

# City of Gainesville

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



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 13, 2010**

**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 1:00 PM*

## ROLL CALL

Present: Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Scherwin Henry and Thomas Hawkins

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

### **100342. Approval of the May 13, 2010 Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee (B)**

**RECOMMENDATION**     *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee approve the minutes of the May 13, 2010 meeting as submitted.*

**Approved as Recommended**

## DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

*These minutes are a summary of the meeting and is not a verbatim discussion. A copy of this meeting recording will be provided upon request.*

### **100186. Florida Certified Organic Growers Request for "Edible Gardens" (B)**

**This item involves a referral to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee regarding Florida Organic Growers' request to utilize City property for "Edible Gardens."**

*Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers provided background information on this item by advising that the "Edible Garden" that is being proposed will be located at the City Hall gardens. Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs Director Steve Phillips provided additional comments about other community gardens that are located throughout the City. Mr. Phillips introduced Christine Hale, Director of Education and Outreach with Florida Organic Growers, Inc.*

*Ms. Hale shared a power point presentation with the Committee regarding utilization of City property for "Edible Gardens".*

*Commissioner Mastrodicasa inquired as to what will happen if volunteers are no longer available to maintain the gardens. Mr. Phillips advised that if volunteers are no longer available to maintain the plants, a decision would have to be made regarding city staff maintaining the plants or returning the gardens to their original state before the plantings. Ms. Hale commented that she did not see that as a potential problem.*

*Ms. Hale addressed the up front costs for this project; while, Mr. Folkers pointed out that these up front costs are not currently budgeted; and if the Committee recommend approval of this project to the City Commission that staff would work with the budget office to identify funds for this project. Mr. Phillips added that CDBG has worked with Florida Organic Growers on other funding allocations in the past. Mr. Phillips advised that he and Ms. Hale will work on an agreement to be reviewed by the Legal department.*

*Commissioner Henry was concerned about the liability factor, due to potential root exposure from fruit trees. Nicole Shalley, City Attorney, Senior Assistant advised that the liability factor would be addressed via a written agreement as well as other concerns; such as the city's ability to discontinue use of the garden.*

*Commissioner Henry was concerned about the possibility of fruit falling on the ground and rotten which would produce a foul odor. Ms. Hale felt that this would not be an issue, but advised the Committee that their will be volunteer groups doing harvest and maintenance on the gardens twice per week.*

*Commissioner Hawkins inquired about the time line for this project. Ms. Hale advised that they would like to start the plantings in the Fall as the budget allows.*

*MOTION: Commissioner Mastrodicasa moved and Commissioner Hawkins seconded that staff work with the Budget and Finance department to identify funds for this project and City Attorney's office to draft an agreement between the City of Gainesville and Florida Organic Growers, Inc. to be brought back to the City Commission with the Committee recommendation for final approval.*

*Citizen Mr. Pat Fitzpatrick made comments.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee hear a presentation by Christine Hale, Director of Education and Outreach with Florida Organic Growers, Inc. regarding utilization of City property for "Edible Gardens."*

**Approved as shown above (See Motion)**

**081011.                      Biodiesel Proposal - Biodiesel Production Facility (NB)**

*Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers provided background information on this item.*

*In 2009 Mr. Jack Metheny made the suggestion that the City establish its on biodiesel production facility. General Services and RTS worked together on this referral and made a presentation to the Committee and the output was that we would continue to monitor biodiesel based on our pilot program at the University of Florida.*

*General Services Director Milton Reid advised that RTS has been very pleased with the bio diesel and has expanded the program to their entire fleet, but the cost differences between the biodiesel vs the diesel are substantial.*

*Regional Transit Director Jesus Gomez advised that the program was working fine up until a few weeks ago. The cost of the biodiesel have risen to \$4.02 per gallon compared to the cost of regular diesel at \$2.30 per gallon. Currently, staff is not buying biodiesel. One of the problems they are seeing with production is that the vendors are not getting tax breaks and the grant was specific in that there could only be a 30 cent to 50 cent difference in price.*

*Commissioner Henry inquired about capital costs if we were to obtain the materials on our own. Mr. Reid advised that it's very complicated because there is no guarantee that we can get the materials and the specification has to approved by the manufactures.*

*Commissioner Henry inquired about the components that make up biodiesel. Paul Starling advised that the components are agricultural and some based feed stock with the most prevalent being animal fats. There is a chemical process that extract all the bad stuff out in order to use it as a diesel fuel. Mr. Starling reiterated how uncertain the market is currently and that RTS does not think that producing biodiesel is in the City's best interest.*

*Commissioner Hawkins inquired as to: 1) where do we buy the biodiesel from that we are currently using; and 2) if we could partner with the governmental entities that are trying with debatable success to manufacture their own biodiesel, and purchase from them so that they can lower their fixed costs as opposed to partnering with a private entity.*

*Mr. Reid responded as follows: 1) We are currently buying biodiesel from Lewis Oil which is the same company that provide our diesel; and 2) the companys are not producing enough biodiesel to satisfy their own needs. Mr. Reid believes this product will be more viable four to five years down the road.*

*MOTION: Commissioner Hawkins moved and Commissioner Mastrodicasa seconded that the Committee recommends to the City Commission to not pursue biodiesel manufacturing at this time.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The RCAPW Committee not pursue the idea of the City initiating a project to produce biodiesel.*

**Approved as shown above (See Motion)**

## MEMBER COMMENT

*Commissioner Mastrodicasa thanked the Public Works staff and everyone else who helped with the Dove World activities.*

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

*The next meeting is scheduled to occur on October 4, 2010 at 3:00 PM*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM*