

DRAFT

Empowerment Center Oversight Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 5, 2018 – 1:00 P.M.
Alachua County Administration Building, Grace Knight Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: County Commissioners Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson and Ken Cornell, City of Gainesville Commissioners Harvey Ward and Helen Warren, and Member Pamela Davis.

Call to Order

Chair Warren opened the meeting of the Empowerment Center Oversight Advisory Board at 1:02 P.M.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Ward to adopt the agenda as presented, Commissioner Cornell 2nd. Call for public input. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Approval of May 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Member Davis moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 2, 2018 as presented. Commissioner Ward 2nd. Call for Public input. Motion carried 5-0.

2. ACCHH FY 18/19 Budget Request

Members reviewed the budget request and inquired if it included compliance with the Alachua County Minimum Wage Ordinance. Jon DeCarmine, Director indicated the proposed budget does include a \$28,000.00 increase which funds the increased minimum wage. He also indicated there were no other changes to the proposed budget.

Commissioner Ward moved to approve the Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry (ACCHH) FY 18/19 budget request and to recommend to the City of Gainesville and Alachua County Board of County Commissioners that the Services Agreement be extended for one additional year effective January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. Commissioner Hutchinson 2nd. Call for public input. Motion carried 5-0.

3. ACCHH June 30, 2017 Financial Statements and Independent Auditors Report

Members reviewed the financial statements, audit report, and asked for clarification about the comments regarding a “going concern”. Jon DeCarmine reported the organization now has a positive cash balance of about \$300,000.00. He noted the auditors have expressed concern about the organization’s heavy reliance on City and County funding. Additionally, he noted the other audit findings have been addressed and there were no reoccurrences of previous audit findings.

Commissioner Cornell moved to receive the ACCHH June 30, 2017 Financial Statements and Independent Auditors Report and to forward the report to all City of Gainesville and

Alachua County Commissioners. Commissioner Hutchinson 2nd. Call for public input. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Citizens Work Group Report

Bob Gailey spoke on behalf of the Citizens Work Group regarding the proposed pet policies and rule changes. He noted the work group recommends all of the proposed changes with the exception of the dog park. The work group does not recommend the dog park. The work group also recommends filling its three (3) vacancies.

Commissioner Ward moved to direct staff to advertise three (3) Citizen Work Group vacancies and agenda applicants for appointment at the next advisory board meeting. Member Pam Davis 2nd. Call for public input. Motion carried 5-0.

Members asked Jon DeCarminé what impact the proposed pet rule changes might have on operations. He noted that the changes would have a significant impact and a budgetary cost especially related to cleaning up after an increased number of pets. Fred Murry noted the change would especially affect Dignity Village in the event of a significant storm requiring pet sheltering. Elizabeth Howard, Home Van Pet Care Project spoke to the rationale behind the proposed rule changes, generally to make the center more pet friendly and to assure greater care and safety of the animals.

Commissioner Cornell moved to direct City and County staff to convene a meeting(s) with other stakeholders including ACCHH, the Home Van Pet Care project, and Citizens Work Group to develop consensus on pet policies for the Empowerment Center campus and to present a recommendation to the Advisory Board including sample policies and procedures from other similar organizations. Commissioner Ward 2nd. Call for public input. Motion carried 5-0.

5. MTPO Referral NE 28th Bus Turnaround

Michael Escalante, AICP, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, North Central Florida Planning Council spoke to the bus turnaround and pedestrian crosswalk. He noted that the crosswalk is still under consideration by FDOT. The turnaround would not likely qualify for federal or state funding, so the issue was referred to the Advisory Board for possible local funding or other alternatives. Commissioner Cornell noted he had met with Tacachale staff and there is a need for a shorter path or other form of transportation for people to reach Wal-Mart. With respect to the donated van, Jon DeCarminé noted that ACCHH no longer receives funding for a driver so transportation remains a need. Fred Murry noted RTS is in the process of adding a shelter at the NE 39th bus stop. Members also discussed other alternatives to a bus turnaround including some type of shuttle service from the Center to the bus stop.

Commissioner Cornell moved to refer to staff to bring back to the Advisory Board a report on the potential opportunities and funding sources for having shuttle services, for staff to inquire with Tacachale and the State of Florida about the opportunity to acquire the land between NE 39th Avenue and Tacachale, and refer MTPO staff to inquire with MV Transport about funding opportunities to provide additional shuttle services. Commissioner Ward 2nd. Call for public input. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Cornel moved to ask that the City of Gainesville Department of Mobility attend the next Advisory Board meeting including representatives from RTS and Public Works to discuss the current bus route along NE 39th Ave. Commissioner Ward 2nd. Call for public input. Motion carried 5-0.

6. April 2018 and May 2018 Invoices and Performance Reports

Jon DeCarmine made comments about the monthly invoices, performance reports, and provided a handout comparing the measures for the past five (5) months. He indicated there were some variations, none of which was significant.

Commissioner Hutchison moved to accept the April and May 2018 Monthly Invoices and Performance Reports. Member Pam Davis 2nd. Call for public input. Motion carried 5-0

7. General Board Member Comments and Discussion

Members discussed receiving a summary of motions passed for use during upcoming Commission meetings. It was also noted the County is looking at the idea of acquiring the Sequin unit. Members discussed the next meeting and need to begin discussions about the future vision for the campus and how best to use the property. It was agreed by consensus to hold the next meeting at the Empowerment Center.

8. Citizen Comments

Commissioner Warren called for citizens input. Input received.

9. Next Meeting Date and Agenda

Next meeting to be held on September 5, 2018 at 1:00 pm, at the Empowerment Center, agenda to include a discussion on the vision for the Center.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Recorded by,

Thomas A Tonkavich, Staff Liaison