



June 2, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Old Memphis Cemetery Desecration and County Response - District 2

Category

COMMISSIONER AGENDA/COMMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Commissioner Amanda Ballard

Action Requested

1. Motion to request staff to conduct GPR (ground penetrating radar) on Old Memphis Cemetery site, if it can be done internally with existing staff and equipment. 2. Motion to direct Government Affairs staff to connect with the office of Minority Leader Fentrice Driskell on grant opportunities for long term preservation. 3. Motion to direct staff to work with Freedman Reparations Fund Trust on grant opportunities for preservation of Old Memphis Cemetery and other historic black cemeteries. 4. Motion to direct staff to explore the process for National Historic Designation for Old Memphis Cemetery, as well as other historic cemeteries in Manatee County, and report back on findings.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

FL Statute 497.284, Manatee County Ordinance 88-34

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

Old Memphis Cemetery was vandalized recently. The community came together to restore and clean up the damage. With the immediate problems addressed, we can now turn to options for long term preservation of this cemetery, as well as other historic, abandoned cemeteries in Manatee County.

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

Staff time for GPR, staff time to research grants and funding opportunities. If grants are available, it could defray costs of cemetery preservation.