

Columbia County
Board of County Commissioners
October 02,2025

Workshop

The Columbia County Board of County Commissioners met in a scheduled workshop at School Board Administrative Complex at 10:19 A.M. The meeting opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

Commissioners in Attendance: Commissioner, Robbie Hollingsworth
Commissioner, Kevin Parnell
Commissioner, Everett Phillips
Commissioner, Rocky Ford

Others in Attendance: County Manager, David Kraus ("CM")
Assistant County Manager Kevin Kirby (ACM")
County Attorney, Joel Foreman
County Fire Chief, Jeff Crawford
Director of Human Resources, Kari Guy
Public Information Officer, Dennis Rivera
Landscape & Parks Director, Clint Pittman
Deputy Clerk, Melissa Williams
Economic Development Director, Jennifer Daniels
Finance Officer, Amy Overstreet
Mark Magstadt

Discussion and Action Items:

- (1) Update of Land Development Regulations and Comprehensive Plan-Kimley-Horn

Kimly-Horn will present progress on the update of the land use regulations and seek Board of County Commissioners input into updating the regulations.

There were 176 responses to Kimley-Horn Survey. Please see the attached hand out of the results. Growth, housing, assets and signs questions were one part. The next part was fencing. And the last part was on trees, open space and parks questions.

They spoke about the different places they had attended to get the survey out there. Some of the places they went to were the springs, Fourth of July Celebration, open house and other workshops in our area.

Some of the results were about signs and fencing and wood fences were preferred. Over 76% were for Nature Parks.

Commissioner, Robbie Hollingsworth asked about what type of housing.

They did not ask about specific housing, but they will ask.

Columbia County's Assistant Building & Zoning Director, Melissa Garber spoke on what each Board does.

Commissioner, Kevin Parnell spoke about making sure the appeal form is where the public can find it.

Commissioner, Robbie Hollingsworth spoke about the appeals process.

County Attorney, Joel Foreman spoke about at the meeting doing the appeals, LDR'S and posting the by-laws.

County Manager, David Kraus spoke about the upcoming Planning & Zoning Board and having the Public Information Director, Dennis Rivera put it where the public can see the meeting time and location, and making social media sites more user friendly.

Commissioner, Robbie Hollingsworth stated that the Public Information Director, Dennis Rivera was doing a good job.

County Attorney, Joel Foreman spoke about the knowledge and working with Kimley Horne.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford asked about LDR and if they are turned down, if they can be sued.

County Attorney, Joel Foreman speaking on the legal side come to me and let's look at it. But you still must vote as a board.

Discussion ensued.

Columbia County Building & Zoning Director, Troy Crews spoke about the bigger signs. The standard signs are 24 x 36 now.

Assistant County Manager, Kevin Kirby stated they can build whatever size and color signs that are needed. They also can put the signs up.

Commissioner Robbie Hollingsworth spoke about 2-3 words on the signs then a phone# to catch your eye and public notice.

Commissioner, Kevin Parnell stated that maybe blank metal signs, barcodes and different colors for different areas.

Kimley-Horn spoke about putting a phone # on the signs.

Kimley-Horn Comprehensive Plan / Florida Statutes Chapter 163

- 1) Remove outdated language
- 2) Add definitions section
- 3) Recommendations of the Safety Action Plan
- 4) Transportation Element
- 5) Create user-friendly plan

LDR's big documents, parking and landscaping review the format for clarifying and to simplify.

Evaluate eliminating Article # 9 minimum housing and move out of the land development standards in the Comprehensive Plan.

Senate bill 180 freezes local government's ability to enact stricter land-use and development regulations for a period after a hurricane.

Commissioner, Rocky Ford asked the question if another hurricane comes will it move the date.

Kimly-Horn does not think it is linked to new hurricanes but did not know the correct answer.

Commissioner, Robbie Hollingsworth spoke about liking the Senate Bill 180 more restrictions or burdensome regulations. Catching the part of the state that has the most damage.

County Attorney, Joel Foreman spoke about there being a lot of standards.

Feedback to Kimly-Horn and watch Senate Bill 180.

Kimley-Horn talked about the different boards and stated that the Planning and Board of Adjustment could be made up of the same people.

County Attorney, Joel Foreman agreed with using the same people for the Boards.

Columbia County Building & Zoning Director, Troy Crews stated that Chemical Plant, Heavy Industrial and Asphalt have restrictions that will need to go before the Planning & Zoning Board.

Kimley-Horn talked about everybody's feedback and recommendation and then coming back before the Board. Look at the changes and set up a series of workshops for the Board.

Open Public Comments and/or Questions: none

Staff Comments: none

Commissioner Comments: none

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M

ATTEST:

Robbie Hollingsworth, Vice-Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court & County Comptroller