBRING ACRES S. B. D.
HIGHLANDS PARK S. B. F. D.	SEBRING COUNTRY ESTATES S. B. D.
HIGHWAY PARK S. B. D.	SEBRING HILLS S. B. D.
LAKE HAVEN ESTATES S. B. D.	SEBRING MANOR S. B. D.
LAKE PLACID S. B. F. D.	SOMERVILLE DOWNS S. B. D.
LEISURE LAKES S. B. F. D.	THUNDERBIRD ROAD WASTEWATER S. B. D.
LORIDA S. B. F. D.	VANTAGE POINTE II S. B. D.
ORANGE BLOSSOM ESTATES S. B. D.	VENUS SPECIAL B. F. D.
ORANGE BLOSSOM UNIT 12 S. B. D.	WEST SEBRING S. B. F. D.
ISTOKPOGA MARSH WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT	
SUN 'N LAKE ESTATES AND ACREAGE OF LAKE PLACID—S. B. D.	
SUN 'N LAKES OF LAKE PLACID RECREATION DISTRICT	
HIGHLANDS LAKES SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT	
COUNTYWIDE FIRE DISTRICT	
OAK MANOR AVENUE ROAD PAVING MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT DISTRICT	

1 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

2 CONSENT AGENDA

- 2.A *Request approval of the minutes from the July 20, 2021 meeting of the Special Districts.*
[072021SPC.pdf](#)

3 ACTION AGENDA

- 3.A *Discussion of options and action related to future citizen involvement with the Sun N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District.*
Sherry G. Sutphen, County Attorney
All costs should fall within the administrative fee paid by the District to the County; however, any unanticipated amounts caused by a particular option could cause an increase in Administrative Fees to the District.
[Resolution 2021-22-__Sun n Lakes of LP Recreation Dist.Advisory Committee.SGS.pdf](#)

4 CITIZENS NOT ON THE AGENDA

5 ADJOURN

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Supervisors of any of the Special Districts of Highlands County, Florida, in a public hearing or quasi-judicial proceeding is hereby advised that he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

The Board of Supervisors of the Special Districts in Highlands County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions, including one's access to, participation, employment or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans With Disabilities Act or Section 286.26, Florida Statutes should contact the Highland County Human Resources Department, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (voice), or via Florida Rely Service 711, or by e-mail: hrmanager@highlandsfl.gov. Requests for CART or interpreter services should be made as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours in advance of a public meeting to permit coordination of the service.

Please note our new website address: www.highlandsfl.gov

Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Special Districts of Highlands County shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by Highlands County, nor is Highlands County allowed by law to endorse the religious beliefs or views of any speaker.

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

DATE OF ACTION REQUEST: October 19, 2021

PRESENTER:

SUBJECT/TITLE: Request approval of the minutes from the July 20, 2021 meeting of the Special Districts.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Move approval of the minutes from the July 20, 2021 meeting of the Special Districts.

Attachments: [072021SPC.pdf](#)

MEETING OF THE DISTRICTS, JULY 20, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., in the Highlands County Board of County Commission Chambers at 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, Florida, with the following members present:

Commissioner Scott A. Kirouac
Commissioner Kevin J. Roberts
Commissioner Chris Campbell

Commissioner Kathleen G. Rapp
Commissioner Arlene Tuck

Also, present: Randy Vosburg, County Administrator; Sherry Sutphen, County Attorney; Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk of Courts; and Jill Ann Shields, Deputy Clerk.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Campbell moved approval of the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried.

- A. Placid Lakes Special Benefit District. Placid Lakes Home & Property Association request to install bricks around flagpole to honor veterans at Tobler Park. See SMB 143 Page 55.**

3. ACTION AGENDA

- A. Proposal to increase the Sun 'n Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District non-ad valorem assessment levied against residential properties located with the District for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022.**

Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director, presented the request and stated staff is seeking direction from the Board on the recommendation to increase the assessment levied against buildable lots from the current rate of \$25.00 to \$35.00 and to increase the assessment levied against non-buildable lots from the current rate of \$12.50 to \$17.50. **See SMB 143 Page 56.**

Randy Vosburg, County Administrator, clarified to the Board that staff is not looking for a vote on the actual increase, but for direction whether to proceed with the mail notices for an August 17, 2021 public hearing.

Chairman Kirouac opened the floor for public input. Input was provided by Jody Forsythe, Mike Forsythe and Larry Walker, President of the Property Association, and Larry Hughes.

Sherry Sutphen, County Attorney, addressed in great detail concerns raised by the Commission and the public.

Commissioner Tuck moved approval to have a public hearing on this matter on August 17, 2021 with notification to property owners by mail prior to the meeting as required by Florida Statutes. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion.

After further discussion, Mr. Vosburg shared that his opinion is that this potential increase may bring the Board lots of grief and perhaps there is no need for an increase at the moment.

Commissioner Tuck withdrew her motion and Commissioner Campbell withdrew his second.

Ms. Sutphen, County Attorney, stated with the removal of the motion, the Board can give further direction or take no action.

Ms. Cannady stated she will do her best to accommodate with no assessment increase and if this does not move forward with a public hearing, she stated staff will work through the budget process and do what they can.

The Commission continued their discussion in great detail.

Commissioner Campbell moved approval to proceed to advertise and notice for an August 17, 2021 public hearing in consideration to change the fees from what they currently are to a potential increase. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried.

4. CITIZENS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No participants.

5. ADJOURN

Commissioner Campbell moved to adjourn the Meeting of the Districts. Commissioner Rapp seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

DATE OF ACTION REQUEST: October 19, 2021

PRESENTER: Sherry G. Sutphen, County Attorney

SUBJECT/TITLE: Discussion of options and action related to future citizen involvement with the Sun N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Several members of the public who live within the jurisdiction of the Sun N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District have expressed differing opinions as to the level of citizen involvement and representation related to matters such as, use restrictions and funding mechanisms for the Sun N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District. Prior general discussions regarding use of citizen advisory committees for County Districts has prompted further citizen communication on the issue specifically related to the Sun N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District. The creation ordinance for the Sun N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District allows for the creation of citizen advisory committees; however, it does not preclude other forms of citizen participation in the decision making process. This discussion of options will allow for citizen input in a public forum and provide an opportunity for the District Board to make a final decision specific to future citizen involvement for the Sun N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Move approval of one of the following options: (1) direct the County Administrator to coordinate periodic information gathering meetings and report back to the District Board with any findings; (2) encourage citizen groups to form voluntarily and report desires to District Board periodically at regular meetings of the District; or (3) Adopt Resolution formally creating a Sun N Lakes Lake Placid Recreation District Advisory Committee which is subject to the sunshine law, has specified expectations and reporting responsibilities to the District Board.

FISCAL IMPACT

All costs should fall within the administrative fee paid by the District to the County; however, any unanticipated amounts caused by a particular option could cause an increase in Administrative Fees to the District.

Attachments: [Resolution 2021-22-__Sun n Lakes of LP Recreation Dist.Advisory Committee.SGS.pdf](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-22-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE SUN 'N LAKES OF LAKE PLACID RECREATION DISTRICT; PERTAINING TO THE SUN 'N LAKES OF LAKE PLACID RECREATION DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE CREATION; PROVIDING FOR PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITY; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP; PROVIDING FOR STAFF MEMBER LIAISON(S); PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners created the Sun 'N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District (District) in 1992 for purposes including but not limited to constructing, acquiring, undertaking, furnishing and maintaining recreation benefits in the Area of the District; and

WHEREAS, recently a group of citizens living in the Area of the District expressed interest in being more involved in the decisions made by the Board of Supervisors of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 9, Article XXVI (26), Section 9-466, provides for the creation of Advisory Committees to assist with various District matters; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that a special advisory committee should be created and convened immediately for the purpose of establishing long term goals, evaluating matters and making recommendations, as necessary, to the District Board of Supervisors related to recreational purposes of the District; and

WHEREAS, it is the expectation of the District Board of Supervisors that the advisory committee members will work together in a professional manner to make fair and balanced decisions and recommendations which are in the best interest of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of the Sun 'N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District of Highlands County, Florida, that:

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings. The District has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing this Resolution. The above recitals are hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. Advisory Committee Creation. An advisory committee to be known as the “Sun ‘N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District Advisory Committee” is hereby created, which shall hereinafter be referred to as the “Advisory Committee.”

SECTION 3. Purpose and Responsibility.

A. *Purpose.* It shall be the purpose of the Advisory Committee to review and evaluate matters for, and at times make recommendations to, the District Board of Supervisors pertaining to and consistent with the recreational purposes of the District.

B. *Responsibilities.* The Advisory Committee shall meet as frequently as deemed necessary by the Advisory Committee in order to accomplish the purposes set forth herein.

SECTION 4. Membership.

A. *Generally.* The Advisory Committee shall consist of five (5) members.

B. *Appointment.* The Advisory Committee members shall be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the District Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. *Five (5) Members.* Each Supervisor of the District shall appoint one (1) representative whom he/she believes to be the best suited individual to serve on the Advisory Committee so long as each such individual:

- a. owns real property in the Area of the District;
- b. is a representative designated by an owner of real property in the Area of the District.

Each appointment shall be confirmed by majority vote of a quorum of the District Board of Supervisors.

C. *Term.* Each member of the Advisory Committee shall serve without commission or honorarium for a period of years, without limitation in number of terms and may be removed at the pleasure of the District Board of Supervisors.

D. *Officers.* The Advisory Committee shall annually elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson from its membership.

SECTION 5. Staff Member Liaison(s). The County Administrator shall assign the appropriate staff members to be the liaison(s) for the Advisory Committee, to maintain the sunshine law formalities, to facilitate the work being completed by the Advisory Committee and to provide District resources as necessary to assist with completion of the purposes and responsibilities set forth herein.

SECTION 6. Implementation of Administrative Actions. The County Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to take such action as may be deemed necessary and appropriate in order to implement the provisions of this Resolution. The County Administrator may, as deemed appropriate, necessary and convenient, delegate the powers of implementation as herein set forth to such County employees as deemed effectual and prudent.

SECTION 7. Savings Clause. All prior actions of Highlands County pertaining to the creation of the Sun 'N Lakes of Lake Placid Recreation District Advisory Committee, as well as any and all matters relating thereto, are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 8. Scrivener's Errors. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Resolution, as determined by the County Administrator and County Attorney, may be corrected.

SECTION 9. Conflicts. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

SECTION 10. Severability. If any Section or portion of a Section of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other Section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION 11. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of October, 2021.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OR THE SUN 'N
LAKES OF LAKE PLACID RECREATION
DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY,
FLORIDA**

(SEAL)

By: _____
Scott A. Kirouac, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk of Court
Secretary of the District