

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 24, 2011

1:00 PM

City Hall, Room 16

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee

*Commissioner Scherwin Henry, Chair
Commissioner Thomas Hawkins, Member
Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Member*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Equal Opportunity Department at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jeanna Mastrodicasa and Scherwin Henry
Absent: Thomas Hawkins

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Mastrodicasa moved and Commissioner Henry seconded to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mastrodicasa moved and Commissioner Henry seconded to approve the minutes as presented.

100749.

Approval of the January 31, 2011 Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee approve the minutes of the January 31, 2011 meeting as submitted.*

Approved

100749_Meeting Minutes_20110224.pdf

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

These minutes are a summary of the meeting and are not a verbatim discussion; an audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.

100607

Northeast Neighborhood Veterans Memorial Park (B)

Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers provided a brief background and introduced Commissioner Randy Wells. Commissioner Wells introduced Tom Lyons and Ewen Thomason, Northeast Neighborhood neighbors.

Commissioner Wells advised the Committee that he was recently in Washington DC and met with staff members of both Congresswoman Corrine Brown and Congressman Cliff Stearns offices. Both staff members indicated an interest in having the City of Gainesville draft a letter to be submitted to both Congress on behalf of Mayor Lowe and the City Commission inquiring of the Department of Defense about the former Army Reserve Center property located on NE 8th Avenue: what is the

status of the property and what would the process be if the city were interested in pursuing the property at the site.

Commissioner Mastrodicasa agreed that she supports the concept of creating a park in this space and photos should be included of what the property looks like now and what it could look like after cleanup.

Mr. Tom Lyons commented that the base acts as a physical barrier and eye soar to the community.

Commissioner Henry inquired if we could get a rendering of the potential park.

RECOMMENDATION *The Committee hear from Commissioner Wells and interested citizens on a potential Northeast Neighborhood Veterans Memorial Park providing the Committee's thoughts and guidance as appropriate.*

Discussed

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090979.

Bike Trail Intersection Concern at East University Avenue and Waldo Road/Williston Road (B)

This item is to discuss options for modification of the existing trail crossing to improve cyclist and pedestrian safety.

Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers introduced Debbie Leistner, Transportation Planning Manager who shared a power point presentation with the Committee. Ms. Leistner showed maps of the existing conditions, provided statistical crash information and information about the pedestrian crosswalks.

Commissioner Henry inquired about the timing of the pedestrian crosswalks. Ms. Leistner informed the Committee that the timing meets industry standards. Ms. Leistner also advised that in order to improve safety at the crossing, count down signals (in seconds) were included.

Commissioner Wells inquired about the timing between the walk signals. Ms. Leistner wasn't able to provide an answer to this inquiry.

Ms. Leistner advised that in May of 2010 the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAD) reviewed the crossing issue and some suggestions on what could be done to improve crossings were: 1) instead of crossing at University Avenue, modify the path to cross at SE 2nd Avenue because the crossing distance is shorter; 2) pedestrian bridge; 3) enhance visibility of existing crossing; 4) add exclusive pedestrian phase; and 5) realign path to cross at East 10th Street to the West of Waldo Road; although a disadvantage is that this location is unsignalized at the intersection of East University Avenue and it might be an issue.

Ms. Leistner also advised that the MPTO has taken recent actions; such as, 1)

contract with UF to evaluate connectivity along the Waldo Road corridor. Their recommendations included a trail reroute to SE 2nd Avenue for northbound users and southbound users would cross at Citizen's Field. The Community Traffic Safety Team agreed that crossing at SE 2nd Avenue was probably the best option; they also suggested modifying to cross at SE 2nd Avenue to NE 15th Street.

Commissioner Henry commented about the danger of crossing intersections with no signals and that some of the options discussed is like changing one dangerous crossing for another dangerous crossing.

Citizen Anthony Lyons commented about the connector from Waldo Road to 9th Street to access the trail.

Commissioner Wells commented that the connectors to the trail should be neighborhood accessible as well as through traffic.

Commissioner Henry inquired if the MTPO would have funding for a pedestrian bridge. Ms. Scott advised that she did not think the MTPO has any extra money. Commissioner Henry suggested that the MTPO should have a conversation with FDOT. Commissioner Wells commented that there should be theoretical money available from MTPO because they designated a significant amount of money for three multi modal improvement concepts: 1) 13th along Campus; 2) University along Campus to Downtown; and 3) the Waldo Road Corridor. Ms. Scott advised that those were studies.

Commissioner Henry suggested that staff make this presentation to the MTPO.

Dekova Batey, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator provided general comments and background about the intersection not being heavily frequented by the Bike/Pedestrian traffic as much as it is to the North by the Wal-Mart Super Center. Mr. Batey suggested a mid-block crossing at the intersection.

Commissioner Henry asked about the issue of addressing lighting of the intersections and Ms. Scott advised that staff would do a lighting analysis.

Citizen Ewen Thomson made general comments about crosswalks and how dangerous they can be.

Mr. Folkers summarized the follow up for this item: 1) Public Works staff to continue to evaluate the comments that were made and the options; 2) Public Works staff to provide presentation to MTPO; 3) Public Works staff to provide presentation to Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board; and 4) Public Works staff to do lighting analysis.

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee hear presentation from staff.*

Discussed

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100270.

Status Update on the City Commission Strategic Initiative 6.2: Assess Neighborhoods to Determine Need for Infrastructure Improvements for Bicycle and Pedestrian Use (B)

Strategic initiatives have been referred to Standing Committees to promote efficient and effective communication streams between elected officials, city staff and Gainesville residents concerning the implementation of the City's Strategic Plan.

Debbie Leistner, Transportation Planning Manager gave an overview of strategic initiative, the action steps and the success measures.

Commissioner Henry asked about what is considered the expanded downtown area. Ms. Leistner these areas are schools that are included in the power point presentation and the area located near the intersections of East University Avenue and Waldo Road.

Commissioner Henry inquired about sidewalks on the SE 4th Street corridor. Ms. Leistner advised that the project scope includes sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides once the project is complete.

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee discuss the initiative.*

Discussed

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MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE - March 24, 2011 @ 1:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.