

University Ad Hoc Committee Action Items

The following subcommittees were initially created as a result of the University Ad Hoc Committee and met at least once beginning in December 2000: Marketing, Public Relations, Homeownership Incentive and Child-Friendly. Many of the action items listed below include recommendations of the various subcommittees and the Committee as a whole. At the March 19, 2001 Ad Hoc Committee meeting, it was recommended that the City Commission appoint four committees to work on further research and implementation of the below listed action items. Staff recommends that the committees be comprised of four members each, with each committee nominating a chair. The four chairs would then comprise an executive committee. Staff recommends that the application process consider the previous involvement of the applicant on the University Ad Hoc Committee and the expertise of the applicant relative to the committee topic. The Ad Hoc Committee assigned responsibility for the action items to the following named committees, as outlined below: Finance, Infrastructure, Code Enforcement, and Neighborhood Enrichment/Marketing. Some of the action items must involve City of Gainesville and University of Florida participation in order to realize success. University of Florida participation will be relevant in particular to the Finance and Neighborhood Enrichment/Marketing committees. City of Gainesville participation will be relevant in particular to the Infrastructure and Code Enforcement committees.

Action Item: Analyze properties of 2 acres or less in the UF Context Area for potential acquisition for mini-parks or connection between park and recreation areas and schools.

Responsible Party: Infrastructure and Neighborhood Enrichment/Marketing Committee

Progress: A map of parcels of less than 2 acres has been created by the City. Efforts are continuing to refine the map to include right-of-ways. The Infrastructure and Neighborhood Enrichment/Marketing Committees will work on creating a long range plan.

Action Item: Review the UF Context Area for any needed traffic calming improvements and review all infrastructure deficits in the neighborhoods to determine a priority list.

Responsible Party: Infrastructure Committee

Progress: City staff prepared a survey of infrastructure items and neighborhood amenities and distributed at the January 29th University Ad Hoc Committee. The survey should be used by neighborhoods to prioritize amenities, and the priorities should be referred to the City Public Works Committee.

Action Item: Implement a long term capital improvements program to provide sidewalks and curb and gutter in order to provide a level of infrastructure comparable to newer subdivisions.

Responsible Party: Infrastructure Committee

Progress: The Public Works Department made a presentation to the University Ad Hoc Committee on January 29, 2001, indicating that such a program would probably involve special assessments and neighborhood approval.

Action Item: Develop methods to prevent cars from parking on the right-of-way in non-curb and gutter areas.

Responsible Party: Gainesville Police Department, Code Enforcement Committee and Infrastructure Committee

Progress: The Public Works Department made a presentation to the University Ad Hoc Committee on January 29, 2001. Methods discussed include providing signage indicating "No Parking", requiring decal parking only, and providing landscaping along the right-of-way to discourage parking. The Infrastructure Committee will determine areas needing improvement and will propose solutions.

Action Item: Identify rental properties in all UF Context Area neighborhoods.

Responsible Party: Neighborhood Enrichment/Marketing Committee

Progress: City staff created a map showing the percentage of owner-occupied versus rental property in each neighborhood based on property appraiser and landlord licensing records. At the January 29, 2001 Ad Hoc meeting, city staff provided each neighborhood with a large map indicating properties with landlord licenses. The maps are currently being refined by the neighborhoods, and the City's Code Enforcement Division is investigating neighborhood identified rentals which may not have landlord licenses. The Neighborhood Enrichment/Marketing Committee should follow up at the neighborhood level to monitor.

Action Item: Create a brochure and other marketing tools (such as a web page) to market the UF Context Area neighborhoods. A brochure could be provided to potential UF employees and others.

Responsible Party: Neighborhood Enrichment/Marketing Committee

Progress: The Marketing Committee met on December 6, 2000 and developed strategies related to a brochure, content, distribution, developing a different name for the "Context Area" and other potential marketing tools.

Action Item: Identify realtors who are interested in working in the Context Area and selling to persons who will use the property for home occupancy. Such a list could be provided to potential UF employees and others or could be distributed by neighborhood associations.

Responsible Party: Neighborhood Enrichment/Marketing and Finance Committee

Progress: City staff has prepared a letter to be sent to realtors for review by a committee.

Action Item: Explore the possibility of establishing creative loan programs for financing homes in the Context Area.

Responsible Party: Finance Committee.

Progress: None thus far. Representatives with financial expertise would need to meet with financial institutions.

Action Item: Create a Homeownership Incentive Program and draft a letter to the University of Florida and Santa Fe Community College requesting their participation.

Responsible Party: Finance Committee

Progress: The Homeownership Incentive subcommittee met on January 12, 2001 and developed initial strategies for such a program. The City of Gainesville would implement the program, and participation by the University of Florida and/or Santa Fe Community College would be encouraged. A fiscal impact would be incurred to participating organizations. City staff has drafted a letter to UF and SFCC for committee review. The Finance Committee will work on the details of the potential program, such as determining how much of a market incentive would be needed and geographic areas to focus on.

Action Item: Develop housing programs to assist in housing rehab and repair.

Responsible Party: Neighborhood Enhancement/Marketing and Finance Committee

Progress: At the January 29th Ad Hoc meeting, a presentation was made by the City's Housing Division on types of programs available. The Neighborhood Enrichment/Marketing and Finance committees will consider rehab and repair incentives as part of a Homeownership Incentive Program.

Action Item: Promote Neighborhood-wide activities and interaction among families

Responsible Party: Neighborhood Enhancement/Marketing Committee and neighborhood associations

Progress: Neighborhoods would need to individually or collectively sponsor activities such as: decorated bike parade, Halloween costume parade, Christmas lights, GPD Safety talks, block parties, and beautification acknowledgements.

Action Item: Explore the possibility of requiring specific clauses (related to yard maintenance, noise, etc) in all lease agreements, which could be required to be in place in order to obtain a landlord license.

Responsible Party: Code Enforcement Committee

Progress: None thus far.

Action Item: Acquire problematic rental properties and return to homeownership.

Responsible Party: Finance Committee

Progress: At the December 18, 2000 Ad Hoc Committee meeting, Bruce DeLaney recommended that the Committee should investigate campus development funds where the City could request a high level of activity and focus on specific areas.

Action Item: Study impacts of rentals and consider modifications to existing programs or create new programs.

Responsible Party: City Attorney's Office and Consultant

Progress: Consultant hired to study impacts of rentals and recommend modifications to existing or additional programs, if warranted.

Action Item: Review existing codes and processes and make recommendations for improvement or better enforcement, if warranted.

Responsible Party: Code Enforcement Committee

Progress: Discussion of existing programs and procedures have taken place at the University Ad Hoc Committee.