

LEGISLATIVE #

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TO: EDUCC
FROM: Erik A. Bredfeldt, Planning and Development Services Director
DATE: July 11, 2011
SUBJECT: EDUCC Agenda – July 13, 2011



There are two items scheduled for the July 13th regular EDUCC meeting.

The first item is a referral from the City Commission moved to the EDUCC on June 16th regarding the status of the 2002 Town Gown Task Force Neighborhood Action Plan.

The Task Force Committee members were appointed by the former President of the University of Florida, Charles Young, and the Plan was created by Committee members from the City of Gainesville, University of Florida, Alachua County, the Council for Economic Outreach, and representatives of various City neighborhoods.

As per the Plan's executive summary, "...the Task Force met from April to September 2002. The Task Force identified critical issues, defined countermeasures, assigned responsibility and set priorities for implementing change." The overriding goal of the Plan is stated as "improving the quality of the physical environment surrounding the University of Florida campus in order to stabilize existing neighborhoods, reduce negative impacts, and provide appropriate development/redevelopment opportunities that serve the needs of the University and the community."

The Plan identifies a number of actions, assigns primary responsibility for the implementation of the action, provides a performance measurement and indicates the level of public financial commitment.

This review by the EDUCC will serve as an opportunity to evaluate the status of the Plan's implementation.

The second item deals with proposed City follow up regarding the Innovation Square project. As the Commission is aware, the regulatory platform for the project was adopted on Final Reading by the Commission on July 7th. Concurrently, the University of Florida made a presentation to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) at its June regular meeting dealing with the completion of the Master Plan for the Innovation Square project site and surrounding environment.

A policy question for consideration by the Committee (and ultimately by the City Commission) is to what degree (or if at all) does the City/CRA propose to pro-actively participate in the implementation of the Innovation Square Master Plan moving forward?

There are several facets of this for consideration:

- Appropriateness of City vs. CRA role in pro-active activities (regulatory vs. facilitation posture)
- Partnerships with other entities that are involved in the implementation of Innovation Square
- Pro-active participation in the marketing effort associated with the project
- Pro-active promotion of development opportunities within the Innovation Square and larger project boundaries (via supporting infrastructure, financing, land assembly activities, etc.)
- Pro-active consideration of the continuum of development opportunities community wide (via supporting infrastructure, financing, land assembly activities, etc.)

Finally, as a matter of housekeeping the Committee had been meeting on a quarterly basis in the past and based upon the level of Commission referrals to the Committee and those matters that are pending but not acted upon on a monthly basis, staff recommends that the Committee revert back to its former quarterly meeting status.