

Advisory Board Application Form

Collier County Government
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 800
Naples, FL 34112
(239) 252-8400

Application was received on: 5/19/2022 10:10:19 AM.

Name: Louise M Cromwell **Home Phone:** 240-204-2505

Home Address: 1930 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. #E202

City: Naples **Zip Code:** 34102-1632

Phone Numbers

Business:

E-Mail Address: louisecromwell@gmail.com

Board or Committee: Land Acquisition Advisory Committee

Category: Not indicated

Place of Employment: Retired attorney

How long have you lived in Collier County: 5-10

How many months out of the year do you reside in Collier County: 6-9

Have you been convicted or found guilty of a criminal offense (any level felony or first degree misdemeanor only)? No

Not Indicated

Do you or your employer do business with the County? No

Not Indicated

NOTE: All advisory board members must update their profile and notify the Board of County Commissioners in the event that their relationship changes relating to memberships of organizations that may benefit them in the outcome of advisory board recommendations or they enter into contracts with the County.

Would you and/or any organizations with which you are affiliated benefit from decisions or recommendations made by this advisory board? No

Not Indicated

Are you a registered voter in Collier County? Yes

Do you currently hold an elected office? No

Do you now serve, or have you ever served on a Collier County board or committee? No

Not Indicated

Please list your community activities and positions held:

Member-Florida Bar (1970 to present) (Retired Status); Member-District of Columbia Bar (1974 to present); League of Women Voters of Collier County (Member-Environmental Affairs Committee); Naples Botanical Garden (Volunteer); Greater Naples Leadership, La Villa Riviera of Naples, Inc. (Community Association), Chair-Garden Committee.

Education:

Duke University (B.A. 1966; J.D. 1969), Graduate Courses in Garden Design, George Washington University, (1997-2002).

Experience / Background

Following my graduation from Duke Law School in 1969 I became a staff attorney for Florida Rural Legal Services based in Ft. Myers but also serving Immokalee. Our clients were primarily migrant farmworkers. In 1974 I moved to Washington DC where I was an Associate Attorney with Steptoe & Johnson and later Partner with Shaw Pittman Potts & Trowbridge (now Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman). My specialty was commercial real estate transactions and finance, primarily representing developers, banks and tenant corporations. My work involved detailed review of large amounts of data, spotting and reducing risks, clarifying imprecise language to avoid costly misunderstandings, facilitating agreement among very intelligent, tough and often rather strong-willed professionals, ensuring compliance with the law, and closing transactions under demanding deadlines. During the 1990's I also had the opportunity to serve on the boards of two publicly traded companies: FTP Software (NASDAQ) and Crestline Capital, Inc. (New York Stock Exchange), a Marriott spinoff which invested in hotel properties. In each case I served on the Governance Committees and focused on ethical and compliance issues. I benefitted from the experience of working as a team with other board members, the company executives and staff. Gardening has been a lifelong pleasure for me. Most of my gardening was done in Zone 7 in a city garden in Washington, DC, although I was able to experiment with a larger landscape (3 acres) in suburban Maryland after my retirement. I also earned graduate credits over a five year period in the Garden Design Masters Program at George Washington University. They offered a year long series on woody plant identification taught at various public gardens in the DC area and design courses which were offered at night. Some time ago, the Board at my low-rise 32-unit condominium community in Naples (La Villa Riviera), asked me to redesign our very outdated landscaping. Over the next 15 years, my neighbor Pat Campbell and I worked to educate ourselves on gardening in a semi-tropical climate and to create gardens that are both environmentally sound and pleasing to our unit owners. This has been a truly rewarding hands-on experience that has taught me a great deal, not only about native plants and Zone 10 conditions, but about harmonious community living.

DrewKathlene

From: BrownAraqueSummer
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 1:43 PM
To: DrewKathlene
Subject: FW: Supplemental Questions - Louise Cromwell

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

See below from Louise.

From: Louise Cromwell <louisecromwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2022 7:51 AM
To: BrownAraqueSummer <Summer.Araque@colliercountyfl.gov>
Subject: Supplemental Questions

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email is from an external source. Confirm this is a trusted sender and use extreme caution when opening attachments or clicking links.

Land Acquisition Advisory Board
Conservation Collier

Applicant Supplemental Information

Applicant Name: Louise M. Cromwell

Representation of Interests: Please explain your relationship with and business interests relating to the following topics:

Environmental and Conservation: I am a member of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the Naples Botanical Garden, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, the Audubon Society, and the Naples Native Plant Society. In Washington, DC, I am a member of the Potomac Riverkeeper Network and the Audubon Naturalist Society.

Agricultural and Business: None. I am fully retired from the practice of law.

Educational: Duke University (B.A. 1966; J.D. 1969), Graduate Courses in Landscape Design, George Washington University, (1997-2002). I participate in a Great Decisions Discussion Group sponsored by the Naples Council on World Affairs.

General Civic and Citizen: I am a member of the League of Women Voters of Collier County (Environmental Affairs Committee) and Greater Naples Leadership. I have been the Chair of the

Garden Committee of my Naples condominium community, La Villa Riviera, for over 15 years and am active in the design and care of our gardens.

I can think of no more important civic duty than working to combat climate change caused by human activity and preserving habitat for our native plants and animals. I think the mission of Conservation Collier is of great importance. If my interests and skill set would enable me to be an effective member of the Land Acquisition Advisory Board, I would be honored to serve. While I generally spend about seven months a year in Collier County, I am certainly willing to commit to returning to Naples for regular year-round monthly meetings. I also anticipate that there will be many materials to review, as well as time spent learning about the activities and objectives of the Board.

Individual Member Expertise, Knowledge or Interest: Please elaborate on any experience, knowledge or interest you have in the following subjects:

Ecology: Gardening has been a lifelong pleasure for me. Much of my gardening was done in Zone 7 in a small residential garden in Washington, DC, although I was able to experiment with a larger landscape (3 acres) in suburban Maryland after my retirement. I also earned graduate credits over a five-year period in the Landscape Design Program at George Washington University.

Some time ago, the Board at my low-rise 32-unit condominium community in Naples (La Villa Riviera), asked me to redesign our very outdated landscaping. Over the next 15 years, a neighbor and I worked to educate ourselves on gardening in a semi-tropical climate and to create gardens that are both environmentally sound and pleasing to our unit owners. This has been a truly rewarding hands-on experience that has taught me a great deal, not only about native plants and Zone 9b/10a conditions, but about harmonious community living.

Of course, gardens aren't just for looking pretty and soothing the soul. Climate change and habitat loss are more important concerns. I am a great admirer of Doug Tallamy and his Homegrown National Park movement. We all try to do our bit, however small. I design and maintain a shrub and perennial "beautification" garden at the entrance to the Newark Street Community Garden in Washington, DC. This community garden on public land managed by the DC Parks & Recreation Department has over 220 fenced plots worked by individual gardeners, mostly devoted to vegetables. Everything is organic. We maintain 6 actively turned compost bins for the use of our gardeners. In accordance with Tallamy's principles, I am working to incorporate at least 70% native shrubs and perennials in the area assigned to me.

Conservation: My passion for the outdoors began with my childhood as a tree-climbing, crawfish-catching tomboy and continues to this day. I am an avid birder and spend many happy hours roaming the public areas of Collier County. Of course, it's not just about the birds. Without a healthy ecosystem, we would have no birds. I live within 5 minutes of Freedom Park and bird there at least two or three times a week. As you know, Freedom Park is a tiny miracle: a built and natural filter marsh, a wildlife habitat, an urban recreation area, and, especially with the new

weirs and canal improvements, a stormwater management star. Even on the quietest day for wildlife, Freedom Park never disappoints; there is always at least one treasure to discover. Most recently, twin baby Barred Owls have appeared.

Of course, Otter Mound is a favorite haunt for birders, especially during fall and spring migration. I saw my first Caracaras and Sandhill Crane babies at Pepper Ranch. Greater Naples Leadership recently did a “Done in a Day” volunteer project to publicize the Conservation Collier trails. I wrote the report for the walk my GNL Class took on the Greenway. I was even lucky enough to get to visit the Railhead Scrub Preserve once several years ago, on a private tour with the Naples Native Plant Society. I look forward to exploring the Gore property.

I have always enjoyed the Conservation Collier venues, but the early days of the pandemic made me even more grateful for these treasures. My son and his wife and my two grandchildren, then 5 and 9, arrived in Naples on March 18, 2020, the day all the beaches were closed to the public, to “shelter while the pandemic passed.” How naïve we were. They stayed for six weeks. We spent every single morning hiking the Conservation Collier and CREW venues when all the other parks were shutting down. They really were a lifesaver.

I realize that recreation is certainly not the only goal for acquisition of Conservation Collier preserves, nor should it be, but if citizens have an opportunity to experience at least a few of these venues personally it builds support for the program. The recent referendum continuing the acquisition program is a demonstration of the taxpayers’ approval of the way their money has been spent.

Birding has also given me the opportunity to understand how a single individual acting as a tiny part of a very large movement can make a difference for our ecology. The last time I checked, eBird, which is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, had 782,497 participating eBirders worldwide who have together submitted 67,278,492 complete checklists reporting 10,634 species. On April 26, 2022, the Tuesday morning birding group in which I participate at the Naples Botanical Garden reported 42 species and 201 individuals over a three-hour period.

I try to submit complete checklists every time I bird as an individual. Freedom Park usually yields 25 to 30 species in about an hour and a half. eBird transforms statistics from the global birding community into a powerful resource for research, conservation and education.

Real Estate or Land Acquisition: Following my graduation from Duke Law School in 1969 I became a staff attorney for Florida Rural Legal Services based in Ft. Myers but also serving Immokalee. Our clients were primarily migrant farmworkers. In 1974 I moved to Washington DC where I was an Associate Attorney with Steptoe & Johnson and later a Partner with Shaw Pittman Potts & Trowbridge (now Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman). My specialty was commercial real estate transactions and finance, primarily representing developers, banks and tenant corporations.

My work involved reviewing large amounts of data; spotting and reducing risks; preparing legal memoranda, contracts, loan documents, leases, etc.; clarifying imprecise language to avoid costly misunderstandings; facilitating agreement among very intelligent, tough and often rather strong-willed professionals; ensuring compliance with the law; and closing transactions under demanding deadlines.

During the 1990's I also had the opportunity to serve on the boards of two publicly traded companies: FTP Software (NASDAQ) and Crestline Capital, Inc. (New York Stock Exchange), a Marriott spinoff which invested in hotel properties. In each case I served on the Governance Committees and focused on ethical and compliance issues. I benefited from the experience of working as a team with other board members, the company executives and staff.

Land Appraisal: None.

Land Management: None.

Eco-Tourism: None as an operator, but I am an enthusiastic participant in such adventures. Most recently I enjoyed a two week-long small group birding expedition to Costa Rica. Past trips have included a trip to Utah to explore national parks and to Cape May, New Jersey, to view the fall migration of birds. I am booked on a pelagic birding boat trip to Dry Tortugas next spring.

Environmental Education: None as a teacher. Lifelong continuing education as an adult.

Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by telephone or in writing.