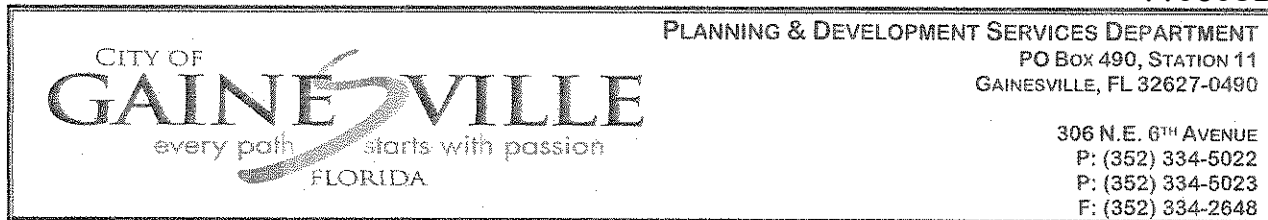


LEGISLATIVE #

110608B



TO: City Plan Board **Item Number:** 2

FROM: Planning & Development Services Department **DATE:** Dec. 5, 2011
Staff

SUBJECT: Petition PB-11-135 CPA. City Plan Board. Update the Recreation Element of the City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the updated Recreation Element for inclusion in the Gainesville Comprehensive Plan.

Description

This petition is part of the overall process of amending the City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan. Through the policies and regulations proposed in the Recreation Element, the City is endeavoring to provide sufficient park acreage, facilities and recreation programs in an efficient manner to serve the urbanized area.

The proposed, revised Recreation Element includes goals, objectives and policies that are the result of the old Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) process. The Plan Board reviewed the element and provided comments at their March 31st and April 28, 2010 workshops. A progress report on Recreation was heard by the City Commission on May 20, 2010.

Changes made in Florida's Growth Management laws during the 2011 legislative session (House Bill 7207) have eliminated the requirement that the City adopt level of service standards for Recreation. Recreation concurrency also becomes optional under the law. Planning and Development Services staff had recommended that the level of service requirements be deleted from the element, but after meeting with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) staff and the Public Recreation and Park Board, it was determined that some form of level of service standard should remain in the element. The proposed, revised Recreation Element level of service standards reflect a change to an acreage based standard, which is common in Florida jurisdictions and should be simpler and more straightforward in terms of determining compliance with the standards. In reviewing the level of service issue, it was also determined that the language concerning the Park and Facility Substitution standards should be deleted since staff could not recall any instance when these standards were used.

The goals, objectives and policies section of the element, which is to be adopted, reflect the changes which were identified in the old Evaluation and Appraisal Report process and new recommended changes identified since then. The proposed changes to the goals, objectives and policies include:

Modification of Existing Policies

Objective 1.1

Policy 1.1.1

Policy 1.2.2

Policy 1.3.1

Policy 1.3.3

Policy 1.6.1

Policy 1.8.3

Policy 2.1.2

Policy 3.1.2

Policy 3.2.1

Deleted Policies

Policy 1.1.5

Policy 1.3.2 (Renumber Policies 1.3.3 and 1.3.4 to 1.3.2 and 1.3.3 respectively)

Amendments to the goals, objectives and policies include a revised Objective 1.1 and Policy 1.1.1 that deletes the reference to the Park and Facility Substitution Standards. The City is also proposing to delete Policy 1.1.5, which references these standards. Policy 1.2.2 has a revised date, while Policy 1.3.1 indicates that the City will continue to coordinate with the County on recreation planning in the urban area. Policy 1.3.2 has been deleted because the City does not fund outside agencies. Policy 1.3.3 has been renumbered to be the new Policy 1.3.2 and will indicate that the City shall reach individual agreements with specific school sites concerning public use of school facilities. Policy 1.3.4 has been renumbered to Policy 1.3.3 and Policy 1.3.5 has been renumbered to be Policy 1.3.4.

Policy 1.6.1 will indicate that the City shall continue to see that community parks shall provide bicycle and pedestrian access meeting Traffic Engineering standards. For Policy 1.8.3, text has been added indicating examples of alternative means of funding recreation activities. Policy 2.1.2 is amended to add that comprehensive plan policies also promote the establishment of the trail network. Policy 3.1.2 is amended to indicate that City staff submits reports to the City Commission concerning updates of the capital improvements program. Policy 3.2.1 is amended to reflect the upcoming findings of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Plan.

Finally, Table 1: Service Level Standards for Parks and Facilities is being amended to reflect the changes in the level of service standards and the deletion of the Park and Facility Substitution standards. Also included within this report are a recently updated map of recreation facilities in Gainesville and the surrounding area and a revised level of service table.

Petition PB-11-135 CPA
December 5, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Onelia Lazzari
Principal Planner

Prepared by:



Jason Simmons
Planner

List of Appendices

Appendix A Recreation Element Goals, Objectives and Policies

Appendix B Data and Analysis Addendum to the Recreation Element

Map 1 Local and Regional Parks and Recreation
Table 1 Proposed Level of Service Standards for Parks

Appendix C Example Interlocal Agreement between the City of Gainesville and the School Board of Alachua County for a Specific Facility

Appendix D Comprehensive Plan Amendment Application