

1. Public Safety



Maintain a healthy community in which to live

1.1: Develop and continue programs to reduce the causes of crime

Public Safety Committee (January 26, 2009)

- Chief Norm Botsford and GPD staff gave a power point presentation outlining the status of various programs that work toward reducing the causes of crime
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Strategic Planning Workshop (February 9, 2009)


- Crime, youth programs and City school items are inter-related 
- Early childhood development services and juvenile delinquency program 

1.2: Ensure that there are appropriate staff levels for police and fire and review the deployment of staff

Public Safety Committee (January 26, 2009)

- Assistant City Manager, Paul Folkers, gave a status update on the progress of this initiative which included staffing impacts as a result of recent annexation activity
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Strategic Planning Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- Fire assessment fees where funds are reallocated to Early Childhood Development services; Retrain existing personnel 

2. Economic Development & Redevelopment

Foster economic development and encourage redevelopment

2.1: Implement the Southeast Gainesville Renaissance Initiative (SEGRI Project)

Community Redevelopment Agency (January 15, 2008)

- CRA Manager, Anthony Lyons, gave an update on the status of the SEGRI Project
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Strategic Planning Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

2.2: Continue implementation of the Strategic Redevelopment Plan for Depot Park

Community Redevelopment Agency (January 15, 2008)

- CRA Manager, Anthony Lyons, gave an update on the status of the Strategic Redevelopment Plan for Depot Park
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Strategic Planning Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

2.3: Continue implementation of the strategic redevelopment plan for gru area

Community Redevelopment Agency (January 15, 2008)

- CRA Manager, Anthony Lyons, gave an update on the status of the Strategic Redevelopment Plan for the GRU Area
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Strategic Planning Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

2.4: Continue to remove barriers (Regulation review, project facilitation), consolidate layers of regulation and consider expanding team to include outside representation

Community Development Committee Meeting (January 22, 2009)

- Planning and Development Services Director, Erik Bredfeldt, gave a status update on the progress of removing barriers and consolidating layers of regulation
- There are four areas of concentration for this initiative:
 1. RFP for consultant for review of Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan will go out in February 2009
 2. Developer John Hudson contacted the City Manager to look into code issues
 3. Electronic Data Management System is underway to:
 - Manage the review process
 - Retain archives
 4. Facilities has developed a tracking process for City projects
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)


- No comments

2.5 Continue to position City to take advantage of innovation economy and identify plan for innovation zone near university

Economic Development University Community Committee (January 6, 2009)

- Planning and Development Services Director, Erik Bredfeldt, gave a status update on the progress of the City's efforts to take advantage of innovation economy and the innovation zone near the University of Florida
- Mr. Goldfarve spoke on the future of Shands at AGH
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)


- Reconsider our current resources dedicated to economic development 
- Add a new action step to this initiative:
 - Conduct an evaluation of staff and resources needed to achieve our goal of economic development
 - Conduct a needs assessment and gap analysis to determine what we need and what we are missing

2.6: Increase the amount of affordable housing and low-cost housing throughout the City

Community Development Committee Meeting (January 22, 2009)

- Housing Manager, Jackie Richardson, gave a status update on the progress of the SHIP Affordable Housing Committee
- The SHIP Affordable Housing Committee Chair discussed various issues that have been faced by the Committee, such as difficulty reaching a quorum
- Community Development Committee member comments included:
 - Suggested that they would like to see the same percentage of affordable housing in all quadrants of the City
 - Suggested that they would like to see a goal of, “No one lives in substandard housing”

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- Increase General Fund Transfer so City (GG) can do low-income housing weatherization 
 - See new initiative 7.4

2.7: Improve coordination with Alachua County in order to more effectively plan and develop Gainesville’s Urban Reserve Area

Community Development Committee Meeting (January 22, 2009)

- Planning and Development Services Director, Erik Bredfeldt, gave a status update on the progress of efforts to improve coordination in the Urban Reserve Area
- Three significant projects are contributing towards the success of this initiative:
 - Rusk Report recommendations are being reviewed
 - There is an upcoming presentation on the status of the County’s EAR process
 - The Orderly Annexation Team Plan was endorsed in December 2008
- Community Development Committee member comments included:
 - Advocate for a policy that prevents the development of satellite communities popping up in the middle of agricultural areas
 - One of the critical success measures reads, “Increased City involvement in planning decisions in the Urban Reserve Area” - Does this mean “before it gets dense” or after the area has reached a certain density?

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

3. Human Capital

Assist every person to reach their true potential

3.1: Continue implementation of the 10 year plan to end homelessness

Community Development Committee Meeting (January 22, 2009)

- Assistant City Manager, Fred Murry, gave a status update on the progress of the selection of a site for a homeless shelter
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

3.2: Explore the potential for addressing senior issues and services

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting (January 8, 2009)

- Assistant City Manager, Fred Murry, gave a status update on the progress of the proposed Senior Center and the impact of the Wild Spaces / Public Places sales tax funding
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)



- No comments

3.3: Analyze the availability and accessibility of youth programs and identify a role for City government

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting (January 8, 2009)

- Assistant Recreation and Parks Director, Michelle Park, gave a status update on the progress of this initiative, including the involvement of Gretchen Howard from the State Attorney's Office and the creation of a Youth Commission
- Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee members suggested that Sherry Kitchens also be invited to attend the Youth Commission meetings

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- Allocate \$3-5 million to Early Childhood Development Services (ECDS) 
 - Fund by: 
 - Selling Ironwood
 - Implement Fire Assessment Fee
 - Charge for traffic accidents
 - Reassign & retrain GPD Officers
 - Millage rate – set for ECS costs

3.4: Streamline efforts to provide child victim services throughout the City

Public Safety Committee (January 26, 2009)

- Police Captain, Lynne Benck, gave an outline of the possible adjustments to this initiative based on her discussions with the Sponsoring Commissioner, Lauren Poe
 - The desired outcome includes the creation of a one-stop family justice center
- Captain Benck shared that the next steps include:
 - Meeting with Sherry Kitchens from the Child Advocacy Center (CAC)
 - Touring a facility similar to the CAC in San Diego, CA
 - Assessing the benefits, costs, basic needs and savings per case

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- Commissioner Lauren Poe gave a presentation indicating that there would be changes to the action plan for this initiative
- Commissioner Jack Donovan emphasized that we must have an increased emphasis on early childhood education and domestic abuse prevention, and requested funding option/sources be explored for early childhood education

4. Government Effectiveness & Fiscal Responsibility

Continue to increase the effectiveness of local government and maintain a strong fiscal condition

4.1: Continue annexation efforts in the urbanized area in order to maintain social, economic, and financial diversity

Community Development Committee Meeting (January 22, 2009)

- Strategic Planning Manager, Karen Billings, gave an update on the progress of this initiative, including the recent passage of the SW 20th Avenue Annexation referendum and the approval of a Plan for Orderly Annexations over the next six years in the Urban Reserve Area
- Community Development Committee Members discussed the wording of the initiative and whether it conveys our goal of economic prosperity and quality of life

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

4.2: Improve communication through increased use of the internet for City services; improve the City's website

Audit, Finance & Legislative Committee (January 5, 2009)

- Communications Manager, Bob Woods, gave an update on the status of the redesign of the City website and distributed materials depicting the design standards
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

4.3: Review alternatives and strategies to increase civic engagement and responsibility, and City's responsiveness

Audit, Finance & Legislative Committee (January 5, 2009)

- Strategic Planning Manager, Karen Billings, gave an update on the status of this initiative
- Audit, Finance & Legislative Committee members provided the following feedback:
 - Look at how we report/measure the City's responsiveness
 - Advocate a more organized approach to communicating with members of advisory boards and committees
 - Look for synergy between Standing Committees and Advisory Boards
 - Ex. GRU Advisory Board
 - A report card with factoids would be helpful, for example:
 - Number of police calls & responses
 - Number of recreation events
 - Number of children served
 - Engage neighborhood associations to increase the participation levels at District Meetings
 - Possible add the following new Critical Success Measures:
 - Website hits
 - Applications to Advisory Boards
 - Participation in Gainesville 101
 - Attendance in District Meetings

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

4.4: Develop a strategy for e-commerce

Audit, Finance & Legislative Committee (January 5, 2009)

- CRA Senior Management Analyst, Greg Bradley, gave an update on the formation of an interdepartmental team to accomplish this initiative and the proposed work plan
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

5. Infrastructure & Transportation

Invest in community infrastructure and continue to enhance the transportation network and systems

5.1: Complete capital projects at parks – improve programs: Develop land conservation and acquisition program (biodiversity, passive recreation)

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting (January 8, 2009)

- Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Steve Phillips, gave an update on the status of this initiative with respect to the passage of Wild Space/ Public Places sales tax and its impact on capital projects in parks
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

5.2: Support the reconstruction of transportation facilities to encourage redevelopment of 6th Street

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting (February 12, 2009)

- Director of Public Works, Teresa Scott, gave an update on the current status of the reconstruction of 6th Street
- The 6th Street Rail Trail is the focus of reconstruction at this time
 - PW is working with the CRA on design enhancements
 - Construction has been divided into two phases
 - Phase 1: Construction should start this summer
 - Phase 2: Design should start in May 2009
 - This project has a high potential to qualify for Federal stimulus funding
- There is also talk about redesigning 6th Street south of Main Street
 - 4 lanes → 2 lanes
 - Members of the committee commented that this item should be brought forward to the MPTO to see if it can be identified as a higher priority
 - Staff will bring to the MPTO

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)


- No comments

5.3: Support the reconstruction of transportation facilities to encourage redevelopment of Depot Avenue

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting (February 12, 2009)

- Director of Public Works, Teresa Scott, gave an update on the current status of the reconstruction of Depot Avenue
 - Each segment is at different stages and PW is working to acquire funding for each stage
 - Segment 3 is the furthest along
 - There has been discussion of putting Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along Depot Avenue
- Committee members commented that there is an interest in Depot Avenue from a Redevelopment standpoint, therefore PW and the CRA should coordinate together to expand the vision
- Committee members mentioned that the Cade Museum property owners hope to establish a parking lot across from their new museum
 - This is located on the west side of Main Street and would require pedestrians to cross Main Street to access the museum
- The Committee referred the status of the Depot Avenue corridor to the CRA

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)


- City-wide roadway maintenance & sidewalk construction 

6. Neighborhoods

*Improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods
for the benefit of all residents*

ADD 6.1: Develop creative ways to measure progress in code enforcement

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- University Context Area code enforcement 
- Enhance communication
- Measure a decline in the number of code enforcement complaints
- Commissioner Hawkins commented that simply measuring the cases (open or closed) is not reflective of whether our neighborhoods are actually making progress and complying with the codes
- The City Manager indicated that Assistant City Manager, Fred Murry, will champion this initiative

7. Environment & Energy

Protect and sustain our natural environment and address future energy needs

7.1: As affected stakeholders, monitor the progress of the clean-up and potential redevelopment of the Cabot / Koppers Superfund site

Regional Utilities Committee Meeting (January 14, 2009)

- Assistant City Manager, Fred Murry, and Supervising Utility Engineer, Rick Hutton, gave an update on the status of the clean-up and redevelopment of Cabot/Koppers Superfund Site
- Commissioner Comment:
 - Advocate clean-up to residential standards
 - Discontinue existing land use on prime property
 - Research other cities (Brunswick & Pensacola) that have redeveloped superfund sites

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

7.2: Review the status of commercial recycling ordinances

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting (February 12, 2009)

- Assistant Public Works Director, Don Hambidge, gave an update on the progress of this initiative, with an emphasis on the state recycling initiative that will play a role in the City's implementation of commercial recycling ordinances
 - The draft of the state initiative will be available in the fall of 2009
 - The state initiative proposes 75% recycling by 2020
 - Public Works staff has been to approximately 1500 business establishments to educate them on business recycling
 - Commercial recycling is not cost effective for many small businesses that have a small percentage of recyclable waste
- Commissioner Comments:
 - It would be best to move ahead now rather than wait for direction from the state
 - Shift the focus from code enforcement to commercial recycling for a few months

- Look for things that we can do independently of state law and move forward with those things immediately
- Look for ways to get more participation in commercial recycling
- A motion was made to:
 - Come back with an ordinance for review and analysis, and
 - Conduct a peer city review

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

7.3: Develop a coordinated response at the local level to address energy policy and climate change

Regional Utilities Committee Meeting (January 14, 2009)


- Assistant City Manager, Paul Folkers, and Assistant General Manager for Strategic Planning, Ed Regan, gave an update on the status of this initiative
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

ADD 7.4: Improve the energy efficiency of modest-income homes through weatherization

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- Increase General Fund Transfer so City (GG) can do low-income housing weatherization 
- Any assistance should be need-based
- Monitor potential for Block Grant from Federal stimulus package as a possible funding source
- The City Manager requested that Assistant City Manager, Fred Murry, discuss this issue with an appropriate GRU representative to see whether it should be championed by GRU or General Government

8. Partnerships

Champion effective and institutionalized relationships with other government entities and community partners

8.1: Formalize relationships with other community partners, especially UF and SFC, in regards to the downtown area and the innovation zone (K-12 – infrastructure sales tax – renovation; Santa Fe – downtown campus, workforce)

Economic Development University Community Committee (January 6, 2009)

- Assistant City Manager, Paul Folkers, gave an update on the status of this initiative
- The City of Gainesville Strategic Plan has been shared with UF and Santa Fe College
- Currently looking at the big picture vision to focus on key partnership opportunities, such as:
 - Sustainability
 - Transit for Santa Fe College
 - Hospitality Districts
- No changes were suggested for this initiative

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments

8.2: Increase involvement of City in improving quality of City schools (ex. Raising Canes program)

Audit, Finance & Legislative Committee (January 5, 2009)

- Assistant City Manager, Paul Folkers, gave an update on the status of this initiative
- Commissioner Comment:
 - Research education initiative in the Legislative Agenda
 - Compile specific information about why we need funding for after school programs, tutoring, wilderness training and agricultural training
 - Interest in seeing a list of programs that other communities have implemented to benefit children

City Commission Workshop (February 9, 2009)

- No comments