

040164 Hartman Property Preservation (NB)

RECOMMENDATION *The City Commission authorize the Mayor to write a letter of support for the Hartman property to the appropriate agencies; and work with City staff to look for options for preservation.*

A motion was made by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Domenech, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, that this matter be Referred to the City Manager, due back on December 28, 2004. The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: Aye: Warren Nielsen, Chuck Chestnut, Tony Domenech, Rick Bryant and Craig Lowe
Absent: Edward Braddy

Kurt M. Lannon, Clerk of the Commission

July 9, 2004

Mr. Dick Tarbox
Coldwell Banker MM Parrish Realtors
5200-C Newberry Road
Gainesville, FL 32607

Dear Mr. Tarbox:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me earlier this week. As we discussed, during the last regular meeting of the Gainesville City Commission, Commissioner Tony Domenech made a motion to express an interest in the public acquisition of the Hartman property on NW 53rd Avenue at 441. The commission supported the motion (6-0-1 absent) with the understanding that we would only pursue the property through a willing-seller public acquisition program such as the Florida Communities Trust, Alachua County Forever, or via the Water Management District.

The City is very respectful of the owner's right to use the property via existing land use and zoning, or to seek comprehensive plan amendments for alternative uses. While we do not wish to further complicate an already difficult situation, we do want to express an interest in recognizing that the property has important natural resource value. I believe the Commission's vote reflects that the community would benefit by public acquisition of all or part of the land by the appropriate public entity.

You indicated that Wal-Mart has an option contract on the land that runs through the end of the year, but that you would be happy to express the public acquisition interest to both parties. If either Wal-Mart or the Hartman family would be willing to consider selling the land for conservation purposes, please contact our City Manager, Wayne Bowers, who could help identify the public acquisition programs (334-5010). As a person familiar with the process, a "willing seller" letter, which is an agreement to allow the process to pursue acquisition funds through public grant programs, would be necessary to begin.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that the city has a real desire to help Wal-Mart find a suitable site for a SuperCenter. We would be most eager to help identify options that meet their needs, and also fulfill broader community goals as expressed in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Bowers is also available to assist in this regard.

Again, thank you very much for your kind assistance in this matter. It was a pleasure speaking with you.

Sincerely,

Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor

PH/dsh

cc: Ron Carpenter
Quenta Vettel

Ron Carpenter
5608 NW 43rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32653

Quenta Vettel
5200 NW 43rd Street, Suite 102-252
Gainesville, FL 32606