

Skell, Rosemary A.

From: Andrew, Devonia L.
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2008 7:45 AM
To: 'Kirk P. Conrad, M.D.'
Cc: citycomm; citymgr
Subject: RE: <no subject>

071068

Good Morning Dr. Conrad,

Your e-mail has been received by the Mayor and members of the Commission and it is being shared with the City Manager for his information.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Devonia L. Andrew
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

-----Original Message-----

From: Kirk P. Conrad, M.D. [mailto:kpconrad@UFL.EDU]
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2008 1:02 PM
To: citycomm
Cc: Kirk P. Conrad; Kristen Conrad
Subject: <no subject>

Dear Commissioners,

After moving to Blues Creek 1.5 years ago from Pittsburgh, I became aware of the environmentally sensitive and precarious nature of this area of Gainesville.

I am opposed to further development of Blues Creek for several reasons.

(1) The proposed road and housing development will further compromise sink holes and wet lands as previously explained by the expert Environmentalist at the City Planning Board hearing about this proposed project on February 14 which I attended. Moreover, as he further pointed out, the so called "mitigation" concept is not a viable option here. To bulldoze down heritage pines and replace them with some other kind of tree, or to impose on wetlands and sinkholes and set aside other types of land elsewhere are not fair trades. In fact, one is replacing apples with oranges.

(2) Further development will negatively impact plant (e.g., heritage pines) and animal (deer, wild turkey, etc) life.

(3) As pointed out by one City Planning Board member at the previous hearing, there is only one possible road access to the proposed development that is extremely long (over a 1000 feet as I recall). Environmental destruction of the Blues Creek per se precludes the construction of a second road access. This long road represents a potential fire, police and ambulance safety hazard. For example, if a tree blows down across the road during a hurricane or lightening storm, folks living distal to the blockage could be denied rapid access to emergency medical care or to fire control.

(4) From my reading of the various websites, this proposed additional development in Blues Creek has apparently been argued back and forth for many years now, because there has been and continues to be considerable concern about its negative environmental impact. Accordingly, perhaps the City Commission should err on the side of being conservative in this case, i.e., conservation rather than development, and also call for a moratorium on any petitions for future development of Blues Creek.

(5) After lengthy testimony by an expert Environmentalist and deliberation by the City Planning Commission, they voted 3 to 2 against this further expansion of Blues Creek on February 14 2008--again, a hearing that I attended. I

I am hopeful that their advice, consul and recommendation will adopted by the City Commission.

071068

Thanks in advance for your consideration of my opposition to further development in Blues Creek, Unit 5. Indeed, perhaps none of us should be living in Blues Creek due to the negative impact on the sensitive environment of wetlands in the area, but at the very least, let's not compromise further wetlands, sinkholes and heritage pines in Blues Creek!

Respectfully,

Kirk Conrad

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Kirk P. Conrad, MD

Professor

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