

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 16

Community Development Committee

*Commissioner Thomas Hawkins, Chair
Commissioner Susan Bottcher, Member
Commissioner Scherwin Henry, Member*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Equal Opportunity Department at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER

The Community Development Committee was called to order at 5:18 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Thomas Hawkins and Susan Bottcher

Absent: Scherwin Henry

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Community Development Committee approved the agenda as circulated.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

110007. Community Development Committee Minutes of February 22, 2011 (B)

The Community Development Committee approved the Minutes of February 22, 2011 as circulated.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee approve the February 22, 2011 Minutes as circulated.*

Approved as Recommended

110007_Feb 22 Minutes_20110524.pdf

110011. Community Development Committee Minutes of March 22, 2011 (B)

The Community Development Committee approved the Minutes of March 22, 2011 as circulated.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee approve the March 22, 2011 Minutes as circulated.*

Approved as Recommended

110011_Mar 22 Minutes_20110524.pdf

DISCUSSION ITEMS

These minutes are a summary of the meeting and is not verbatim discussion. A copy of the meeting recording will be provided upon request.

100922. Review of Pending Referrals (B)

The Community Development Committee reviewed the pending referral list and informed staff that they would like to hear the following items in June: #090795 -

Nuisance Abatement, #100668 - Vehicle Parking in Multi-Family Residential Zoning, #050761 - Energy Efficiency (if GRU is ready), and #090310 - Sidewalk & Road Plan (in July if June is not possible).

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee review and approve the pending referral list and proposed action schedule prepared by staff.*

Approved as Recommended

100922A_Memo_20110426.pdf
100922B_Pending Referrals_20110426.pdf
100922_Pending Referrals_20110524.pdf
100922_Pending Referrals_20110615.pdf

090925.

Strategic Initiative 6.1 - Develop Creative Ways to Measure Progress in Code Enforcement (NB)

Discuss the possibility of creating a Livability Court model in the City of Gainesville as it relates to Code Enforcement issues.

The Community Development Committee received information on the Livability Court model used in Charleston, South Carolina from Commissioner Wells. Staff provided information on the applicability of the model as it relates to Code Enforcement issues in Gainesville. The Committee discussed the various options of using a Special Magistrate, either in place of or in combination with the existing Code Enforcement Board.

Note: Commissioner Henry entered the meeting at 5:30 pm

The Committee received comments from staff and citizens on the advantages and disadvantages of having a Special Magistrate, and/or Code Enforcement Board. The Committee had several areas they wanted staff to provide more information on such as cost, process, and procedures. The Committee noted that at one time the Code Enforcement Division was understaffed due to budget constraints, and wanted to know if that still presented a challenge and whether additional staff would help, or whether it was a matter of putting more teeth into the existing process to get the desired behavior out of people and force offenders to come into compliance. Interim Code Enforcement Manager Chris Cooper responded that they are in the process of filling the last vacant position, and staff has started working some Saturday hours to give a greater presence; management will determine if this brings more cases into compliance.

Chair Hawkins recapped the information that the Committee wanted staff to come back with at a future meeting as 1) cost of a Special Magistrate, 2) a suggested model, and a division of labor (if a hybrid model), 3) can a Special Magistrate bring efficiency and/or timeliness to the enforcement action, 4) can a Special Magistrate bring any transparency to the LLP points process, and 5) accountability of tenants or partygoers (vs. the landlord) with civil infractions to individuals. Commissioner Henry made the motion below, second from Commissioner Bottcher.

MOTION: Direct staff to fulfill the Committee requests for information on 1) cost, 2) framework and division of labor, 3) timeliness of enforcement, 4) transparency of point removal, and 5) the level of the penalties that can be issued.

Ms. Pifalo stated she would like to know the number of outstanding items and if there is a back-log on items that would require this action. Mr. Cooper agreed to meet with Ms. Pifalo regarding her concerns.

The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee discuss the Livability Court model and its applicability to the City of Gainesville.*

Approved as shown above (See Motion)

100529.

College Park/University Heights Heritage Overlay District Referral (NB)

The Community Development Committee heard a brief history and update from Planning & Development Director Erik Bredfeldt. Staff has been working with the neighborhood representatives on this item and anticipates it will come before the Commission by the end of the calendar year. The Committee discussed notification of property owners in a proposed Heritage Overlay District and whether or not there are options to “opt out” of being part of an overlay district. Mr. Bredfeldt assured the Committee that as part of the Administrative Procedure staff would make every effort to make sure that all property owners are notified of what is going on. Chair Hawkins stated he would like to keep this on the referral list until there is a Petition, and that he would suggest appointing the members of the Historic Preservation Board to make-up the Heritage Overlay Board.

Staff did not request any specific direction from the Committee at this time but noted that if the Committee had any comments or input, staff would incorporate that into the work being done on this item in collaboration with the neighborhood.

RECOMMENDATION *The Community Development Committee hear a brief update from staff regarding this item.*

Approved as Recommended

100529_CDC Memo_20101214.pdf

100529A_Heritage Overlay District-CDC_20101214.pdf

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.