

LEGISLATIVE #

120582

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes - Draft

Thursday, October 25, 2012

1:30 PM

City Hall, Ground Floor, Room 16

Public Safety Committee

*Commissioner Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, Chair
Commissioner Lauren Poe, Member
Commissioner Todd Chase, 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

The agenda was adopted as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

120470. Approval of September 27, 2012 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Public Safety Committee approve the minutes of the September 27, 2012 meeting as submitted.*

The minutes from the September 27, 2012 Public Safety Committee meeting were approved as written.

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

110683. Alcohol Sales and Consumption Outdoors Downtown (B)

This is a referral to address increasing interest in holding outdoor events in the downtown area that allow the sale and consumption of alcohol on City property. The City received a specific request from Santa Fe College to allow alcohol at their Spring Arts Festival.

RECOMMENDATION *The Public Safety Committee discuss the request from Santa Fe College to allow the sales and consumption of alcohol at the Spring Arts Festival and consider requesting that the City Commission support this request and direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance.*

Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers gave the members of the Committee background information on this referral. Several other events and businesses have shown an interest in selling alcohol at outside events since the City granted permission to United Way to sell alcohol at their United Downtown events during UF football season. The City's ordinance was amended to allow these events for United Way. This referral first came to the Committee with a request for FEST to use Lot 10 for both alcohol sales and an outdoor concert. Mr. Folkers has been working with the City Attorney's Office to look at a broader review of this issue, instead of each group or event having to seek a change in City ordinance.

Mr. Folkers introduced Michael Curry and Kathryn Lehman from Santa Fe College (SFC) . SFC has requested that the City permit them to sell alcohol at their Downtown Spring Arts Festival each year. Ms. Lehman explained that profits from the Festival are used for unfunded programs at SFC and for scholarships. They have looked at other art festivals and many say they have to sell alcohol to make a profit. SFC wants to enhance the Festival. SFC uses NE 1st Street from NE 2nd Avenue to just south of NE 8th Avenue.

Commissioner Hinson-Rawls asked if they would have a specific venue for the alcohol sales. Chief Jones and Mr. Folkers have both advised SFC they would be required to have a specific location as required by the State of Florida. The Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco would be the state agency with authority over alcohol sales and where the venue could be located and the size of the venue. GPD Lieutenant Brian Helmerson will work with SFC on the State requirements.

Commissioner Chase asked how selling alcohol outdoors would affect the City's resources. Mr. Folkers said that staff from Parks and Recreation and GPD would be impacted by overtime. The City would charge for our services. Chief Jones commented that for the SFC Arts Festival the SFC Police Department would be trained to assist to help with staffing.

Commissioner Chase agrees that a procedure needs to be put in place so that each group does not have to come to the Committee each time. Mr. Folkers stated that all permitting is done at GPD and staff is looking at broadening approval levels. The broader issue would need to look at locations, i.e. keeping the sales and consumption in the Downtown area.

Commissioner Hinson-Rawls did some research and found an eleven page, very thorough application from Edinburg, Michigan that she shared with Assistant City Attorney Lee Libby for review.

Commissioner Poe has no issue with the SFC request. For the broader issues of changing the ordinance he suggests a joint meeting with the Recreation, Cultural Affairs, and Public Works Committee to solicit their input. It was also suggested that the Committee include GDOT and Indie Gainesville as stakeholders since any changes will affect street closings and access to their businesses.

The Committee voted 3-0 to proceed to the full City Commission with the request for the SFC Downtown Spring Arts Festival, 1) directing the City Attorney to draft an amendment to the Alcohol Ordinance to allow for the Santa Fe College Downtown Arts Festival to be able to sell alcohol, and 2) keep this item as an active referral for the overall revisions to the ordinance to allow events to sell alcohol at downtown outdoor events.

080460.

Develop and Continue Programs to Reduce the Causes of Crime - CCOM Strategic Initiative (NB)

Strategic initiatives have been referred to Standing Committees and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), to promote efficient and effective communication streams between elected officials, city staff and Gainesville residents concerning the implementation of the City's Strategic Plan. This item is a request for the Public Safety Committee to receive an update on the progress of Strategic Initiative 1.1: Develop and Continue Programs to Reduce the Causes of Crime.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee receive an update on the progress of Strategic Initiative 1.1 from Police Chief Tony Jones.

Police Chief Tony Jones gave an update to this Strategic Initiative by summarizing many new programs he and his staff have implemented this year and ones they continue to use as a tool against crime.

Intervention and Prevention programs include: youth programs, school resources officers, gang prevention, police Explorers, Reichert House Youth Academy, Pine Ridge After School Program, Operation Heat Wave, the newly established BOLD program for young men to learn job skills, the Black On Black Crime Task Force, and the Police Advisory Council.

GPD has started a Citizens On Patrol Program and in 2013 will establish a Reserve Officer Program, both to help supplement the officers on the road. The Department's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is getting National recognition, working with developers and the City Planning office to design buildings with crime prevention in mind.

At the present time there are sixty-four active Neighborhood Watch groups in the City. Chief Jones plans to expand the Business Watch program next year, with business watching other businesses, as with the neighbors watching out for neighbors in residential areas.

Commissioner Chase asked Chief Jones to provide the Commission with a list of what he would like to do to continue his work to prevent crime, if funding was available. Chief Jones said statistics show that it takes \$88,000 per year to keep one juvenile in jail for one year. Yet \$88,000 could help keep 100 youth out of jail.

Commissioner Poe would like to see the the statistics on the social economic status and arrests; that could help direct resources. Chief Jones will contact the Department of Juvenile Justice for those statics. Commissioner Poe also asked where the crime trends were now, property crimes versus violent crimes. Chief Jones replied that violent crimes had increased nationwide in recent years.

Chief Jones will keep the Committee abreast of possible new grants GPD is working on for training officer and citizens.

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Poe asked Chief Jones for a summary of the Pleasant Street/Mrs. Parks issues that they were told about during a recent neighborhood meeting. Chief Jones has not finalized his plan of action but is using both marked patrol vehicles to increase visibility and also non-uniform patrol. He has planned a neighborhood walk in that area on Tuesday, November 13, at 6:00 p.m. All of the Commissioners received an invitation through the City Manager's Officer to participate in the walk. Commissioner Hinson-Rawls has driven through the area in question and could see open activity. Commissioner Poe would like to receive an update of what has been done in the neighborhood before their next neighborhood meeting.

Commissioner Chase asked Paul Folkers about permitted parking and visitors passes near the Swamp Restaurant. Mr. Folkers will research with the Public Works Department if there is a limit to the number of passes each resident can have at one time and will send a memo to the Commission with his findings.

Commissioner Chase asked if it was possible to put surveillance cameras in the City's parks. Assistant City Attorney Lee Libby said it is legal for the City to

do because there is no expectation of privacy in a public park. Commissioner Chase asked Chief Jones to look into the cameras; as it would be a more efficient way to monitor the parks without taking officers from the road. We would then have tapes to refer to when a complaint is received. Lieutenant Brian Helmerson suggested the Legal Office look into the liabilities of installing the cameras before we move forward. Mr. Folkers commented that the RTS buses already have cameras installed on them. Commissioner Poe thanked staff for the quick response to the Cone Park trash issue that was brought to the Mayor's attention.

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.