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City of

Inter-Office Communication

Gainesville

Department of Community Development
334-5022, FAX x334-2282, Station 11

To: Wayne Bowers, City Manager Date: May 1, 2000

From: Tom Saunders, Community Development Director *TBS*
Tim Vaughan, Interim Redevelopment Manager *TMV*

Subject: Keep Alachua County Beautiful Request to Place an Obelisk in the
Downtown Community Plaza

In response to the request at the April 24, 2000 City Commission meeting for an update regarding the proposed obelisk at the Downtown Community Plaza, a summary of the facts surrounding the proposal by Keep Alachua County Beautiful is as follows:

- Sometime prior to November 4, 1999, Keep Alachua County Beautiful (KACB) contacted Assistant City Manager Carl Harness about a proposal to place an obelisk in the Downtown Community Plaza. Mr. Harness recalls speaking to Susan White of KACB and that he put her in touch with Corey O'Gorman of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).
- Upon inquiry by Interim CRA Manager Tim Vaughan, Mr. O'Gorman recalls meeting with someone from KACB about the proposal in Mr. Harness's office prior to placing the proposal on the DRAB agenda.
- Mr. O'Gorman placed the item on the November 4th DRAB agenda, and DRAB discussed the obelisk. The consensus was that DRAB would prefer that KACB do something in keeping with the overall future design of the Plaza. This consensus was communicated to KACB.
- On December 2, 1999 DRAB again considered the proposal after hearing a presentation by Susan White of KACB proposing the construction of a monument to "recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to beautifying the community over the years." There was a consensus that each member view possible sites on the Plaza and reconsider the item at the January meeting.
- At the January 6, 2000 DRAB meeting, Ms. White informed the board that the monument would be constructed of black marble and stand approximately 6' tall, not including the base. For planning purposes, DRAB discussed and agreed to approve two proposed sites (near the courthouse or near the sidewalk on the SE quadrant of the area) with a final recommendation to be deferred until an onsite visit could be conducted. Ms. White indicated that she would provide a cardboard model of the monument to assist in locating the most appropriate site before installation.
- On February 3, 2000, DRAB reconvened their meeting at the Downtown Community Plaza and considered an appropriate site for the KACB monument. Susan White provided a cardboard cutout of the monument. The board voted unanimously to approve the following motion made by Member Fetty and seconded by Member McGurn: The Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board recommends that the Keep Alachua County Beautiful obelisk be located to the right side of the courthouse entrance, centered in front of the stone wall in the grassy portion with additional landscaping to create a circle around the obelisk.
- Since the item was not a referral from the CRA or the City Commission, the recommendation was not returned to either body for consideration. DRAB did not recommend the use of CRA funds for the project proposed by KACB.
- Jeanne Rochford of KACB has indicated that the obelisk would be located on County property and that KACB had a letter from the County giving them permission to locate the monument there. Attached is a copy of a

SEP 1999

letter and diagram sent to Paul Houston, Alachua County Facilities Manager from KACB dated March 1, 2000, a memo dated March 13, 2000 from Paul Houston to the County Commissioners, and a letter dated March 28, 2000 from Paul Houston to KACB. The letter from Mr. Houston grants permission to KACB to place the obelisk in the position recommended by DRAB. KACB's letter refers to brick pavers; however, neither Mr. Houston's letter nor the DRAB recommendation addressed the pavers. Whether the brick pavers would be on County or City property probably cannot be determined until more specific information is provided. Field observation indicates that the bricked area in which the pavers would be placed could be on either property. Most likely, they would be somewhere in the vacated street which was divided between the City's parcel (#14622) and the County's parcel (#14629). Appropriate permission would need to be obtained for the pavers if they are to be located on City property.

Please let me know if there is any further information we can provide.



Board of County Commissioners

**ALACHUA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

RECEIVED
MAR 30 2000
L.K.A.C.B.

105 S.E. 1st Avenue, Suite 2B •
Gainesville, Florida 32602
Tel. (352) 374-5229 • Fax (352) 374-5279
Suncom 651-5229
Home Page: www.co.alachua.fl.us

Paul Houston
Facilities Manager

March 28, 2000

Susan O. White
Board of Directors
Keep Alachua County Beautiful
309 North East First Street
Gainesville, Fl. 32601

Dear Susan White:

I am giving you permission for the placement of the obelisk on the Gainesville Downtown Plaza on the grassy area in front of the Alachua County Courthouse to the right of the main front doors.

If I can be of further assistance, please call me at 374-5289.

Sincerely,

Paul Houston
Facilities Manager

Attachment





Board of County Commissioners

Paul Houston
Facilities Manager

**ALACHUA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

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March 13, 2000

MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Wheat, Commissioners Newport, Chestnut, Clemons and
Hutchinson

Via: Randall Reid
County Manager

Via: Milton Baker, Director
Administrative Services

From: Paul Houston *PH*
Facilities Manager

Subject: Placement of Obelisk on County Property

Facilities Management has received a letter from "Keep Alachua County Beautiful" requesting permission to install an obelisk on County property. The obelisk will be a six foot black marble structure to be located on the grassy space in front of the Alachua County Courthouse. The Keep Alachua County Beautiful Millennium recognition obelisk has been approved by the Gainesville Arts in Public Places Committee, the City Managers' Office and the Downtown Redevelopment Committee.

Unless we hear different, Facilities Management will approve the location of the obelisk on the grassy space in front of the Courthouse.

If you need further information, please call me at 5289.

Attachment

An Equal Opportunity Employer M.F.V.D.

Keep
Alachua County
Beautiful

March 1, 2000

Paul Houston
Alachua County Department of Administrative Services
105 SE 1 Avenue, Suite 2B
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Mr. Houston:

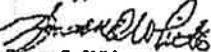
Pursuant our conversation regarding the Keep Alachua County Beautiful Millennium recognition obelisk I am writing to request permission to locate the obelisk on county property. The purpose of this memorial is to recognize individuals, businesses, and government agencies' efforts to make Alachua County a beautiful place to live over the past millennium. Its second purpose is to encourage future residents, businesses and governmental agencies to keep Alachua County a beautiful place to live.

The obelisk will be a six-foot black marble structure. It will be constructed and put into place by O. T. Davis Monuments. Mr. Davis has been in business in Gainesville for many years and has a solid reputation for constructing quality stone pieces. He has produced several memorials for cities and counties throughout north central Florida.

Keep Alachua County Beautiful has met with the Gainesville Arts in Public Places Committee, the city manager's office, and the Downtown Redevelopment Committee in its pursuit to locate this obelisk in the downtown Gainesville Plaza. Every committee has approved our project. The Downtown Redevelopment Committee has approved the location of the obelisk in the Plaza and suggested that we locate it on the grassy space of the Alachua County Courthouse, on the west side of the building (front), south of the front doors (see drawing). They suggested that this would be the most aesthetically pleasing location and suggested that we landscape around the obelisk to set it off. Keep Alachua Beautiful agrees with their suggestion.

In addition to the obelisk, Keep Alachua County Beautiful is creating 8" x 8" brick pavers with the specific recognitions to be placed into the sidewalk that runs immediately in front of the Courthouse, running from University Avenue to 1st Avenue. These pavers would replace existing bricks in the sidewalk, can be walked upon, and would not impede pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk. All of the committees that we have met with have approved this "pavers project" and the location of the pavers. There is some questions if this location is county or city property. Keep Alachua County Beautiful would like to ask the County's permission for the location of the pavers in this location. Keep Alachua County Beautiful will assume responsibility for the placement of the pavers and the obelisk.

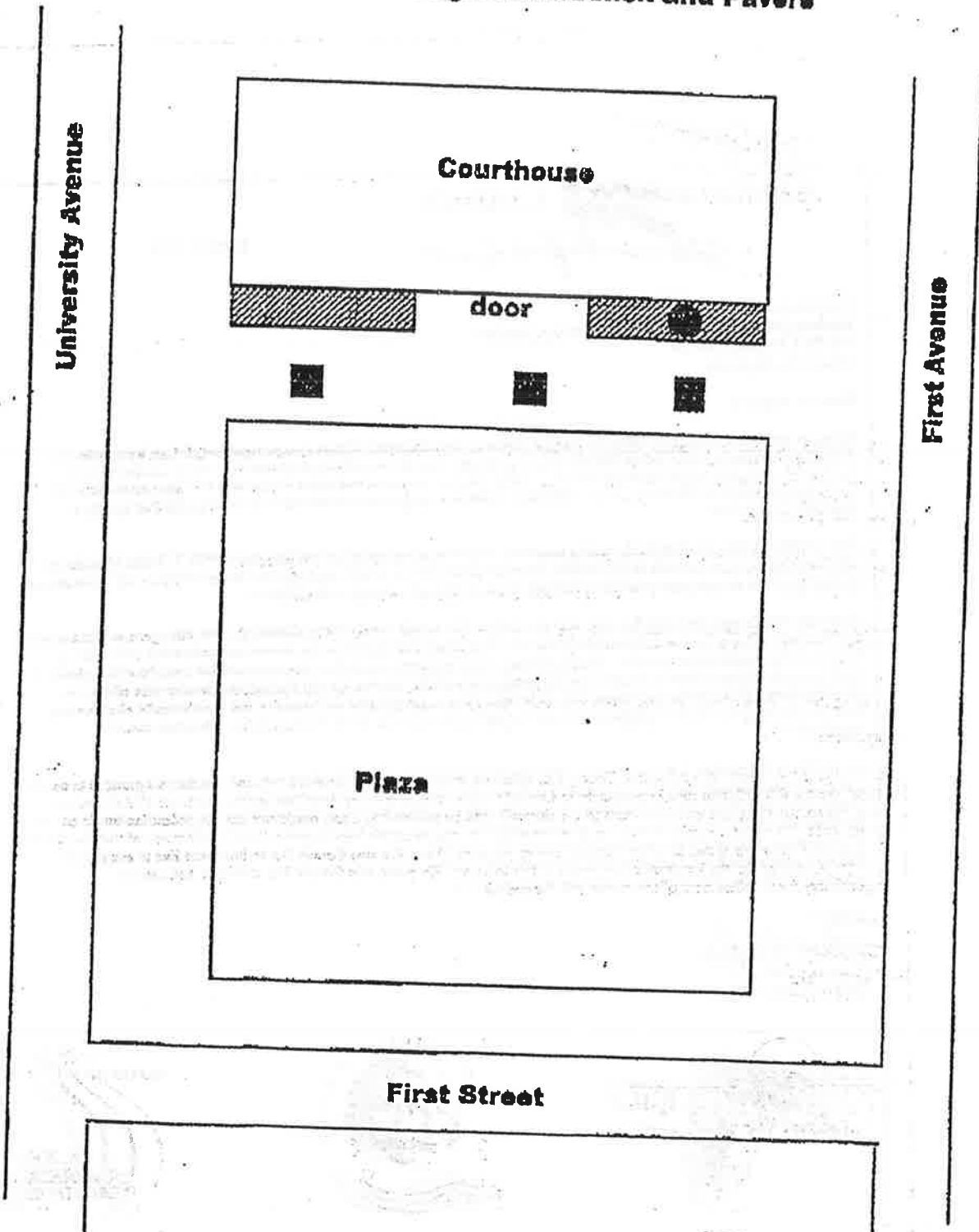
Sincerely,






Susan O. White
Board of Directors



Keep Alachua County Beautiful Millineum Recognition Obelisk and Pavers



← North

-  Grassy area
-  Obelisk
-  Pavers