

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:09 PM
To: Rae Drake
Subject: Re: GRU
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png

Ms Drake,

Thank you for your comment. The GM would be a position under the City manager. Do you think this would be bad for the running of GRU?

Thanks,

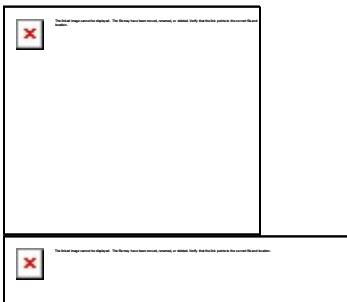
Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

From: Rae Drake <Rae.Drake@mottomortgage.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah <TattersalJ1@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: GRU

Jeremiah,

I am very concerned that the commissioners/Charter Review commission feel that a city manager can run a utility. I don't feel your proposal is clear and in some ways is intended to be such, a bit of deception. I want and expect an experienced Utilities GM to run our Utilities.

Thank you
Rae Drake



Rae Drake | Loan Officer
NMLS ID # 363643
Motto Mortgage Integrity

4041 NW 37 Place, Suite D
Gainesville, Florida 32606
T: 352-514-1829
Fax: 352-240-3945
Rae.drake@mottomortgage.com

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Susi, Benny
Subject: Re: Charter Review Commission
Attachments: image003.jpg

Hello,

Thank you for this message. The position would still exist but just under the City manager. Do you see this as bad for the running of GRU?

Thanks,

*Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter*

From: Susi, Benny <Benny_Susi@golder.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:10 PM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah <TattersalJ1@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Charter Review Commission

Dear Mr. Tattera,

As a professional in the industry with knowledge of the role, experience and expertise Mr. Bielarski brings to GRU, I find it appalling that his position would be terminated and handed over to a city manager that does not have the qualifications and experience to run a utility.

Mr. Bielarski has had to deal with the mess created by others and in my humble opinion has done a remarkable job.

I strongly recommend that we keep Mr. Bielarski in his current role as the GRU GM.

Benny Susi, P.E.
Principal

 Golder Associates Inc.
6026 NW 1st Place, Gainesville, Florida, USA 32607
T: +1 352 336-5600 | **D:** +1 352 336-5600 x21125 | **C:** +1 352 317-6011 golder.com
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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:02 PM
To: Richard Sadove
Subject: Re: Review

Received. I'll take it into consideration.

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
[*twitter.com/JeremiahTatter*](https://twitter.com/JeremiahTatter)

From: Richard Sadove <richard@richardsadove.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah <TattersalJ1@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Re: Review

Thank you for your reply.

First, I think that the proposal is not clear to users. The authority is removed from the GM and moved to the City Manager.

Second, the Manager can not compare with the GM in terms of professional ability and experience.

The GM position should remain.. Thank you

On Wed, Apr 22, 2020 at 11:40 AM Tattersall, Jeremiah <TattersalJ1@cityofgainesville.org> wrote:
Thank you for the comment. Do you think that this would result in a bad outcome? My understanding is that the City manager would hire the general manager who would run the utility.

Jeremiah Tattersall
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[*twitter.com/JeremiahTatter*](https://twitter.com/JeremiahTatter)

From: Richard Sadove <richard@richardsadove.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 5:47 PM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Review

It is not fair to put mr Bielarski under city management via a referendum. GRUs problems pre date him. He had done an excellent job. I do not want the city manager running my utility.

Thank you Richard Sadove MD

Sent from my iPhone

--

Richard Sadove MD, FACS
Plastic Surgeon
Sadove Plastic Surgery
101 NW 75th Str, Suite 2
Gainesville, FL 32607
352-234-3334

Kessler, Marie P

From: Jerry <jerrydoc@ufl.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:43 PM
To: Dg_charterreviewcommission
Subject: Reply to Mr. Tattersall and Charter Review Commission Members

Mr. Tattersall and Charter Review Commission Members,

Thank you for your reply with a question about paving the trails of the Hogtown Creek.

We are against using funds to pave Hogtown Creek trails for the following reasons:

1. The trails are best left in their natural state.
2. Hikers, casual walkers and bicyclers currently enjoy the trails without need for paving.
3. Storms with flooding will damage more of the trails and add extra expenses when paved than when left in their rustic state.
4. The use of funds for paving should be decided by the Gainesville City Commission; allocation fo funds for specific community projects should not be a duty fo the Charter Review Commission.

Thank you for permitting our opinion.

We wish you all be safe during this pandemic.

Gerald and Sally Stein
1813 NE 35th Way
Gainesville FL 32605

From email 4/22/20

Thank you for your comments. As far as the signature requirement change, that has been withdrawn. This was to be part of a package that included the creation of a citizen ordinance initiative. This process would have had the 10% required signatures while changing the charter would require 20%. This is a moot point though as the proposed amendment was withdrawn. I also am interested in hearing more about the use of funds to improve Hogtown Creek by allowing paved trails. Do you wish to elaborate on your opposition to this?

Thanks,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

Kessler, Marie P

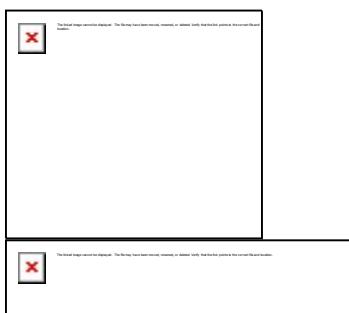
From: Rae Drake <rae.drake@mottomortgage.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:59 PM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah
Subject: GRU
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png

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Rae Drake



Rae Drake | Loan Officer

NMLS ID # 363643

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Gainesville, Florida 32606

T: 352-514-1829

Fax: 352-240-3945

Rae.drake@mottomortgage.com

Kessler, Marie P

From: Susi, Benny <benny_susi@golder.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:11 PM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah
Subject: Charter Review Commission
Attachments: image001.jpg; image003.jpg

Dear Mr. Tattera,

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Benny Susi, P.E.
Principal

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Kessler, Marie P

From: Richard Sadove <richard@richardsadove.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:15 AM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah
Subject: Re: Review

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Second, the Manager can not compare with the GM in terms of professional ability and experience.

The GM position should remain.. Thank you

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*Jeremiah Tattersall
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Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter*

From: Richard Sadove <richard@richardsadove.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 5:47 PM

To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>

Subject: Review

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Thank you Richard Sadove MD

Sent from my iPhone

--
Richard Sadove MD, FACS
Plastic Surgeon
Sadove Plastic Surgery
101 NW 75th Str, Suite 2
Gainesville, Fl 32607
352-234-3334

Kessler, Marie P

From: Fjk <fredericj.kaye@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Richard Sadove
Cc: Tattersall, Jeremiah
Subject: Re: Review

Thanks for including me on this email as I just read the Gainesville Sun Opinion article this morning. Without understanding all the details, i am aware there were fiscal and utility-specific challenges that predated Mr.Bielaraski's arrival in Gainesville. I have been impressed by his energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to the Gainesville community since arriving. GRU service to the community is outstanding and morale In difficult times seemed high to me. There is a tendency sometimes to devalue experience, expertise, and benefits of long-range planning. I think protecting the authority of a GM who has demonstrated fiscal and utility expertise is more important than ever to triage the best solutions moving forward.

Sincerely,
Frederic Kaye
Gainesville,FL 32608
352-672-8860

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2020, at 10:14 AM, Richard Sadove <richard@richardsadove.com> wrote:

?

Thank you for your reply.

First, I think that the proposal is not clear to users. The authority is removed from the GM and moved to the City Manager.

Second, the Manager can not compare with the GM in terms of professional ability and experience.

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*Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter*

From: Richard Sadove <richard@richardsadove.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 5:47 PM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Review

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He had done an excellent job. I do not want the city manager running my utility.
Thank you Richard Sadove MD

Sent from my iPhone

--

Richard Sadove MD, FACS
Plastic Surgeon
Sadove Plastic Surgery
101 NW 75th Str, Suite 2
Gainesville, FL 32607
352-234-3334

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:42 AM
To: R. Allen Shoaf
Subject: Re: A plea

Mr. Shoaf,

Thank you for your comment. This is a strange issue for me. My understanding is that years ago some people got this added to the charter to stop low income and/or people of color from using the parks in and around Hogtown Creek. This was wrapped in environmentalism but had nothing to do with it. Paving paths around Hogtown Creek would have allowed us to use state and federal dollars for conservation while opening up access for the public. Because this didn't happen and the Publix was built on 34th and University along with other developments along the creek. I agree with you on concrete being terrible and I'd hope we'd use something more sustainable with better drainage.

Thank you,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

From: R. Allen Shoaf <alsastar@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 7:38 AM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: A plea

Please do not allow public spaces to be paved over by those whose only motive is greed. We see all around us with COVID-19 what destroying the barriers between us and nature does to us -- it kills us.

Nothing becomes better because of pavement. Everything is crunched into lethal proximity and animal-born viruses, not to mention hundreds of other horrors, consume our lives. All in the name of greed.

Please exercise a modicum of decency and respect for life.

Al Shoaf

Kessler, Marie P

From: John Corr <jcorr1861@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah
Subject: Re:

Jeremiah:

Thanks for your message. The information I sent you was contained in a recent message ostensibly from the head of our community association. I am checking with her via email. (Someone hacked into my Facebook account recently.)

Regards

-----Original Message-----

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <TattersalJ1@cityofgainesville.org>
To: John Corr <jcorr1861@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Apr 22, 2020 11:45 am
Subject: Re:

John,

Thank you for this information. I've not heard of this transportation corridor. Do you have a link or some information I can read about this?

Thanks,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

From: John Corr <jcorr1861@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 11:02 AM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject:

The the wording of this provision/amendment relates to funding for paved areas, the purpose was to prevent paving of the trail adjacent to Hogtown Creek. The City Commission at that time was planning to cut down large areas of trees and vegetation to pave what was termed a "transportation corridor" large enough for trucks from the Loblolly area on NW 34th Street just north of University Avenue through Ring Park. Environmentalists and residents believed this would have substantially disrupted the natural drainage that Hogtown Creek provides for the northwest side of Gainesville besides removing valuable vegetation and wildlife habitats. The City Commission at that time rejected citizen concerns and a voter-initiated amendment to the City Charter was the only way to stop the development.

Eliminating the provision/amendment will make paving that area possible. **Please do not eliminate the existing provision/amendment, Article V, 5.06.**

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:50 AM
To: 'Shanefeyers@gmail.com'
Subject: Re: Public comments/questions

You're very welcome. Feel free to call me if you'd like to talk about this more. Especially the paving of nature trails. We could really use your opinion on this.

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

From: Shane Feyers <shanefeyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:28 PM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah <TattersalJ1@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Re: Public comments/questions

Dear Commissioner Tattersall,

Thank you for your thoughtful and thorough response to my inquiry as well, and for being honest and straightforward. I appreciate the detail of your responses and feel more equipped to share knowledge with peers and neighbors, and ultimately make a decision of support for these amendments at the polls. Preserving institutional knowledge, increasing accountability, and ensuring all jobs come with equitable pay seems like reasonable and positive pursuits. Strategic placement of trails and recreation is also an important tool for controlling sprawl and promoting sustainable land use, so it's unfortunate the restrictions previously interfered with planning for the protection and promotion of outdoor activities.

Thank you for your service to Gainesville.

Respectfully,

Shane Feyers
[linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/in/shane-feyers-133a11111)

On Wed, Apr 15, 2020 at 3:42 PM Tattersall, Jeremiah <TattersalJ1@cityofgainesville.org> wrote:
Shane,

Thank you for your well thought out email. I'll take them in point:

- Term limits are bad for democracy and are not necessarily good for diversity. When we have term limits we lose institutional knowledge. The institutional knowledge is then taken away from elected officials and resides in unelected bureaucrats. There's been a lot of studies about how corruption goes up with term limits too.
- The GRU manager would be position under the City Manager. This would increase accountability, transparency, and do away with some duplicity. I'm open to talking about this more though.
- This is a strange issue. The short and long of it is that some rich racist people got this added to the charter to stop low income and/or people of color from using the parks in and around hogtown creek. This was wrapped in environmentalism but had nothing to do with it. Paving paths around hogtown creek would have allowed us to use state and federal dollars for conservation while opening up access for the public. Because this didn't happen the Publix was built on 34th and University along with other developments along the creek. I agree with you on concrete being terrible and I'd hope we'd use something more sustainable with better drainage.
- The commissioner salaries are low. Very low. The only people who can afford to be city commissioners are wealthy or from certain jobs such as realtors and lawyers. The current commission is the most diverse in its history and many have faced financial ruin because they sought this position. This salary is based on a formula used by the state of Florida to determine County officials salaries. We substituted the population of Gainesville for Alachua County and came up with this salary. We were supposed to have 2 more meetings to workshop the details but COVID-19 happened and those meetings didn't happen. We don't want people to get rich off of being a commissioner but we also want them to be able to do this job without having financial hardships.

Sorry for the brevity of this email. Please feel free to call me if you'd like to have a more full conversation any and all of these great points you brought up.

Thanks,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
[*twitter.com/JeremiahTatter*](https://twitter.com/JeremiahTatter)

From: Shane Feyers <shane.feyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:07 PM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Public comments/questions

Dear City Commissioners,

I am writing with several questions about the proposed charter amendments. Specifically, amendment 4, 5, 7, and 8

For amendment 4, moving term limits from two to three.

- Can you please describe why this is important? Increasing term limits means potentially reducing the diversity and variety of the city commission over time.

For amendment 5, removing the general manager position from the commission and delegating these responsibilities to the city manager

- The management of utilities (delivery, consistent service, equitable pricing, emergency response) is a large and significant responsibility. Will the city manager -- who is already tasked with government programs and services, law enforcement, ordinances and policies, purchasing, and budget -- be able to manage the added responsibility of managing also the utility company supplying all of Gainesville?

For amendment 7, eliminating the restrictions of funds for paved surfaces.

- Which restrictions specifically? Will this pertain to restrictions on open spaces wild places dollars?
- What designated areas is this provision referring to?
- Will this ultimately result in MORE paved surfaces?
- Concrete is a major contributor to green house gas emissions. It is a major contributor to run off and stream bank erosion (which are issues the city struggles with already). Considering the state of the weather just the last two days, the flood warnings, etc, is it wise to unlock more paving?

Lastly, amendment 8, increase salaries for the city commission

- My property taxes went up this year. Will these be used to pay the city commission?
- What are the details of the salary increase and what performance justifies the raise?

Collectively, these amendments

- a. increase the power of the city commission
- b. increase the pay of the city commission
- c. but can potentially decrease citizen power and oversight
- c. and potentially increase the environmental footprint, and reduce greenspace of the city.

Accordingly, I am hoping my questions can be addressed by email and during the town hall.

Thank you,

NE Gainesville Resident

Shane Feyers
[linkedin](#)

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Jerry
Subject: Re: Public Comments

Thank you for your comments. As far as the signature requirement change, that has been withdrawn. This was to be part of a package that included the creation of a citizen ordinance initiative. This process would have had the 10% required signatures while changing the charter would require 20%. This is a moot point though as the proposed amendment was withdrawn. I also am interested in hearing more about the use of funds to improve Hogtown Creek by allowing paved trails. Do you wish to elaborate on your opposition to this?

Thanks,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

From: Gerald Stein <jerrydoc@ufl.edu>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 1:25 PM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Public Comments

We express our opinion for each of the 10 proposed amendments proposed by the City of Gainesville's Charter Review Commission, as listed on the website

[
<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/ClerkOfTheCommission/AdvisoryBoardsCommittees/CharterReviewCommission.aspx>]

as follows-our comments in **BOLD**:

1. Amend the charter to require that the City Commission “shall” have a Clerk.
We agree
2. Amend the charter to require that the City Commission “shall” have a City Attorney.
We agree.
3. Amend the charter to require that the City Commission “shall” have an Internal Auditor.
We agree
4. Revise City Commissioner term limits from two consecutive terms to three consecutive terms.
We disagree. Please keep the term limits to two consecutive terms
5. Delete the section of the charter pertaining to having a general manager for GRU and amend the City Manager role to include the utilities powers and duties.
We disagree. Please keep the GRU General Manager as a separate Charter Member and separate from the city manager. Please do not amend the city manager role to include the utility oilers and duties.

6. Increase signature requirements for voter initiated charter amendments from 10% to 20% of registered voters of the city.

We disagree. Please keep the signature requirements for voter initiated charter amendments at the current 10%

7. Eliminate restrictions on use of funds for construction of paved surfaces in designated areas.

We disagree. Please do not eliminate restrictions on use of funds for construction of paved surfaces in designated areas.

8. Increase salaries for the City Commission.

We disagree. Please do not increase salaries for the City Commission

9. Further limit the authority of the City Commission to dispose of certain utility facilities.

We disagree. Please do not further limit the authority of the City Commission to dispose of certain utility facilities.

10. Create a Preamble to the City Charter.

We disagree. A preamble to the city charter is not needed.

Gerald and Sally Stein

1813 NE 35th Way

Gainesville FL 32605

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:45 AM
To: John Corr
Subject: Re:

John,

Thank you for this information. I've not heard of this transportation corridor. Do you have a link or some information I can read about this?

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Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Richard Sadove
Subject: Re: Review

Thank you for the comment. Do you think that this would result in a bad outcome? My understanding is that the City manager would hire the general manager who would run the utility.

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Kessler, Marie P

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Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:29 PM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah
Subject: Re: Public comments/questions

Dear Commissioner Tattersall,

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- Term limits are bad for democracy and are not necessarily good for diversity. When we have term limits we lose institutional knowledge. The institutional knowledge is then taken away from elected officials and resides in unelected bureaucrats. There's been a lot of studies about how corruption goes up with term limits too.
- The GRU manager would be position under the City Manager. This would increase accountability, transparency, and do away with some duplicity. I'm open to talking about this more though.
- This is a strange issue. The short and long of it is that some rich racist people got this added to the charter to stop low income and/or people of color from using the parks in and around hogtown creek. This was wrapped in environmentalism but had nothing to do with it. Paving paths around hogtown creek would have allowed us to use state and federal dollars for conservation while opening up access for the public. Because this didn't happen the Publix was built on 34th and University along with other developments along the creek. I agree with you on concrete being terrible and I'd hope we'd use something more sustainable with better drainage.
- The commissioner salaries are low. Very low. The only people who can afford to be city commissioners are wealthy or from certain jobs such as realtors and lawyers. The current commission is the most

diverse in it's history and many have faced finical ruin because they sought this position. This salary is based on a formula used by the state of Florida to determine County officials salaries. We substituted the population of Gainesville for Alachua County and came up with this salary. We were supposed to have 2 more meeting to workshop the details but COVID-19 happened and those meetings didn't happen. We don't want people to get rich off of being a commissioner but we also want them to be able to do this job without having financial hardships.

Sorry for the brevity of this email. Please feel free to call me if you'd like to have a more full conversation any and all of these great points you brought up.

Thanks,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
[*twitter.com/JeremiahTatter*](https://twitter.com/JeremiahTatter)

From: Shane Feyers <shane.feyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:07 PM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Public comments/questions

Dear City Commissioners,

I am writing with several questions about the proposed charter amendments. Specifically, amendment 4, 5, 7, and 8

For amendment 4, moving term limits from two to three.

- Can you please describe why this is important? Increasing term limits means potentially reducing the diversity and variety of the city commission over time.

For amendment 5, removing the general manager position from the commission and delegating these responsibilities to the city manager

- The management of utilities (delivery, consistent service, equitable pricing, emergency response) is a large and significant responsibility. Will the city manager -- who is already tasked with government programs and services, law enforcement, ordinances and policies, purchasing, and budget -- be able to manage the added responsibility of managing also the utility company supplying all of Gainesville?

For amendment 7, eliminating the restrictions of funds for paved surfaces.

- Which restrictions specifically? Will this pertain to restrictions on open spaces wild places dollars?
- What designated areas is this provision referring to?
- Will this ultimately result in MORE paved surfaces?

- Concrete is a major contributor to green house gas emissions. It is a major contributor to run off and stream bank erosion (which are issues the city struggles with already). Considering the state of the weather just the last two days, the flood warnings, etc, is it wise to unlock more paving?

Lastly, amendment 8, increase salaries for the city commission

- My property taxes went up this year. Will these be used to pay the city commission?
- What are the details of the salary increase and what performance justifies the raise?

Collectively, these amendments

- a. increase the power of the city commission
- b. increase the pay of the city commission
- c. but can potentially decrease citizen power and oversight
- c. and potentially increase the environmental footprint, and reduce greenspace of the city.

Accordingly, I am hoping my questions can be addressed by email and during the town hall.

Thank you,

NE Gainesville Resident

Shane Feyers

[linkedin](#)

Kessler, Marie P

From: Bottcher, Susan <bottchers1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:04 AM
To: Mark Merwitzer
Subject: Re: Public Comment for Charter Review Commission Ranked Choice

Hello Mr. Merwitzer;
Thank you for your email about RCV.

The CRC heard a presentation on this and discussed it thoroughly. While there was consensus that RCV is something that should be implemented, we removed it from consideration.

This is because the FL Secretary of State has not certified the software needed to run RCV elections in this state. Even if/when local Supervisors of Elections indicated the ability to conduct RCV elections they are prohibited from doing so until the SoS acts accordingly.

Best,
Susan Bottcher
Member, Gainesville Charter Review Commission

From: Mark Merwitzer <mbmerwitzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:45 PM
To: DG_CharterReviewCommission <DG_CharterReviewCommission@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: Public Comment for Charter Review Commission Ranked Choice

Dear Charter Review Commission,

My name is Mark Merwitzer, I am a student at the University of Florida. I am emailing you to ask that the CRC please consider an amendment to the charter that will allow for ranked choice voting in Gainesville. I have attached proposed language that I hope the CRC will consider and will be calling into the meeting to give testimony on the amendment .

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mark Merwitzer
(C) 786-505-7272

Kessler, Marie P

From: Jerry <jerrydoc@ufl.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:43 PM
To: Dg_charterreviewcommission
Subject: Reply to Mr. Tattersall and Charter Review Commission Members

Mr. Tattersall and Charter Review Commission Members,

Thank you for your reply with a question about paving the trails of the Hogtown Creek.

We are against using funds to pave Hogtown Creek trails for the following reasons:

1. The trails are best left in their natural state.
2. Hikers, casual walkers and bicyclers currently enjoy the trails without need for paving.
3. Storms with flooding will damage more of the trails and add extra expenses when paved than when left in their rustic state.
4. The use of funds for paving should be decided by the Gainesville City Commission; allocation fo funds for specific community projects should not be a duty fo the Charter Review Commission.

Thank you for permitting our opinion.

We wish you all be safe during this pandemic.

Gerald and Sally Stein
1813 NE 35th Way
Gainesville FL 32605

From email 4/22/20

Thank you for your comments. As far as the signature requirement change, that has been withdrawn. This was to be part of a package that included the creation of a citizen ordinance initiative. This process would have had the 10% required signatures while changing the charter would require 20%. This is a moot point though as the proposed amendment was withdrawn. I also am interested in hearing more about the use of funds to improve Hogtown Creek by allowing paved trails. Do you wish to elaborate on your opposition to this?

Thanks,

Jeremiah Tattersall
Charter Review Commission (Member)
Pronouns: he/him/his
(352) 388-1733 (cell)
twitter.com/JeremiahTatter

Kessler, Marie P

From: Bielarski, Edward J <bielarskiej@gru.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:49 PM
To: Dg_charterreviewcommission
Cc: DL_gru_executiveteam; DL_gru_leadershipteam
Subject: Ed Bielarski: Proposal would cut GRU general manager

Chair Hildreth and members of the Charter Review Commission;

I need to remind you that your public communications concerning your proposed charter amendment to the eliminate the GM of the Utility as a charter officer ought to be restricted to the facts, not speculation as to how a city manager would run the utility. Please see my editorial below:

<https://www.gainesville.com/opinion/20200423/ed-bielarski-proposal-would-cut-gru-general-manager>

Kessler, Marie P

From: Jerry <jerrydoc@ufl.edu>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Dg_charterreviewcommission
Subject: Public Comments

We express our opinion for each of the 10 proposed amendments proposed by the City of Gainesville's Charter Review Commission, as listed on the website

[
<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/ClerkOfTheCommission/AdvisoryBoardsCommittees/CharterReviewCommission.aspx>]

as follows-our comments in **BOLD**:

1. Amend the charter to require that the City Commission "shall" have a Clerk.
We agree
2. Amend the charter to require that the City Commission "shall" have a City Attorney.
We agree.
3. Amend the charter to require that the City Commission "shall" have an Internal Auditor.
We agree
4. Revise City Commissioner term limits from two consecutive terms to three consecutive terms.
We disagree. Please keep the term limits to two consecutive terms
5. Delete the section of the charter pertaining to having a general manager for GRU and amend the City Manager role to include the utilities powers and duties.
We disagree. Please keep the GRU General Manager as a separate Charter Member and separate from the city manager. Please do not amend the city manager role to include the utility oilers and duties.
6. Increase signature requirements for voter initiated charter amendments from 10% to 20% of registered voters of the city.
We disagree. Please keep the signature requirements for voter initiated charter amendments at the current 10%
7. Eliminate restrictions on use of funds for construction of paved surfaces in designated areas.
We disagree. Please do not eliminate restrictions on use of funds for construction of paved surfaces in designated areas.
8. Increase salaries for the City Commission.
We disagree. Please do not increase salaries for the City Commission
9. Further limit the authority of the City Commission to dispose of certain utility facilities.
We disagree. Please do not further limit the authority of the City Commission to dispose of certain utility facilities.
10. Create a Preamble to the City Charter.
We disagree. A preamble to the city charter is not needed.

**Gerald and Sally Stein
1813 NE 35th Way
Gainesville FL 32605**

Kessler, Marie P

From: John Corr <jcorr1861@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Dg_charterreviewcommission

The the wording of this provision/amendment relates to funding for paved areas, the purpose was to prevent paving of the trail adjacent to Hogtown Creek. The City Commission at that time was planning to cut down large areas of trees and vegetation to pave what was termed a "transportation corridor" large enough for trucks from the Loblolly area on NW 34th Street just north of University Avenue through Ring Park. Environmentalists and residents believed this would have substantially disrupted the natural drainage that Hogtown Creek provides for the northwest side of Gainesville besides removing valuable vegetation and wildlife habitats. The City Commission at that time rejected citizen concerns and a voter-initiated amendment to the City Charter was the only way to stop the development.

Eliminating the provision/amendment will make paving that area possible. **Please do not eliminate the existing provision/amendment, Article V, 5.06.**

Kessler, Marie P

From: Tattersall, Jeremiah <tattersalj1@cityofgainesville.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:09 PM
To: Rae Drake
Subject: Re: GRU
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png

Ms Drake,

Thank you for your comment. The GM would be a position under the City manager. Do you think this would be bad for the running of GRU?

Thanks,

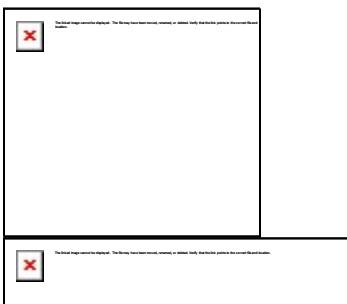
Jeremiah Tattersall
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From: Rae Drake <Rae.Drake@mottomortgage.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Tattersall, Jeremiah <TattersalJ1@cityofgainesville.org>
Subject: GRU

Jeremiah,

I am very concerned that the commissioners/Charter Review commission feel that a city manager can run a utility. I don't feel your proposal is clear and in some ways is intended to be such, a bit of deception. I want and expect an experienced Utilities GM to run our Utilities.

Thank you
Rae Drake



Rae Drake | Loan Officer
NMLS ID # 363643
Motto Mortgage Integrity

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