

REPORT

**City of Gainesville Goals Workshop
January 22, 1999
Poe Springs, Florida**

A meeting of the City of Gainesville Commission and Executive Staff was held at Poe Springs Park on January 22, 1999. This is a summary of the issues, recommendations, and actions. It is the staff intent to work with the Clerk of the Commission to prepare a tracking method or board to follow progress on issues. This report is adapted from the final report provided by the facilitator at the meeting, Dr. Lance deHaven-Smith. Several items that were under the general category of City-County Coordination have been separated as individual items. Staff recommends that the goals are tracked alphabetically and it is not necessary to prioritize amongst the items identified as City Commission Goals.

A. CITY-COUNTY COORDINATIONIssue #1.

Emergency Communications

Commission Direction/Comments

- Seek County participation
- Move toward joint dispatching

Action

The City of Gainesville and Alachua County Commissions met on February 15, 1999 to discuss this item.

Issue #2

Service Delivery

Commission Direction/CommentsFire Rescue

- City consideration of a Fire Rescue assessment for services
- Show relationship of benefit to cost in assessment methodology
- Discuss the Fire Protection Council meeting with IAFF (They want the best possible service for the area.)
- Consider Tallahassee's dual level of service structure (urban & rural), with rates classified by housing type & commercial type
- Remind all public entities, including the University of Florida and Santa Fe Community College, that they must be included or City faces possibility of court challenge
(Practice suggests if you agree on 1st who manages and 2nd who pays, other decisions are easy.)

Parks and Recreation

- Consider a post-mortem on 1 cent sales tax referendum
- Review county's recent evaluation of its service delivery and capital needs
- Look for opportunities for consolidation
- Review projects: CSX 16th Street Rail Trail and Hogtowne Creek Greenway

Action

The following actions were proposed after the City-County Joint Meeting:

- Merger of Gainesville Fire Rescue Department and Alachua County Fire Rescue Department. The City and County Managers will meet with Union representatives and the Fire Chiefs in March. An interim recommendation will be made 6/1/99.
- The Alachua County Commission will appoint a liaison to the Recreation and Culture Committee.
- The Local Government Cooperation and Collaboration Committee will be reconstituted. The Committee will consider any intergovernmental issues. The first meeting has been scheduled for 3/29/99 at 10 a.m. in the Room 16, City Hall.
- Experts at the University of Florida will assist Recreation and Parks staff in surveying the current facilities for usage. National standards for facilities will be used to evaluate the need for additional facilities.
- Additional information about extrajurisdictional taxing authority (Boca Raton model) will be provided to the City Commission.

Issue # 3

Joint land acquisition and management program

Commission Direction/Comments

- a. Evaluate opportunities for land purchase financing (local, state and federal funding sources and lobbying efforts)
- b. Consider less-than-fee strategies
- c. Identify important parcels using the KBN study

Action

Formation of a joint City-County Committee to address openspace, conservation easements and land acquisition. The first meeting has been scheduled for 3/15/99 at 10 a.m. in the Grace Knight Conference Room.

Issue #4

Affordable housing

Commission Direction/Comments

- a. Develop incentives package
- b. Encourage moderate housing, especially for East Gainesville
- c. Apply 85/10/5 rule

Action

The following action was proposed after the City-County Joint Meeting:

-The City Community Development and County Growth Management staff will work with the Homebuilders, Realtors, NAACP, Housing Authorities and Small Cities in investigating implementation and minimum new unit requirements.

Issue #5

Land development codes

Commission Direction/Comments

- a. Ask County to consider SMU to assist City in funding drainage program that meets NPDES standards
- b. Develop consistent City-County codes for medians, roads, signage, landscaping, trees, parking, sidewalks and neighborhood redevelopment projects

Action

The report outlining the implementation of joint planning has been approved by the City of Gainesville Plan Board on 1/21/99, and will be presented to the Alachua County Planning Commission on 2/17/99.

Issue #6

GIS system

Commission Direction/Comments

- a. Work with County to coordinate GIS system
- b. Link to property appraiser's database

Action

The Local Government Cooperation and Collaboration Committee will be reconstituted. The Committee will consider any intergovernmental issues, including the Intergovernmental Coordination Element of the Comprehensive Plans. The first meeting has been scheduled for 3/29/99 at 10 a.m. in the Room 16, City Hall. The City of Gainesville internal GIS Planning Group will coordinate with Alachua County's GIS System.

Issue #7

Ad Hoc Committee's disparity study

Commission Direction/Comments

- b. Ask School Board and County to share cost with City
- c. Consider whether money would more productive if spent for other programs
- d. Develop minority goals for Cedar Grove

Action

Staff presented information on the Ad Hoc Committee's disparity study City Commission on February 2, 1999.

Issue # 8

Wireless Masterplan

Commission Direction/Comments

- a. Ask county to help finance
- b. Consider aesthetics vs. safety argument (Consultant recommends moving to smaller towers or put on existing structures).
- c. Consider adding camouflage to towers

Action

The City of Gainesville staff will be making a report to the City Commission on 3/8/99.

Issue # 9

School siting and programming decisions

Commission Direction/Comments

- a. Look at the impact on neighborhood redevelopment, especially in East Gainesville
- b. Include the School Board in discussions

Action

The report outlining the implementation of joint planning has been approved by the City of Gainesville Plan Board on 1/21/99, and will be presented to the Alachua County Planning Commission on 2/17/99. The Local Government Cooperation and Collaboration Committee will also be reconstituted. The Committee will consider any intergovernmental issues, including the Intergovernmental Coordination Element of the Comprehensive Plans. The first meeting has been scheduled for 3/29/99 at 10 a.m. in the Room 16, City Hall. Staff will include the Alachua County School Board in the discussions.

Issue # 10

Stormwater utility

Commission Direction/Comments

- a. Discuss opportunities for coordination

Action

The Local Government Cooperation and Collaboration Committee will be reconstituted. The Committee will consider any intergovernmental issues, including stormwater. The first meeting has been scheduled for 3/29/99 at 10 a.m. in the Room 16, City Hall.

B. CODES ENFORCEMENT

Issue #1

Standing committee on University of Florida and hospitals codes issues

Commission Direction/Comments

1. Standing committee on University of Florida-hospitals growth
 - a. Create committee with the goal of stabilizing neighborhoods surrounding these high-growth nodes
 - b. Consider objectives related to multifunctional impacts but focus on code enforcement issues
 - c. Meet monthly to review implementation status
 - d. Review University Avenue corridor study, data and recommendations may help
 - e. Link to University of Florida
 - f. Examine approaches used by other peer cities
 - g. Involve neighborhood associations in planning
 - h. Reflect on no-cost/low-cost options such as placing violators names and pictures of property on the internet

Action

The City Commission appoint a Codes Enforcement Standing Committee to address residential neighborhoods near the University of Florida. Community Development is preparing a preliminary report on their activities.

Issue #2

City Commission's role in Board of Adjustment's appeals

Commission Direction/Comments

- a. Consider staff analysis of the Board of Adjustment's role
 - Reviews cases and summarizes process
 - Offer insight into decision-making rationale
 - Includes peer-city review of commission/council role
 - Answers question: Should Commission become an appellate board to Board of Adjustment?
 - Offers possible solutions to improve function

Action

Staff will provide a report on the role of the Board of Adjustment and the items listed on 3/8/99. The report will include the list of appeals for the last 3 months. The City Attorney and Community Development Department will provide a report outlining the appeal process for the Board of Adjustment, DRB, and Plan Board.

C. ANNEXATION AND URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARIES

Issue # 1

April Annexation

Commission Direction/Comments

- Build on success
- Prepare for April vote

Action

Staff will provide information to the public about annexation in preparation for the April annexation vote. The Local Government Cooperation and Collaboration Committee will be reconstituted. The Committee will consider any intergovernmental issues, including annexation. The first meeting has been scheduled for 3/29/99 at 10 a.m. in the Room 16, City Hall. Alachua County has also scheduled a workshop on annexation on 2/25/99.

Issue #2

Urban growth boundaries

Commission Direction/Comments

- a. Discuss joint planning in the urban reserve

Action

This item was also discussed at the City-County meeting and several goals were identified

- The City of Gainesville and Alachua County staff, and City of Gainesville Plan Board and Alachua County Planning Commission work on planning in the Gainesville urban reserve area, including the transition of urban services.
- The City and County staff will work together with the small cities to coordinate amendments to the Alachua County Boundary Adjustment Act.
- The City of Gainesville Community Development and Alachua County Growth Management Departments should prepare a build-out analysis as part of the Comprehensive Plan updates. Staff will provide a timeline for this study on 4/1/99.
- The Local Government Cooperation and Collaboration Committee will be reconstituted. The Committee will consider any intergovernmental items. The first meeting has been scheduled for 3/29/99 at 10 a.m. in the Room 16, City Hall.

D. Y2K CONFERENCE

Issue

Host Y2K conference

Commission Direction/Comments

Ask County to participate as agent responsible for emergency management
Seek local business participation, such as banks, drugstores, grocery stores, hospitals and GRU
Use public TV to inform the public
Present possible problems and solutions

Action

A Y2K conference will be scheduled jointly with Alachua County.

E. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSPORTATION CONCURRENCY

Issue #1

Transportation concurrency

Commission Direction/Comments

- Discuss impact fees to recoup some of the costs of new development (County repealed its impact fee program because it hindered development in marginal areas.)
- Consider impact fee on sliding scale (Consider special fund to cover impact fees for certain types of development, similar to Palm Beach County's fund to encourage low-income housing or specific types of businesses such as day care.)
- Link to land use planning via air quality impact analysis

Action

Impact fees and a Gas Tax levy were discussed at the Joint City-County Meeting. These funding mechanisms may be considered by the Alachua County Commission. Additional discussion of these topics can be carried out at the MTPCO and Intergovernmental Cooperation and Collaboration Committee.

Issue #2

Public Transportation and WAGES Program

Commission Direction/Comments

- Discuss City's grant application to link public transportation to WAGES program
- Examine group ridership discount fees (similar to that for University of Florida's students) for major employers, social service agencies, etc.

Action

This item was also discussed at the City-County meeting. The next meeting of the Regional Transit Advisory Board is scheduled for 2/24/99 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Commission Auditorium. Commissioner Dave Newport and Commissioner Sande Calkins will continue the discussion with staff about reduced fare bus service for those unable to pay the full fare.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Issue

Economic Development

Commission Direction/Comments

- a. Examine environmental technologies
- b. Use countywide economic development plan to identify industries to attract
- c. Consider recommendations from Coalition for a Livable Wage
- d. Relate feedback on handling MBE/SBE concerns
- e. Think about disparity study to determine need for formal minority business enterprise set asides (perhaps School Board, County and City should share cost)
- f. Evaluate other options to disparity study, approximately \$150,000, and consider using money for other programs

Action

The Economic Development Director and staff will work on the issues listed above, and provide regular updates on progress in these areas. The technology incubator will address some of the issues outlined.

G. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Issue

Law Enforcement

Commission Direction/Comments

Asked Chief to:

- Continue training in communication skills, 95% of confrontations are verbal
- Evaluate causes of crime in Gainesville
- Compare with similar cities
- List strategies for intervention

- Raise issue of racial slurs with Black on Black Crime Task Force
- Reinforce customer relations emphasis citywide
- Consider community oriented policing update, scheduled in two weeks
- Evaluate need for curfew

Action

The Police Chief provided the following updates:

- a. Decreasing complaints after installation of cameras in patrol cars to monitor and protect
- b. Made strides in affirmative action goals, currently black females needed
- c. Adding recruitment and selection unit to increase size of applicant pool
- d. Asking community groups to help with minority recruitment
- e. Creating nuisance property unit
- f. Offering competitive salaries in City, University police paid most but experience is not a good career stepping stone
- g. Focusing on problem situations and moved some police from community policing to 'hot spot' duty because staff shortage
- h. Plan to continue with community policing and neighborhood contacts as vacant positions filled
- i. Working with SBAC on crime prevention strategies

The Police Chief and staff will work on the issues listed above, and provide regular updates on progress in these areas. Additional information about the ability to raise an additional independent tax by the Juvenile Justice Board will be provided to the City Commission.

H. PUBLIC WORKS

Issue #1

Stormwater Masterplan

Commission Direction/Comments

Want information on a stormwater masterplan

Action

Staff is working on stormwater masterplan that includes goals, objectives and priorities. This item was referred to the Public Works Committee on 2/8/99

Issue #2

Stormwater Projects and Planning

Commission Direction/Comments

Emphasizing repair in current projects

- Retrofitting to encourage redevelopment
- Targeted areas for priority
- Downtown
- Duval Heights
- SE 7th Avenue
- College Park
- Hogtowne Creek
- SW 13th Street to Waldo
- Creating 'Corridors to Campus' with \$1 million for College Park-University Heights area
- Need small projects program for neighborhoods, fund sidewalk 'gaps'
- Continue to strengthen relationship with neighborhoods in planning
- Developing commercial building maintenance code

Action

The Public Works Director and staff will work on the issues listed above, and provide regular updates on progress in these areas.

I. REDEVELOPMENT

Issue

Redevelopment

Commission Direction/Comments

1. Need incentives to create a more marketable range of housing citywide, but especially in East Gainesville
 - a. Reduce connection fees
 - b. Reduce permitting fees
 - c. Encourage discount loans

2. Need loan/grants program for East Gainesville, other than UGDCD
 - a. Consider Brownfield area
 - b. Need housing on Hawthorne Road
 - c. Consider Cedar Grove
 - d. Consider Pleasant Street
 - e. Consider 5th Avenue

3. Challenge local banks to offer community reinvestment programs, especially for commercial loans

4. Explore use of City deposits as leverage for commercial loan program

Action

The Community Development Director and staff will work on the issues listed above, and provide regular updates on progress in these areas.

J. ADMINISTRATION

Issue

Public Information Officer

Commission Direction/Comments

Fund public information officer in City Manager's Office
Create citizens' action line
Programming for TV

Action

The City Manager and staff will work on the issues listed above, and provide regular updates on progress in these areas. The City Manager will consider the addition of a complete public information program when funding is available.

The next City Commission Planning Retreat will be held in November 1999.