



May 5, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Onsite visit and report from the University of Florida concerning the Bishop Kennels

Category

COMMISSIONER AGENDA/COMMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Commissioner Dr. Bob McCann

Action Requested

Motion: Instruct the staff to schedule an onsite visit by UF and publicize the date as soon as it is available. Require a full written unaltered report that will be released to the public for review as soon as that report is completed.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

After the board learned that the University of Florida's Shelter Medicine team did not actually visit the new kennels, the public has asked that the board direct staff to schedule an onsite evaluation. When this item was previously placed on the agenda, assurances were provided that a site visit was planned and that a full report would be released to the public for full transparency. That did not happen.

Attorney Review

Instructions to Board Records – N/A

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name – N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs – N/A

See attached Agenda Update Memos 4.28.26 & 5.4.26



May 5, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Updates to Agenda - May 4, 2026

Category

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

Action Requested

Updates incorporated appropriately

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

Below are agenda updates (dated 4/4/26) for the meeting of May 5, 2026:

GENERIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

- This agenda item was updated with an additional generic comment.

COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS

Items for Discussion

Item 42, Item 42, Naming of King Middle Park to Nick Bolletieri Park

- This agenda item was updated to correct the Title to reflect Nick Bollettieri Park (it was misspelled).

Item 45, Onsite visit and report from the University of Florida concerning the Bishop Kennels

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

Item 46, Suncoast Prosper

- This agenda item was updated with a further revised Tentative Agreement.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

N/A

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENTS – BISHOP KENNELS

From: Laura Liddell <thx4jesus@live.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 1:13 AM
To: George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; Charlie Bishop <charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org>
Subject: **Bishop Shelter** - PLEASE READ!!!

To Manatee County Administrator Bishop, Commissioners Kruse, Siddique, Bearden, Rahn, Ballard and Dr. McCann;

I am still recovering from all the comments and problems brought up at the April 21, 2026 meeting on the new Bishop Animal shelter. It is much worse than I thought. Now after a month, do you still think this shelter is a good idea? Those poor dogs are becoming so stressed and therefore more reactive every day to the environment YOU put them in; that they're fast becoming unadaptable, if they are not already.

It is so cruel to do this to them!

Seriously, who will want to adopt some of them? Are you wanting them to be euthanized? Because without intervention that is where they are heading and this makes me sick!!! This is supposed to be a no kill shelter !!!! A lot of work was put in by your predecessors to make that happen!!

From where I'm sitting, it sounds like this shelter is sadly failing the dogs and the public by you blatantly ignoring the pleas, problems and help requested of you. For months now. That is why you were elected. To help, listen and take care of problems brought to your attention. Instead, it's problem after problem after problem brought to your attention by your employees, experts and volunteers about a situation you all insisted on moving forward with, that has seemed to go on ignore. But it is not going away and it is getting worse every day.

What do you expect to happen here, without any intervention from you? What about the dogs? More of them becoming more reactive and harder to handle from the stress, noise and layout? That means they can only being taken out by staff, which unfortunately means less time out? Come on!!!

I am sending you a public comment that I wrote into your 4/21/26 meeting, that was not read. I was coughing too much to be there and speak in person or to call in. I don't know what happens with those comments so I'm inserting mine here.

Start-

In light of the ongoing alarming and increasingly worsening situations at the new shelter, I am now requesting emergency action.

1.) emergency funds to be allocated to get blue, black and staff only dogs off that property and into professional facilities that can stabilize and evaluate them, create a position for someone to manage and oversee this program to report to the animal advisory board AND the BOCC

2.) to reduce the number of dogs in the trailers to 4 to allow for more inside space, and reduce noise, at max there should be 32 dogs in the prefabs based on staffing and facility layout. Currently, there are way more than there should be, and it is not working.

3.) budget for and plan for dogs that get found or need to be surrendered to go to different facilities.

4.) budget and plan for a concrete addition to the adoption center, and get that in the works ASAP.

There is only one other viable and humane option that I see instead of the above items, and that is to consider renting out the new Bishop Animal Shelter to FOTP; as the building type is more suitable for the pelicans than reactive dogs, and return the dogs to Palmetto until an appropriate concrete block facility can be budgeted and planned for.

This is because the new shelter is simply not working. There are too many problems and too high of liability for the animals, the staff and the county. I would like to invite each of you to tour the new shelter; in person, and see for yourself.

Thank you for your consideration.
End.

Honestly, the dogs need to go back to Palmetto or at least some of them do. And I never in a million years thought I'd say that, or feel that way. That should tell you something.

I am asking you again to please get those dogs out of that shelter and somewhere they are not so stressed and can decompress. It is cruel to leave them in a failing environment that will lead to their detriment. It is not giving in, instead, it's a matter of seeing the problems and doing the right thing by these animals that you have been entrusted to care for.

Don't let the failed Bishop shelter be your legacy. Please, Do Something about it now before it gets any worse.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Most Sincerely,

Laura Liddell
Ellenton, FL 34222
Sent from my iPhone

From: Lorraine DeVita <Ljdcom@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 8:04 AM
To: Jason Bearden <Jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>
Subject: Bishop

Do not under any circumstances renew or hire or so continue employment of Bishop for any position in this county. You were elected by the individuals who pay taxes and live here. YOU are supposed to represent the homeowners not the fat cats who are ripping this county off. You were a MARINE .. ACT LIKE ONE !

Lorraine J DeVita c
556 Mast Dr.
Bradenton FL 34208

From: Julie Madison <julie.madison@toptierk9.com>

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 8:06 PM

Subject: Bishop Kennels

Good evening Commissioner, Apparently. The drain covers are back on, can we just budget and plan for what we actually need? Which is the concrete addition to the adoption center.

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Julie Madison
Top Tier K9 - Bradenton
203-733-7183



From: Bob Marchand <parkfarmusa@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2026 1:43 PM
To: Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>
Subject: Support for UF Visit to Bishop Animal Shelter

Commissioner McCann - Thank you for adding this agenda item to the 5/5 BoCC Meeting.

I would like to **ask all of you to support this request** of MCAW to schedule an on site visit with UF Shelter Consultation Team.

I retired from a large consumer product engineering organization (P&G/Gillette) and believe **further improvements would come over time from aligned priorities, well crafted plans, and proper budgeting.** None of this will happen overnight.

As supportive and/or critical the UF team will be, it is an absolutely necessary first step in identifying the full range of issues & opportunities and begin the prioritization process. This visit will build on all the work that has been done to date at Bishop, and begin to shape the entire Animal Shelter facility that Manatee County needs in the decade ahead. I see it as forward-looking. UF results, along with the input from the Citizens Advisory Board, will naturally start to craft those plans.

Most importantly I think the outcome of this visit will provide some satisfaction for those citizens who have been advocating for an entirely different and rebuilt facility.

To address the disappointment that arose after the first UF Zoom call, I would also **ask that you have Charlie Bishop and Sarah Brown identify at least two people from the newly formed Citizens Advisory Board to participate during the visit, side-by-side with any other staff members that are involved.** Perhaps the Advisory Board can decide for themselves which of them should attend.

I just completed my re-training as a volunteer dog walker at Bishop and look forward to making it a better place for the dogs this coming month and in the years ahead.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bob Marchand
Bradenton, FL



Public Comment

Submitted On: May 4, 2026, 12:05PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: HELEN Last Name: PASAKARNIS
Email	pasakarnis@yahoo.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	May 05, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Bishop Animal
Comment	Please, please please take care of all the safety issues and concerns regarding the newly – constructed Shelter. Animal advocates and volunteers have submitted endless lists of concerns and recommended improvements that so far have not been addressed. Please do the right thing for defense of animals. Please do what was promised. Please do the right thing. Fix the Shelter now!



Public Comment

Submitted On: May 4, 2026, 02:34PM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Beth Last Name: Davidson
Email	hello@callmebeth.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	May 05, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Bishop Animal Shelter
Comment	I am very concerned about the welfare of the animals housed at the new Bishop Animal Shelter. I would like for an inspection of this facility to be undertaken by an outside unbiased team to review conditions. It is my understanding that prospective adopters are not permitted in, nor are volunteers to assist in cleaning and care of the animals. This facility is a huge disappointment and not what was promised to the community, including the commitment of what was supposed to be spent in building it. As a county resident, I expect accountability for the safe and kind welfare of the animals in the care of the shelter.



May 5, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Updates to Agenda - April 28, 2026

Category

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

Action Requested

Updates incorporated appropriately

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

Below are agenda updates (dated 4/28/26) for the meeting May 5, 2026:

COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS

Items for Discussion

Item 45, Onsite visit and report from the University of Florida concerning the Bishop Kennels

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

N/A

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs – N/A

As proposed by Commissioner McCann, I urge you to schedule an onsite visit by the University of Florida to review the new Bishop Animal Shelter.

this board
The problems presented to ~~the BOCC~~ regarding the new shelter ~~that~~ have NOT gone away. Instead they HAVE intensified.

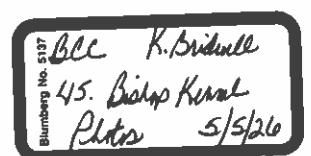
Manatee County recently posted this new athletic and aquatic center with pools and pickle ball courts. Yet animal advocates are being repeatedly told by you that there is NO money to build an appropriate shelter. It's imperative you figure out a way to do that because what you saddled us with is NOT working

We have NOTICED a significant increase in kennel stress since the move. WHY? Almost ALL the dogs are spending their entire time in the outside kennels where there is NO break from the heat and overstimulation of seeing the other dogs. We as humans become cranky when we're overheated. Dogs are NO different.

The risk of bites is increasing.

Staff are worn out! The latest job description for staff include these working conditions: Strenuous work in adverse weather conditions, extreme heat & humidity, long exposure to sunlight. All this for pay that hovers just above minimum wage. The shelter is having a hard time attracting good help and will likely have an even harder time retaining the staff they already have. In all my 8 years as a volunteer, I have NEVER seen staff having to work as hard as they do now.

These are pictures of Blanca & Charlie. Two senior dogs. Both were TOTALLY different dogs at Palmetto. Charlie used to cheerfully walk back to his kennel. Now he balks and has to be assisted to climb into his foot high kennel. He sits at his kennel door & barks continuously.



Blanca's reaction is similar. I've started bring both of these dogs home for extended sleepovers to ease their suffering.

EVERYTHING takes longer to do as a result of the dogs being housed in 8 kennel trailers. The interior hallways of the trailers are deemed SO unsafe that only staff are allowed inside them. No longer can volunteers assist in kennel cleaning as we are NOT allowed in either the interior or exterior kennels due to safety concerns. In reality, these kennels are also unsafe for staff.

Daily I see staff dressed like they are going on a safari. Broad brim hats, large heavy water bottles, rolled up sleeves, sunburned faces. How long can we expect them to maintain this pace?

When a hurricane threatens the shelter, it will be forced to house the dogs in their tiny interior kennels which are the size of a crate. Staff will lock down the shelter with the dogs trapped in those tiny spaces until the storm passes. In times past, this has often been 24 hours. Dogs will be sleeping in their own waste.

The animal advisory board created in April is not having it's first meeting until June. This process should have been streamlined with an emergency meeting already scheduled. I urge you to take seriously the recommendations of ^{that} ~~the~~ board.

Please start planning now for a functional facility.





Manatee County Government
SENIOR ANIMAL CARE SPECIALIST

SALARY	\$21.92 - \$32.87 Hourly	LOCATION	Palmetto, FL
JOB TYPE	Full-Time (Hourly)	JOB NUMBER	26-00178
DEPARTMENT	Community & Veterans Services	OPENING DATE	03/24/2026
CLOSING DATE	4/7/2026 11:59 PM Eastern		

General Information

Work Location: 5718 21st Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida 34209

Work Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, OR Sunday - Thursday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Expected Starting Hourly Range: \$21.92 - \$27.40

Plays a direct role in achieving Manatee County's no-kill mission and goal by providing hands-on care for animals in the shelter, working with internal departments to find those animals homes wherever possible, and serving as ambassadors for county residents, volunteers, and adopters who visit the shelter. Contributes to the health, wellbeing, and general care of dogs and cats. Plays a unique role as the direct day-to-day connector between the animals in our care and our residents.

Working Conditions

Primarily animal shelter or outdoor field environment. Regularly performs moderately strenuous work in varying and adverse weather conditions, including rain, extreme heat and humidity, and long exposure to sunlight. Daily exposure to dogs, cats, and other animals of all sizes, temperaments, and medical status. High noise environment while performing certain responsibilities. Lifting and carrying equipment up to 50 pounds alone and up to 100 pounds with assistance. Periodically required to drive county vehicles as part of the duties of the job. Able to climb and descend equipment and ladders. Able to bend, stoop, crawl, and reach. Position requires visual acuity and depth perception, as well as ability to hear and identify sounds. Periodic high stress situations that may involve angry or frustrated citizens. Regularly required to work other than normal business hours including nights, holidays, and weekends.

Job Description

Essential Functions

These are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work performed. The omission of specific duties does not exclude them from the position.

Oversee daily operations during assigned shifts, ensuring all activities are carried out efficiently and effectively.

Manage staff schedules, delegate tasks, and provide guidance to team members.



