

*Citizen Comment  
2/23/02*

002440

February 22, 2002

Dear Mel Fried and Noel Lake,

Thank you for your informative and inspiring presentation to the City of Gainesville Beautification Board on February 20, 2002. The project you described for South Main Street, from SW 16<sup>th</sup> Ave through the Williston Road merge and finishing at US 441, is exactly the type of improvement Gainesville needs for it's entrance corridors. Even though we did not make a formal motion, the support was unanimous at our meeting Wednesday night.

The specifics of the project that Noel Lake has drawn detailed plans for, are well thought out and will mesh quite nicely with existing conditions. Date Palms from SW 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Williston and then shade trees to the 441 intersection appear to be within the FDOT design standards. Perennial peanut as the groundcover will significantly reduce the frequency of the mowing cycle, which is a major element of the maintenance agreement that FDOT signs with the City.

In conclusion, I heartily endorse this project and ask the City of Gainesville Mayor and Commissioners to support this FDOT Beautification Grant project for South Main Street in any way possible. I do not believe that this project will detract or compete with the potential FDOT Beautification Grant for SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street. I hope the example that you, Mel Fried and Noel Lake, are setting, will inspire others to come forward with equally well thought out and comprehensive plans for additional entry corridors into our city.

Sincerely,

Erick D. Smith

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
PASSED \_\_\_\_\_

A resolution of the City Commission of Gainesville, Florida authorizing the City Manager to apply for a Highway Beautification Council Grant to landscape the medians of South Main Street between SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Williston Road, and authorizing his staff to enter into a Highway Landscape Maintenance Memorandum of Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to provide on-going maintenance for said project, and instructing the City Manager to identify funding for the cash match and future maintenance costs of the project.

WHEREAS, South Main Street (State Road 329) is an important gateway into Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, because the medians in South Main Street between the intersections with SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Williston Road (State Road 331) are fully finished with curbs, with drainage managed by an adequate and functional storm water removal system; and

WHEREAS no FDOT or Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Plans include reconstruction of this corridor or other activities that might harm landscaping added to the medians; and

WHEREAS, registered Landscape Architect Noel Lake, a member of the Tree Advisory Board, has developed a landscape plan and \$250,000 budget to plant the medians in this corridor with *Phoenix sylvestris* Date Palms and Perennial Peanut; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation Highway Beautification Council has a competitive application process for funding such projects through a 50:50 match program and might therefore contribute \$125,000 in funding for this landscaping effort;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:

1. The City Commission authorizes the City Manager to apply for a Highway Beautification Council Grant seeking \$125,000 from the Florida Department of Transportation to landscape the medians in South Main Street between SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Williston Road; and

2. The City Commission recognizes that matching funds in the amount of \$125,000 are required, and these will be made up of \$62,500 in cash and \$62,500 in in-kind services to be provided by the Parks Division and the Operations Division of the

1 Public Works Department, and that maintenance of this landscaping will be the  
2 responsibility of the City of Gainesville Parks Division; and

3  
4 3. Since this maintenance is expected to cost \$15,000/year and since the Parks  
5 Division has assumed responsibility for many additional landscaping projects with no  
6 increase in staffing, the City Manager should approve the addition of a Maintenance  
7 Worker position to the Parks Division staff; and

8  
9 4. The City Commission authorizes the City Manager and his staff to enter  
10 into a Highway Landscaping Maintenance Agreement between the City of Gainesville and  
11 the State of Florida Department of Transportation for South Main Street (SR 329) between  
12 SW 16<sup>th</sup> Ave and Williston Road (SR 331).

13  
14 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001.

15  
16  
17  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 THOMAS C. BUSSING  
20 MAYOR

21  
22  
23 ATTEST:

Approved as to form and legality

24  
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 KURT M. LANNON  
27 CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_

MARION J. RADSON  
CITY ATTORNEY