

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Meeting Agenda

September 13, 2010

1:00 PM

City Hall, Room 16

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee

*Commissioner Scherwin Henry, Chair
Commissioner Thomas Hawkins, Member
Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Member*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Equal Opportunity Department at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER**ROLL CALL****ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA****APPROVAL OF MINUTES****100342.****Approval of the May 13, 2010 Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee (B)****RECOMMENDATION**

The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee approve the minutes of the May 13, 2010 meeting as submitted.

100342_Minutes_20100913.pdf

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS**100186.****Florida Certified Organic Growers Request for "Edible Gardens" (B)**

This item involves a referral to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee regarding Florida Organic Growers' request to utilize City property for "Edible Gardens."

Explanation: On March 22, 2010 City staff met with individuals interested in developing community and edible gardens on public properties, to be used as youth education and job training areas that provide fresh local food for food banks and pantries, the homeless and other low-income residents. During this meeting, a request was received from the Florida Organic Growers (FOG) to utilize the City Hall grass area near the clock tower for an edible garden. The garden would provide fruit trees and a landscaped garden area that would not only produce food, but would be used for educational purposes. FOG was asked to provide a detailed proposal, which outlined the intent, the upkeep and responsibilities for the project, aesthetics of the landscaping, and specifics regarding what is requested from the City. It was also made clear that since the proposed site is not a city park and thereby is not covered by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs' established Community Garden agreement, this matter would need to be discussed at the City Manager level for guidance.

On July 1, 2010, this matter was referred by the City Commission to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee for further review and discussion. FOG has prepared a proposal for an "edible park" to be located at City Hall. FOG representative Christine Hale, Director of Education and Outreach, will provide the Committee with a presentation regarding the proposal.

Fiscal Note: Some estimated costs are included in the proposal by FOG, including start-up and recurring annual estimated costs; there may be an additional expense for fencing. Funds to cover these expenses are not identified in the City's operating budget at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee hear a presentation by Christine Hale, Director of Education and Outreach with Florida Organic Growers, Inc. regarding utilization of City property for "Edible Gardens."

Legislative History

7/1/10 City Commission Referred (6 - 0 - 1 Absent) Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee

100186A_Proposal_20100913.pdf

100186B_PPT_20100913.pdf

081011.**Biodiesel Proposal - Biodiesel Production Facility (NB)**

Explanation: At the May 7, 2009 City Commission meeting, Commissioner Lauren Poe mentioned a proposal from Mr. Jack Metheny for the City to establish its own biodiesel production facility. The City Commission referred the item to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs & Public Works (RCAPW) Committee to review the feasibility of General Government and GRU establishing a biodiesel production facility. At the June 11, 2009 RCAPW Committee meeting, staff made a presentation and recommended the following: 1) RTS continue its pilot program with UF for an additional year to gather information on fuel consumption cost relative to 100% Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) fuel; and 2) depending on the result of the pilot program, staff at that time could be directed to conduct a feasibility study on the production of biodiesel.

RTS has completed the pilot program and decided to expand the program as the differential cost between fuels is being funded through a grant. Our local fuel supplier is the current source for the biodiesel used by RTS. Staff's opinion, which shares popularity with other Fleet operators, is that biodiesel will serve as a bridge fuel along with several other alternatives, CNG, Ethanol, Hydrogen, Electricity and continued combinations of Hybrids seem to be the unanimous choice of power for the future. The only question is when; some say as early as five (5) years while other fewer optimists say ten (10) years.

Several organizations have attempted to produce biodiesel. Some have been successful, usually the larger organizations producing multi million gallons per year with a good transmission and distribution network. Others, whose goal is to produce enough to be self sufficient, are still facing challenges, some after (3+) years and after major capital expenses. Major capital expenditures include the procurement of property (perhaps not in our case as current space could be identified), construction of plant, procurement and installation of processing, storage and dispensing equipment, procurement of vehicles and materials. Operating costs includes labor, transportation, utilities and raw materials. Staff

does not believe that the demand locally will provide the opportunity to make a profit with such a venture. Furthermore, efforts by other local agencies to produce enough fuel to be self sufficient at a price lower than the market have not yet been successful. Given the City's current fiscal challenges and the risks involved with so many uncertainties; staff does not recommend initiating a biodiesel production facility.

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact if recommendation is approved.

RECOMMENDATION

The RCAPW Committee not pursue the idea of the City initiating a project to produce biodiesel.

Legislative History

4/16/09	City Commission	Referred (7 - 0)	Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee
6/11/09	Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee	Approved as Recommended	

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on October 4, 2010 at 3:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT