

Data Center Ordinance Advisory Group

Meeting Notes

Friday, July 7, 2023

1. Team member correction

- a. Dr. John Lyver – update to Gainesville Magisterial District Representative

2. Team Charter

- a. Reviewed goals and team ground rules
- b. This group is an advisory group to the County which will address the noise ordinance, zoning ordinance, DCSM. We are open to working through other issues as the group goes through the process, if it aligns with our scope of work
- c. Went to the Board in February 2023 and amended the noise ordinance and asked the Board to initiate changes to the DCSM and Zoning Ordinance.
- d. Goals – the group will provide feedback/suggestions to the County, who will then provide a formal report to the Board

3. Future meeting dates and times

- a. Wednesdays, at 11:00am to 12:30pm
- b. We will meet bi-weekly beginning Wednesday, July 19 and invitation will be sent out with conference room location and hybrid option

4. Meeting notes

- a. Samer, Service Authority, said that he would like the team to look into pretreatment requirements for sanitary and stormwater discharges.
- b. Christina Winn shared with the team that the Stantec Contract was approximately \$125K
- c. Josh and Kevin agreed to discuss with industry the option of having a presentation to the Group regarding Data Center Market trends and HVAC technology trends.
- d. Staff will provide a copy of the Stantec contract, so the group can review the scope of work.

5. Consultant discussion

- a. Discussion about the RFP/RFQ process
- b. Adjusted Timeline
 - i. August 18 – Submit work plan to Purchasing to develop the RFQ
 - ii. September 15 – RFQ on the street for 15 days

- iii. October 1 – RFQ submitted to the County
- iv. October 15 – Team starts reviewing the RFQs
- v. November 1 – Award contract
- vi. December 1 – Kickoff meeting with the consultant
- c. Consultant's role
 - i. Listening to the group's discussion about Data Center impacts, so they will understand the underlying concerns with each of the impacts being identified.
 - ii. Researching localities across the United States to identify best practices used to address the various Data Center impacts.
 - iii. Presenting the best practices to the group for review and consideration.
 - iv. Assisting staff with drafting the specific regulations which will be sent to the Planning Commission and Board to be considered for adoption.

6. Parking Lot Items

- a. Proposal to invite a staff member from the City of Manassas to participate on the team.
- b. Proposal to include the airport noise impacts as part of this group's efforts.

7. Scope of Work Discussion

- a. Need to be sure the consultant factors in Public Health impacts associated with the noise generated from Data Center cooling equipment. It's not just the decibel level that is a concern, it's the frequency and the duration of the noise.
- b. Since the County doesn't have specific expertise in sound and noise or public health issues related to noise, we will need a peer review consultant to review the work of the hired consultant.
- c. The consultant should study and understand Data Center trends (equipment, size of the buildings, etc.). The consultant will be expected to share this information with the Data Center Group
- d. The consultant will be expected to identify "best practices" for addressing Data Center impacts (noise, aesthetics, etc.). The consultant is also expected to research "best practices" for addressing noise from other industries (i.e. airports, heavy industrial parks, etc.).
- e. The consultant will be expected to perform advanced noise modeling, since the County may be on the cutting edge for developing regulations that address Data Center noise.