

#180411

# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



## Minutes - Draft

September 13, 2018

1:00 PM

City Commission Special Meeting

Roberta Lisle Kline Room

## City Commission

*Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)*

*Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)*

*Commissioner Gail Johnson (At Large)*

*Commissioner Gigi Simmons (District 1)*

*Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)*

*Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)*

*Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)*

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**CALL TO ORDER - 1:00 PM****AGENDA STATEMENT****ROLL CALL**

**Present** 7 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Warren, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Mayor Poe, Commissioner Arreola, Commissioner Warren, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Ward

**BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS**[180336](#)**Next Steps for the Gainesville CRA (B)**

*Sarah Vidal-Finn made a presentation.*

*Brenda Durdin spoke to the matter.*

*Breakout at 1:35 PM.*

*Reconvene at 2:41 PM.*

*Commissioner Ward arrived at 2:53 PM.*

*Summary of Group Priorities:*

*Group #1 (Commissioner Simmons) Many communities don't have an identity. For example - Porters is surrounded by many districts, but neighborhoods go unnoticed - surrounded by major corridors. Create connectivity through neighborhoods, signage, entry/exits, with historical signage. Wayfinding signs would add to quality of life - i.e. Welcome to Duval, etc. Critical Home Repair Program - Layers of health/safety, reduce slum/blight. Use folks in workplace training within their own neighborhoods.*

*Ambassador Program - Within CRA to mentor and incentivize entrepreneurship. Partner with the University of Florida and School of Business. Equity, quality of life, unemployment rate. Pop Up Stores - In empty locations downtown. Stop incentivizing - large development and managing property. Tailor a program for small business with employees.*

*Group #2 (Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos) "Reimagine Programs" -*

long-term sustainability of commercial districts - create Business Improvement District. Connect multi-modal areas/public spaces and revitalize. Share funds across all needed areas. Incentive Programs - rate to go after highest need. Economic Development - help build companies and keep growing companies here.

Group #3 (Mayor Poe) - Façade grants aren't transformational in terms of development. Stormwater problems - could this be creatively solved with creating of infinity loop. Affordable housing - top three priorities. All parts of organizations must play a role. See how the CRA can serve as the "Connective tissue" - Rebuilding Together, CWC, Habitat for Humanity, Gainesville Housing Authority, together, GRU. Business Improvement District - get all businesses to take ownership of the outcome - private/public.

Group #4 (Commissioner Arreola) - Affordable housing and policy changes to require those demolishing homes to replace with certain amount of affordable housing. Inclusionary zoning, destination projects, create specific designs for education/after school programs. Focus on the needs of the community. Activate "dead zones" - be it commercial/dead zones, activate for nonprofits. Public/private partnerships. Complete streets upgrading amenities on main corridors.

Group # 5 (Commissioner Johnson) - Redirect funds/resources to help affordable housing and a community food center, clinic, etc., especially on the eastside. Safety - adequate lighting, streetscaping. Public/private partnerships. Funding/financing - do it better. Regulated community engagement - do the work to get the real engagement needed in the community. Steps - use the least amount of money for the most good. Don't displace people already there in the neighborhoods.

Group # 6 (Commissioner Warren) - Good food, i.e. grocery stores in Eastside. Incentivize downtown locations to rent to small businesses. More residential support for homeowners/tenants - paint projects, paint the town, etc. Expand boundaries for CRA districts - 6th Street, Koppers, Grove Street area. Partners: CareerSource, GRU, Project Youthbuild, Santa Fe College, School Board and University of Florida.

Group #7 - Workplace Training (Ed Bielarski) - Power Academy, Workplace Training Institute, Co-housing-workforce housing. Rehabbing homes as a workforce - especially in 1200-1500 square-foot cinder block homes. CCC Programs for example. Partnerships for targeted industries at entry level - with Chamber of Commerce/Santa Fe College. No stops on current resources.

Kali Blount and Ken Cornell spoke to the matter.

Note: Add to the GPC agenda of October 11, 2018: 1) CRA discussion; and 2) ConnectFree Program

**RECOMMENDATION**

CRA Executive Director to the City Commission: Hear presentation and provide feedback.

**ADJOURNMENT - 4:03 PM**