

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 4, 2010

3:00 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

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Scherwin Henry and Thomas Hawkins

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Hawkins moved and Commissioner Mastrodicasa seconded to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Henry noted that the minutes need to be modified because the word "work" appears twice in the fourth paragraph under item #100186.

Commissioner Hawkins moved and Commissioner Mastrodicasa seconded approval of the minutes as modified.

100401.

Approval of the September 13, 2010 Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes (B)

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

Approved as Amended

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DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

These minutes are a summary of the meeting and is not a verbatim discussion. A copy of this meeting recording will be provided upon request.

090777.

Recreation Master Plan (B)

This item provides a detailed overview of the Recreation Master Planning Process.

Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers advised the Committee that this item has been previously discussed and today an update will be provided on the components and the proposed timeline by Michelle Park, Assistant Director of Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

Ms. Park advised the Committee that they approved expenditure of funds for the Recreation Master Plan at their May 6, 2010 meeting; \$100,000 has been allocated from the Wild Spaces Public Places fund for development of the Recreation Master Plan. Ms Park shared a power point presentation that outlined the master planning process and timeline.

Ms. Park advised that the Household Needs Assessment will primarily be conducted by email because most household phones have been replaced by cell phones. Commissioner Henry commented that many citizens still maintain landline telephones and that staff shouldn't discount landline telephone contacts.

Commissioner Mastrodicasa stated that the assessment should be conducted by email, phone and mail. She suggested identifying non users of the parks to assess why they aren't using the parks and perhaps create focus groups of these individuals as to what their needs are. She also suggested having a fun event to present the results of the needs assessment.

Commissioner Henry recommending having a meeting in each quadrant of the City to ensure that all citizens have an opportunity to participate.

Commissioner Hawkins had a couple of comments about the geographic distribution and accessibility of parks: 1) ask questions about pedestrian accessibility; and 2) look for pockets of residential areas that don't have a park close by. Some of the benchmarking comparisons are not very qualitative. Commissioner Hawkins also commented that we start looking at areas outside the City that have a potential to be annexed.

Commissioner Henry would like to ensure that the consultants look at different sister cities for comparisons.

Commissioner Henry inquired about the true window for a 10 year plan and is there a definitive funding sources. Ms. Park advised that staff will provide a list of funding recommendations to help support the plan for a determination to be made by the City Commission.

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee provide input to staff on the process and timeline for developing the Recreation Master Plan.*

Discussed

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080478.

Status Update on the City Commission Strategic Initiative to Support the Reconstruction of Transportation Facilities to Encourage Redevelopment of 6th Street (NB)

This item is to provide an update to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs & Public Works Committee regarding Strategic Initiative 5.2: support the reconstruction

of transportation facilities to encourage development of 6th Street.

Mr. Foklers introduced Assistant Public Works Director Don Hambidge who provided a brief update to the Committee. Mr. Hambidge advised that the round-a-bout is complete and the final inspection and walk-thru has been done. There are a certain things that still need to be addressed and they will be done before the official ribbon cutting.

Commissioner Hawkins inquired about the third tree that was to go in the circle, but Mr. Hambidge advised that the third tree had to be eliminated due to a fairly large storm drain structure that took up so much room.

Mr. Hambidge advised that staff has learned important lessons from this project; such as, using a different brick type; due to some of the edges being rounded and cracking when ran over by large trucks.

Commissioner Henry inquired about the expected life span of the bricks. Mr. Hambidge advised that the bricks have a very long expected life span and they last for a long time. Commissioner Hawkins suggested staff research a brick that the City of Winter Park used for paving their downtown area, because it has a special curved top and it slows traffic. The brick is called "Winter Park Brick".

The roundabout is just about completed and final payment will be processed soon. Commissioner Henry inquired if a sidewalk will be installed; staff will research and let the Committee know if there are plans for sidewalk installation.

Mr. Hambidge advised that Rail Trail for 6th Street is in the red and they will be stopping at 16th. The other two sections have been completed; final payment will be processed and a ribbon cutting will be planned soon. Mr. Hambidge advise that citizens are currently using the rail trail; but there are concerns about the part of the trail that runs through the proposed Gainesville Police Department (GPD) Campus; such as safety.

Commissioner Hawkins commented that safer crossings for pedestrians and cyclists are needed; and also that the parking lot is not appealing to the eye.

Assistant City Manager Foklers suggested more discussions are needed with GPD.

Commissioner Henry suggested inviting GPD representatives to a discussion on this topic.

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs & Public Works Committee hear an update to Strategic Initiative 5.2.*

Discussed

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080478_SI 5.2 Quarterly Update_20101108.pdf

100197.

NW 6th Street Rail Trail Connectivity to Business (NB)

This item is to provide an update to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs & Public Works Committee regarding the opportunity to provide business connections to the 6th Street Rail Trail.

Mr. Hambidge advised the Committee that staff is working with a business owner who seems to be excited about providing business connectivity to the 6th Street Rail Trail and that he should have his plans done within a year. Mr. Hambidge believes that other businesses will participate once this gets up and going.

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs & Public Works Committee discuss the opportunity for business connectivity to the 6th Street Rail Trail.*

Discussed

100196.

Contamination on the NW 6th Street Rail Trail (NB)

This item is to provide an update to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs & Public Works Committee regarding the contamination of the 6th Street Rail Trail north of NW 16th Avenue.

Mr. Hambidge provided an update on the Contamination on the NW 6th Street Rail Trail. Mr. Hambidge advised that the reason the trail is being stopped at 16th and not going up to 23rd is because there are pesticides on that portion of the trail. Mr. Hambidge advised the Committee that he thought that the Department of Environmental Protection was going to pursue Florida Pest Control for this contamination issue; but that has not happened and he doesn't know why.

Commissioner Henry commented that we are going after Koppers, but not Florida Pest Control; and would like to know how deep does the contamination go and what's the timeline of it getting to the aquifer. Commissioner Henry also inquired about if extensive research has been done. Mr. Hambidge advised the Committee that staff did some sampling to determine that there was contamination but did not know how extensive it was. He did point out that it was obviously enough to convince the State that they did not want any part of the land and that once the decision was made by the State that they would not go any further, the City also decided to stop the Rail Trail at 16th.

Mr. Hambidge will contact the Department of Environmental Protection about the contamination and will bring back an update to the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs & Public Works Committee discuss the status of the contamination along the 6th Street Rail Trail north of NW 16th Avenue.*

Discussed

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Henry commented about the appearance of the round-a-bout on NE 21st Street; as you pass Duval; it looks really bad. He would like to know if flowers could be placed in the round-a-bout to enhance the appearance of the neighborhood.

Commissioner Hawkins commented that the round-a-bouts on NW 3rd Avenue between 6th and 13th look bad as well.

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled to occur on November 8, 2010 at 1:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.