

Skell, Rosemary A.

From: Betsy Whitaker [betsy@quixnet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2007 3:38 PM
To: Northcutt, William K.; Johnson, Karen S; Hirneise, Debra
Cc: citycomm; citymgr; Richardson, David M
Subject: Re: GRU Firehydrants

Bill:

Thanks for your prompt reply. I am asking the city commission to let me know what board might be appropriate to oversee this project.

Betsy Whitaker

----- Original Message -----

From: Northcutt, William K.
To: Johnson, Karen S ; Hirneise, Debra ; Betsy Whitaker
Cc: citycomm ; citymgr ; Richardson, David M
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2007 2:57 PM
Subject: RE: GRU Firehydrants

Betsy,

Likewise with the Gainesville Fire Rescue Department (GFR) painting hydrants is a low priority given the response and training demands on our staff? We have used the summer work program that employs high school students over the summer but have issues with supervision of the crews. The GFR would support a system that will allow residents to paint the hydrants provided they remain visible (not camouflaged) and the bonnets remain correctly color coded. The color of the hydrant top indicates the effective fire flow. We would like to have a member of GFR on the committee that works on this. Please let me know if you proceed with this project.

Bill Northcutt

Fire Chief

Gainesville Fire Rescue

352-334-5078

northcuttwk@cityofgainesville.org

www.gfr.org

Life's most persistent and Urgent Question is:

What are you doing for others?

Martin Luther King, Jr.

From: Johnson, Karen S
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2007 12:15 PM
To: Hirneise, Debra; 'Betsy Whitaker'
Cc: citycomm; citymgr; Richardson, David M; Northcutt, William K
Subject: RE: GRU Firehydrants

Betsy,

You have hit on key issues about keeping the hydrants visible and also denoting the pressure with the color. You are also correct in assuming that painting fire hydrants has been low priority for GRU. It has typically been done by Boy and Girl Scout troops as community projects and/or we have hired students to do it for summertime work on an intermittent basis. GRU is unlikely to have any problems with neighborhoods or other groups taking over the aesthetic maintenance. Some group would need to "own" the project (the Beautification Board????) and would have to set up guidelines in conjunction with key stakeholders like GRU, the City and County fire departments and perhaps the Insurance Services Organization. I do not think that those barriers would be insurmountable. As far as GRU is concerned, take your idea and run with it.

From the Office of Fred Murry

To: *Bill Northcutt*

Box: *34*

Please:

___ Respond and copy me by ___

___ Draft letter for my signature by ___

___ Review, comment & return by ___

___ Schedule meeting with me by ___

___ Informational only Date: ___

CITY OF
GAINEVILLE
FLORIDA

*This item should go to the
 Public Safety Committee for their
 consideration and recommendation.
 Fred*

Karen Johnson
GRU

-----Original Message-----

From: Hirneise, Debra
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2007 5:38 PM
To: 'Betsy Whitaker'
Cc: citycomm; citymgr; Johnson, Karen S
Subject: RE: GRU Firehydrants

Dear Ms. Whitaker,

Your e-mail correspondence has been received by Mayor Hanrahan and we are forwarding a copy to the City Commissioners, City Manager and General Manager of Utilities to make them aware of your suggestion. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Debra Hirneise
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

From: Betsy Whitaker [mailto:betsy@quixnet.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2007 5:03 PM
To: mayor
Cc: Tony Domenech; Ed Braddy; Warren Nielson; commcl; Pegheen Hanrahan; Bob Cohen
Subject: GRU Firehydrants

Dear Pegeen:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am just returning from an 11,000 mile motorcycle trip around the US and Canada - Awesome!!

I wanted to run a fun and practical idea by you. I understand the fire hydrants in Gainesville are owned by GRU. The fire hydrants in Gainesville are rusty and ugly. We sanded ours down, painted it and kept the top part the original color so the fire department could determine what the pressure was. Our fire hydrant is easy to spot, but is now an attractive addition to our yard instead of a rusty ugly eye sore. Wouldn't it be fun to have a contest where we invited the residents to sand and paint their fire hydrants? This would save the city money and make much more attractive hydrants. Of course, there would be rules so hydrants wouldn't be obscured. The tops would have to remain the colors painted by GRU that shows the pressure coming through the hydrant, but I thought this would be another way to Beautify Gainesville. I'm sure GRU would want to get involved as to the rules, but the concept is a lot better than the ugly hydrants that dot our landscapes now. Let me know what you think? I'm sure GRU will resist because "change is difficult", but I'm sure there is a way to achieve our goals and also satisfy GRU. Thanks!

Betsy Whitaker
494-3830