

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 16

Community Development Committee

*Commissioner Thomas Hawkins, Chair
Commissioner Scherwin Henry, Member
Commissioner Randy Wells, 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 Community Development Committee was called to order at 6:05 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Thomas Hawkins and Randy Wells

Absent: Scherwin Henry

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Community Development Committee approved the agenda as circulated.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

100592. Community Development Committee Minutes of September 15, 2010 (B)

The Community Development Committee approved the Community Development Committee Minutes of September 15, 2010 with minor corrections to the Motion on page 4, Item 090322 as noted below.

MOTION: Chair Hawkins moved, with a second on the floor, to:

1) Ask GRU to incorporate some land conservation programs to mitigate impacts of its operations; 2) ask Public Works to look at our existing drainage and stormwater facilities to make them more visually attractive as well as environmentally effective; 3) GRU either retain ownership of the 121 rail or dispose of it to an appropriate environmental organization in whole; 4) Map a trail circulator of our existing green spaces and right of ways; and, 5) Remove this item from our referral list.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee approve the September 15, 2010 Minutes as circulated.*

Approved as Modified

100592_CDC Minutes 9-15-10_20101214.pdf

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Note: Commissioner Henry entered the meeting at approximately 6:17 pm.

100591. Prorating Landlord Permit Program Fees (B)

Assistant City Manager Fred Murry gave a brief summary and history of this item before turning the floor over to Interim Code Enforcement Manager Chris Cooper. Mr. Cooper presented four options prepared by staff for consideration including: leaving the existing Landlord Permit fee structure as is; prorating the fee monthly; prorating the fee quarterly; and prorating the fee by 50% after the initial 6- months of the permit cycle. Staff recommended prorating fees semiannually as this option can be implemented with minimal fiscal impact to the city and therefore would not cause an increase in the calculation of the landlord permit fee.

The Community Development Committee reviewed and discussed various options including those presented by staff, and received comments from the public regarding this item.

MOTION: The Committee unanimously agreed refer this item back to the City Commission with a recommendation to 1) consider changing the existing Landlord Permit fee structure by prorating the fee by 50% after the initial 6- months of the permit cycle; 2) direct staff to report back to the City Commission after a specific time period on impacts of the change; and 3) remove this item from the Community Development Committee referral list.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee: 1) review staff's options and discuss the issue of prorating the Landlord Permit fee; 2) determine the appropriate course of action; and 3) refer the final decision to the City Commission for consideration.*

Approved as shown above (See Motion)

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100529. College Park/University Heights Heritage Overlay District Referral (B)

Planning & Development Director Erik Bredfeldt gave a brief summary of this item as outlined in the memo to the Committee dated December 9, 2010. Mr. Bredfeldt also presented potential problems that would need to be addressed for the Committee to consider and discuss. Several members of the public spoke to this item and joined into the discussion with the Committee. The Committee wanted to identify what resources the City could and could not commit. Mr. Bredfeldt noted that the Planning department would be utilizing UF interns during the Spring semester that might be able to be managed by a City Project Manager. The Committee also emphasized that this is supposed to be a tool to help neighborhoods identify and address problems through this process. The fees were discussed, and it was mentioned that this would be an eligible expense under the Neighborhood Planning Program as well.

Some concerns that were raised by citizens were teardowns, the creation of oversized accessory units in back yards (some that dwarf the single family homes), and long term rental units with numerous violations where the property owner is not making any effort to come into compliance with the law, what constitutes a "dwelling unit", and how a neighborhood can pursue this designation on their own.

The Committee and staff noted that interested Neighborhoods would have to take the lead in obtaining the designation, however student interns under the direction of City staff may be able to assist with certain components and could essentially "tie everything together". Mr. Bredfeldt stated that staff is working on developing language to specify exactly what constitutes a "dwelling unit".

The Committee asked if staff was looking for any specific action, and Mr. Bredfeldt responded that staff would take the comments provided by the Committee and the public and continue moving forward with this project.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee: 1) hear a brief presentation from staff regarding this item; and 2) provide specific direction to City staff as deemed appropriate.*

Discussed

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.