

**Gainesville Fire Rescue**  
**Fire Station 1 Community Meeting**  
**427 S Main Street**  
**6/17/13 1:00 pm**



Present: Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager  
Gene Prince, Fire Chief  
Sarit Sela, Community Redevelopment Agency  
Jeff Williams, Perkins + Will  
Joe Courter; Robbie Czopek; Joseph Exelbirt; Evan Galbicka; Sarah Goff; Lucian Kragiel;  
Dave Mathia; and Mike Myers.

Chief Prince opened the meeting with a review from previous discussions of space concerns for the Fire Station 1 project including parking for commercial activity; GFR communications and technical rescue equipment storage; and downtown growth, including the additional square feet from Innovation Square that the department will need to be prepared for providing service to. He then introduced Jeff Williams from Perkins + Will.

Mr. Folkers explained that Perkins + Will are very familiar with the Gainesville area through work on Innovation Square and the Power District projects. They were asked to develop a concept plan to try to address the needs of both the City and the community.

Mr. Williams stated that he is an Architect/Urban Designer who grew up in the Gainesville area. He provided handouts of two diagrams showing one idea for the layout of the building and parking and briefly mentioned that managing parking may also include the use of permits, time limits on spaces, and other parking management practices.

The handout showed a range of 29 to 36 angled and parallel parking spaces around the perimeter of the property along SE 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and SE 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

Several questions were asked by community members:

- 1) Can we consider changing SE 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue from two-way to one-way to make more parking room? The plan will need to ensure adequate roadway width to allow fire apparatus to enter and exit if needed.
- 2) What happens with the old parking area? This would be part of the decision process for the City Commission to determine whether the City will retain the property for government use or prepare it for private sale.
- 3) Are the drawings to scale? Yes, drawing two showing the parking spaces is to scale.
- 4) Commercial property owners will need to be able to address the use of several dumpsters in the new plan.
- 5) Is handicapped-designated parking required? Not for on-street parking because it is an amenity. It is required on the fire station property.
- 6) Will construction be designed to address the loss of spaces during construction? Yes, construction can be phased to minimize the impact.

- 7) How many parking spaces are needed by GFR? This will depend on the final design of the building and how much of the administrative and support operations relocate to the site.

Chief Prince explained that there will be more meetings in the future, some informal, some in front of the City Commission. The purchase of the land still has to be finalized, then a design firm would have to be selected. The timeline to start the project will probably be pushed back from October 2014 to 2015. Mr. Folkers stated that the project timeline must also take into account Mr. Theoktisto's timeline.

Mr. Courter spoke on behalf of Mr. Fillie who could not attend to acknowledge Mr. Fillie's efforts to address loss potential and to ensure all involved view this as a positive effort.

Mr. Kragiel asked about the design committee. Chief Prince described how the department will solicit participation by interested parties and that members may choose to participate in specific phases.

Mr. Folkers reported that the three remaining actions required to move the project forward are the completion of the agreements with Mr. Fillie, Mr. Mathia, and Mr. Theoktisto. Then, after City Commission approval, the next step will be the City's due diligence on the site.

Mr. Mathia updated the group that even though agreements had been reached as early as January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the City Commission delayed the process to review the group's concerns. When Mr. Fillie asked for compensation for potential loss, Mr. Mathia offered a lesser amount that was accepted, but there is still an issue of concern from Mr. Fillie regarding the difference.

Chief Prince closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.