



BERTHA W. HENRY, County Administrator

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October 2, 2020

Karen Brooks
City Manager
City of Coconut Creek
4800 West Copans Road
Coconut Creek, FL 33063

Re: Kristin Jacobs Natural Area

Dear Ms. Brooks,

This correspondence provides the City of Coconut Creek with notice that Broward County staff is preparing an item for consideration by the Broward County Board of County Commission that proposes renaming of the Hillsboro Pineland Natural Area located at 5991 NW 74th Place, as the Kristin Jacobs Natural Area to honor the memory and service of former County Commissioner and State Representative, Kristin Jacobs.

Dedication of this unique pineland and rich natural area would provide prominent and lasting recognition of her environmental leadership on behalf of the residents of Broward County. This site is considered particularly fitting given that the many features emblematic of the specific programs and principles for which she was a recognized champion.

As you are undoubtedly aware, Commissioner Jacobs served for 16 years (1998-2014) on the Broward County Commission, as the District 2 Commissioner, and one term as Mayor. During her years of service, she was well-recognized for her passion and advocacy in the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the natural environment. In 2003, she led creation of the NatureScape Broward program, an initiative that promotes water resource protection and the creation of native habitat within the urban environment. This effort has led to more than 3,000 NatureScape certified landscapes across Broward County and certification of the County and 15 municipalities (the first of which was the City of Coconut Creek, of course) as Community Wildlife Habitats by the National Wildlife Federation. Features of the Hillsboro Pineland include natural trails, bicycle paths, and rich native vegetation that serves as host plants for diverse species of native butterflies and habitat for local and migratory wildlife, qualities that provide natural tribute to Kristin and the NatureScape Broward Program.

Another site asset is the beautifully rehydrated wetland at the center of the property, a project which she oversaw during the years she served as chair of the Broward County Water Advisory Board. She was a champion for this and nearly a dozen similar wetland rehydration projects in the northern part of the County. She later led efforts to advance a much larger, multi-

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jurisdictional water resource development project, the C-51 Reservoir, a regional alternative water supply project that is now coming to fruition nearly 15 years later.

Kristin was a champion for coordinated and efficient water resource management to benefit urban and natural system needs. Not only did she Chair the Water Advisory Board, but she served as Chair of the Broward Water Resources Task Force and helped to launch the Broward Leaders Water Academy which has become a state model for engaging leadership in science-based decision making.

Her environmental ambitions were not limited to the geographic boundaries of a single community or even the county. In 2009, she led the development of the four-county Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, a model for collaboration and joint action among local governments in addressing the shared challenges that climate change presents for our entire region and across the state.

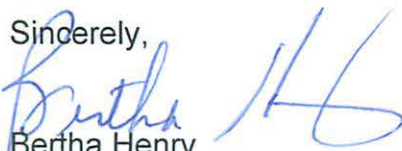
These are but a few of the impactful environmental initiatives led by Kristin that will undoubtedly provide lasting positive benefit for all of Broward County.

It will be a great honor to recognize Kristin Jacobs and the legacy of her service with the renaming of one of our most unique and prized natural areas on her behalf.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners is expected to formally consider this item at an upcoming commission meeting.

We invite the City of Coconut Creek to respond to this proposal with a letter of support. Please feel free to contact Jennifer Jurado, Deputy Director, Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department, or Dan West, Director, Broward County Parks and Recreation Division, with any questions (jjurado@broward.org or danwest@broward.org).

Sincerely,


Bertha Henry
County Administrator

cc: Jennifer L. Jurado, Deputy Director, Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department
Dan West, Director, Parks and Recreation Division