

November 26, 2001

CITY OF GAINESVILLE
CITY COMMISSION

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15 November 2001

Mr. Tom Bussing
Mayor
City of Gainesville
201 E. University Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Mayor Bussing:

It is with both regret and gratitude that I inform you of my resignation from the Public Recreation Advisory Board. I will be traveling out of the area for several months in the near future.

In my past two+ years as chairman, there have been many ups and downs. Initially, there were problems with turnover in the membership of the board and impotence related to a seeming lack of interest on the part of the city commission. Lately, the big issue seems to be whether or not parent-run recreation programs might utilize the fences at the parks in which their children play to raise funds to run the programs.

I hope that the Public Recreation Board will continue to advocate for increased funding and exposure for recreation in Gainesville. Current plans for the Depot Rd./Main St. project are encouraging, and I hope that there are others in our community who will "carry the torch" in order to see that this dream becomes a reality. In the past, the city has not demonstrated a willingness to make recreation a priority. The plans in progress with respect to Cone Park and other projects, will go a long way towards improving the existing state of both facilities and programming for residents of and visitors to Gainesville.

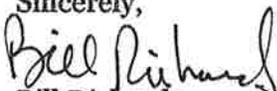
In my view, citizens would support other well-planned projects that positively impact their quality of life. With the effective presentation of a sensible county-wide recreation master plan and the support of key stakeholders, voters will support initiatives that would improve recreation in our community. Changes must be made or we will be forsaking the future of our children.

It has been a privilege to be engaged in this process. The knowledge and experience these activities have yielded will be of great value to me personally. For that, I am grateful.

I will miss the give and take of public service, but I plan to return to Gainesville in the spring to assess progress in these and other areas.

In the meantime, good luck with your ongoing efforts to make Gainesville an even better place to live.

Sincerely,



Bill Richards

Cc: Cliff Crawford, Director, Recreation & Parks Department

cc: com

Devonia Andrew