

Petition PB-13-64 TCH. City of Gainesville. Amend the Land Development Code to allow chickens in the single-family residential zoning districts and the RC (12 units/acre residential conservation district) zoning district to increase the number of chickens above the current allotment of two chickens.

The staff presentation was made by Planning Manager Ralph Hilliard, who noted that, the allowance of chickens in single-family residential districts was discussed as an information item at a previous City Plan Board meeting. Mr. Hilliard reviewed the staff recommendation and said that the major issue before the Plan Board is the number of chickens to allow. The staff recommendation is for a maximum of four hens on lots up to 10,000 square feet, and a maximum of six hens on lots larger than 10,000 square feet.

Public comments were made by: Ms. Rebecca Huy, who provided a hand-out; Mr. Nicholas Armfeld; Ms. Krista Reynolds; Mr. Bill Burdett; Ms. Grace Carr, who resides and keeps chickens in unincorporated Alachua County, and who passed around a bagged sample of chicken dung; Mr. Gabriel Trinity; Mr. Wiley Wood; Ms. Mary Williamson, who once had a problem with a neighbor's stray chickens damaging her turf grass and mulched areas; Mr. Tom Tumbleson; Ms. Jeri Rogers; Ms. Anne Marie Brown of unincorporated Alachua County; and Ms. Nancy Hendler.

Mr. Hilliard said that he thinks there is consensus that: roosters should not be allowed; chicken coops should be kept clean; commercial operations should not be allowed; and chickens should not be allowed to roam off-site.

Plan Board member Danika Oliverio explained that although the testimony has been persuasive as to the effects of chickens upon neighbors, and as to there not being a need for chicken coops to be mobile, she would like there to be a permitting requirement. This would put neighbors on notice. She added that she is ambivalent regarding increasing the maximum allowable number of chickens to 10 because some neighbors might not be comfortable with that quantity.

Motion By: Amisha Sharma	Seconded By: Seth Lane
Moved To: Approve PB-13-64 TCH with the following revisions: 1. Revise Sub-section 30-124 (b)(1) to state that "No more than 10 hens shall be allowed." 2. Revise the second sentence in Sub-section 30-124 (b)(3) to state that "Coops, whether mobile or stationary, shall be designed to prevent the buildup of pathogens and wastes." 3. Revise Sub-section 30-124 (b) so that no permit is required.	Upon Vote: 5-1 (nay, Oliverio)