



**Board of County Commissioners
September 14, 2021 - Budget Public Hearing**

SUBJECT

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Category

AGENDA ITEMS

Briefings

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Action Requested

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Background Discussion

Attorney Review

Instructions to Board Records

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 7, 2021, 05:53PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Susan Last Name: Cherry
Email	rksprt@yahoo.com
Topic/Agenda Item	Budget
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	<p>There are a lot of pickleball players in Manatee County, and the sport is growing astronomically. Players like to play on public courts where we can play with people from all neighborhoods. On the public pickleball courts in the Lakewood Ranch area (Lakewood Ranch high school), there are only five courts. They already have cracks, but they are used constantly and there are always people waiting. We could easily triple the amount of public courts and still have players waiting. Please consider funding additional courts for this area of the county. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 14, 2021



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 8, 2021, 03:37PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Dave Last Name: Cherry
Email	dwc427435@yahoo.com
Topic/Agenda Item	Budget Meeting/Pickleball Courts
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	<p>I respectfully request you support the building of additional public Pickleball Courts at the Premiere Sports facility. GT Bray Park as provided a great public facility for those county residents on the west side of Manatee County for years. The planned construction of more than 5,000 additional residence units east of I-75 means that the underserved east county (only 5 courts at Lakewood Ranch High School) will become even more overcrowded than they currently are. With most of the county growth for the next 10 years planned for the area east of I-75, it's imperative that we begin to focus comparable resources for the county residents in this area. Thank you.</p>
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 14, 2021



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 8, 2021, 09:01PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Carol Last Name: Lucas
Email	carol.r.lucas@gmail.com
Topic/Agenda Item	Budget/Parks
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	<p>We need public pickleball courts in Lakewood Ranch, with water, restrooms and parking nearby. The courts need lights for evening play by working adults. The courts need to have wind screens/ fences to keep balls from interrupting other players. Pickleball is a social, welcoming sport that is played by people of all ages. Lakewood Ranch has many new people arriving and wanting to meet others. There needs to be space for spectators and a paddle stacking system to welcome all players while separating by skill level. Ideally some courts should be covered so they could even be used when raining. There need to be enough courts so can have drop in open play as well as tournaments and room for more courts to be added. Thank you for supporting East county residents choosing to participate in the healthy sport of pickleball.</p>
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 14, 2021



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 9, 2021, 12:29PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Robert Last Name: Haskin
Email	rahaskin27@gmail.com
Topic/Agenda Item	Premier Sports
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	I represent over 600 pickleball players in East Manatee County through the LWR Pickleball Club. We currently are having to share the 5 cracking courts at LWR High School. With the increased growth in LWR and pickleball being the fastest growing sport in the world, access to more pickleball courts is warranted. The quick build of 24+ courts at Premier Sports would put this area on the pickleball map and able to host events/clubs/public/tournaments, etc. Please pass and include this worthy and needed facility in this years budget. Thank you...
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 14, 2021



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 10, 2021, 08:21AM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Matthew Last Name: Duvall
Email	mduvall@gmail.com
Topic/Agenda Item	Public Pickleball Courts
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	<p>Dear County Commissioners, My name is Matthew Duvall, I am a recent Manatee County resident writing to you in regards to the proposed budget item for creating more public Pickleball courts. You are probably aware of the explosive growth of Pickleball, so much so that the first dedicated indoor Pickleball facility just broke ground in Sarasota. Many neighborhoods such as River Strand have also created brand new outdoor facilities. These are wonderful options if you can either pay for a membership to a Pickleball club or belong to a gated members only community such as River Strand or Esplande. With the popularity of Pickleball continuing to grow, there is a continued need for more public access to Pickleball courts. I am a member of the Lakewood Ranch (LWR) Pickleball Club and consider the LWR High School courts our 'home court'. The LWR Club has leagues games that rely on these courts, however it is becoming more difficult to find playing time since these courts are completely full during optimal playing times. With this upcoming budget, please consider creating more public Pickleball court options for our county. We are so happy that we chose Bradenton as our new permanent residence, thank you for your time and consideration for these new courts. Sincerely, Matt Duvall</p>
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 14, 2021



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 10, 2021, 12:53PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Daniel Last Name: Pechtoll
Email	djp1254@gmail.com
Topic/Agenda Item	Budget
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	<p>I am writing to encourage the building of additional public pickleball courts in Manatee county, especially at the Premier Sports Campus. Particularly for the underserved senior population in the East County, pickleball has become an important component of the lifestyle we enjoy. The explosive growth of pickleball is a testament to the desire of older residents to exercise and connect to others within the community. In addition, the economic opportunities generated by a location with a large number of courts is enormous. Critical mass of courts (12 or greater) opens opportunities for tournaments, clinics, lessons and more to help make this area a destination for pickleball activities. The US Open facility in East Naples Community Park brings in over 2,000 players and almost 10,000 spectators annually, generating \$1 million to \$2 million dollars for the local economy. The Premier Sports Campus is an ideal location for this type of facility. It's proximity to I75, along with the activities and amenities of Lakewood Ranch, could make it an outstanding tournament-ready venue, while serving local residents every day. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope to see the support of the Manatee County decision makers Dan Pechtoll 13215 Malachite Drive Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211</p>
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 14, 2021



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 10, 2021, 01:41PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Heath Last Name: Bennett
Email	hbennett1007@gmail.com
Topic/Agenda Item	
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	Pickle ball is growing in popularity please make more courts, thank you
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 11, 2021, 10:49AM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Clifford Last Name: Bueno
Email	cliff.bueno@brighthouse.com
Topic/Agenda Item	Library budget for East County
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	<p>The \$7M proposed for a potentially 80,000 resident community is laughable, and even the \$14.7M in the budget is far from the Taj Mahal mentioned for this highly tax paying community in LWR. Libraries sell houses. Businesses and people want to be around a library. Lakewood Ranch is in need of an adequate meeting and program space for its growing community. You say we need a library, for god's sake fund it properly. Fifteen years ago I was on the board of a library district in a highly Republican area of upstate NY. The residents actually had an opportunity to vote on a 55,000 sq ft library, and it passed with an overwhelming majority. That library district has 45,000 residents, much like LWR. Today, it is the centerpiece of that town. At that time, it cost \$14M to build a 2 story beautiful LEEDs certified structure - It too is not a Taj, rather a place for life long learning. People love it and is one of the attractive reasons for people moving to that town. My feeling is that if we are to build a \$14.7M structure, that would be a bargain at today's construction costs. Please get it done today, otherwise it will balloon to \$20M or higher. LWR will have a library, whether you're on board or not. You can make it attractive to build it now. A LWR Library will only make it more attractive for people to move into those 10,000 houses now under construction, and any new construction zones in the East area of LWR.</p>
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 14, 2021



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 12, 2021, 08:44PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Linda Last Name: Kinnan
Email	lkinnan@yahoo.com
Topic/Agenda Item	Budget Meeting - East County Animal Shelter
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	<p>I, along with many other residents, enthusiastically supported the plan for the East County Animal Shelter, and backed up that support with donations to both Animal Network of Manatee and the Manatee Community Foundation. I was very disappointed to learn that some of the commissioners decided, after the news that the Bishop SPCA will become a branch of MCAS, that the east county facility plans should be scrapped. I do not see the thought process here -- the Palmetto shelter is overpopulated and outdated and the Bishop facility is at capacity and serves the residents of West Bradenton. We all know how rapidly the area east of I-75 is growing and MCAS definitely needs to be a presence in that area to address the needs of that population. Please support the construction of a new facility in East Manatee!!</p>
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 14, 2021



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 13, 2021, 12:57PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Alice Last Name: Baumann
Email	aliceb63@yahoo.com
Topic/Agenda Item	New East Manatee Library
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	<p>Dear Manatee County Commissioners, "What in the world would we do without our libraries?"- Katharine Hepburn Clear as a bell I can hear Ms Hepburn saying these words. Indeed, what would we do as a society without our libraries? They are the great equalizers. All are welcome. They are the centers of information, education and entertainment. Every great society has libraries. Every community wants libraries. Needs libraries. And here in our power, in The Number One Master Planned Community in America, is the opportunity to create one. How shall we carry out this endeavor? How do we create a jewel in the community we call home? Do we short change the heart by providing half of what is needed in order to serve a thriving and growing population? I sincerely hope not. Please continue to support the full budgeting allotment towards the future East Manatee Library Project. Please continue to support what will undoubtedly be a jewel in this corner of Manatee County. Please continue to have the vision needed to support and create the heart of what is needed to serve our community and its growth. Please vote to fully support and find the new library. We have the land. We have the plans. Let's have the foresight to build something grand. "The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."-Albert Einstein Sincerely, Alice Baumann</p>
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 13, 2021



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 13, 2021, 02:05PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Teri Last Name: Bridge
Email	teri.bridge@verizon.net
Topic/Agenda Item	Budget: New Animal Shelter Funding
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	<p>I am Teri Bridge I ask that your budget vote tonight be pure in heart regarding the new animal shelter. You do have the option of passing the line item as is and then in a month or two deleting it. But that would be misleading concerned residents like myself. It also would be turning a blind eye to the overcrowding of animals in County-run facilities. Despite Bishop's addition, the overcrowding of animals in County-run animal shelters will continue. The data I have provided you over the months support this. The 124 kennels planned for Bishop fall significantly short of the number of dogs taken in monthly by the Palmetto shelter alone, especially when length of stay data and the shelter's possible demolition are considered. There are nationally recognized standards of care that animal shelters should be providing, and I believe this should be especially true in government-run shelters. Germaine to the problem of overcrowding is the national standard of care for an animal's primary enclosure. I quote the standard "Separation between food, urination and defecation, and resting areas should be maintained. A primary enclosure must allow animals to sit, sleep and eat away from areas (in) their enclosures where they defecate and urinate.". Doubling up of dogs in kennels due to overcrowding, as has occurred at Palmetto, egregiously misses this standard of care. I see a two-track solution to the County-run animal shelter overcrowding problem, a solution for which the County has the money and professional expertise to accomplish. Track one: Keep the money budgeted for the new animal shelter so that, when track two is completed, action can be taken immediately. Track two: Have Animal Services present to the Board a strategic and data driven assessment of 1) the impact of Bishop's assimilation into county animal services, 2) the remaining unfulfilled sheltering needs and 3) the options and associated costs for addressing those remaining needs. This two-track approach has urgency. Each year the County allows overcrowding at its animal shelter the physical, mental and behavioral health of the thousands of animals are impacted. This urgency is underscored by the County's growth, potential impacts of climate change, the projected increase in Covid-related relinquishes, increased building costs and increased community expectations as to the quality of animal care their tax dollars are paying for Thank you.</p>
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 14, 2021



Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 14, 2021, 01:06PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Janice Last Name: Novello
Email	jmnovello6@gmail.com
Topic/Agenda Item	Budget
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	Please vote for the increase in funds to build a library in the eastern part of our county. As a former teacher in Manatee County I know how important a resource a local library is. Today's technology is enhanced by the development of the planned library and will be an asset to both today's and future residents. Do not skimp on this educational opportunity.
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	September 14, 2021



Sue Kolze, Bradenton

BOCC – Sept 14, 2021

In a July 30 East County Observer article, Managing Editor Jay Heater suggested that the idea of having a Manatee County Animal Services shelter in East County is moot because non-profits already exist in East County, referring to Humane Society of Lakewood Ranch, and Nate's Honor Rescue.

In case you didn't get a chance to read the letter emailed to the BOCC from Humane Society of Lakewood Ranch on 8/25/21, I have provided you with a copy of it, with the following excerpts highlighted:

“The Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch (HSLWR) unequivocally supports a new Manatee County Animal Services Adoption Facility in the fast-growing East County.

The assumption that our shelter, an existing shelter in the east county will absorb the overpopulation of MCAS Adoption pets is in error.

Expanding county services into the east county is critical to meet the growing needs of our community and the animals within it. We hope Manatee County funds this needed expansion.

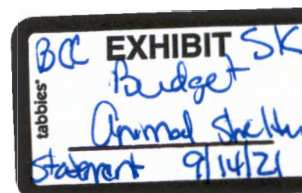
Thank you,

Susan Giroux, Vice Pres Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch
Deanna Murchie, Pres Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch”

Also, Nates Honor Rescue is in the middle of a capital campaign that is at least a year away from completion and I learned in a recent meeting of shelter directors that they will not be able to absorb the overpopulation of MCAS adoption pets either.

I believe it is appropriate for the BOCC to allow the shelter funding to remain in the budget for a new county shelter, the location & design to be determined after the donation of the Bishop Animal Shelter is finalized, and future needs are assessed.

And, based on history, just in case the donation of the Bishop Animal Shelter cannot be agreed upon by the two parties and does not happen, the funding will still be in the budget to proceed with a desperately needed new county shelter.





The Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch (HSLWR) unequivocally supports a new Manatee County Animal Services Adoption Facility in the fast-growing East County.

HSLWR was established 11 years ago in response to the high euthanasia rates in our local communities. We felt we could partner with both Manatee and Sarasota County to bring that rate down. Since our inception, we have supported local communities in Manatee and Sarasota, and we have recently expanded into DeSoto Counties. As a result, we have contributed, along with other shelters, to Manatee and Sarasota Counties' euthanasia rates going from approximately 50% to 5%. Every animal taken into a non-profit shelter from Animal Services makes room for another animal they must accept from within their Counties.

Our shelter is a privately run, volunteer-driven, 501(c)(3) organization that has obvious limitations. While we would love to take every animal that needs help, we cannot. We must choose animals that we can manage, care for and find good homes. We do not have an onsite medical facility and rely on local vet services. We are 100% funded through donations, grants, events and adoptions.

The assumption that our shelter, an existing shelter in the east county will absorb the overpopulation of MCAS Adoption pets is in error.

Expanding county services into the east county is critical to meet the growing needs of our community and the animals within it. We hope Manatee County funds this needed expansion.

thank you,
Susan Giroux
Vice President HSLWR

Deanna Murchie
President HSLWR



**FRIENDS OF THE EAST MANATEE LIBRARY
AT LAKEWOOD RANCH**

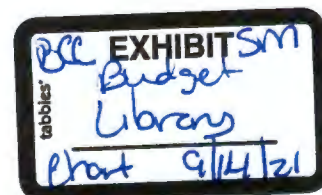
HOW MANATEE LIBRARIES COMPARE TO NEIGHBORING COUNTIES

ITEM	MANATEE COUNTY	SARASOTA COUNTY	HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY	LEE COUNTY
County Population 2017	385,571	419,119	1.4 million	739,224
Total Operating Budget (2017-2018)	\$ 8,052,314	\$ 12,680,588	\$ 48,595,034	\$ 39,412,219
Number of Libraries	6	10	31	15
# Population Served Per Building	64,262	41,912	45,161	49,282
Total Number of FT Staff	65	154	369	231
Hours Open Per Week	48	54	65	58

Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services

Data: Justification for size

Library	Size in Sq. Ft.	Population
Central Library	57,000	56,568 Bradenton
Lakewood Ranch Library	50,000	East County Projected by 2030 64,000+





Public Comment

Submitted On: Sep 14, 2021, 01:06PM EDT

Manatee County, FL

Full Name	First Name: Janice Last Name: Novello
Email	jmnovello6@gmail.com
Topic/Agenda Item	Budget
Comment (max. 3,000 characters)	Please vote for the increase in funds to build a library in the eastern part of our county. As a former teacher in Manatee County I know how important a resource a local library is. Today's technology is enhanced by the development of the planned library and will be an asset to both today's and future residents. Do not skimp on this educational opportunity.
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