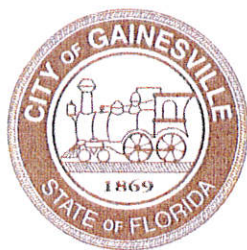


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City of Gainesville

Pegeen Hanrahan, Mayor

February 26, 2009

Ms. Phoebe Miles
3909 Harrison Street NW
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Ms. Miles:

We are writing to express enthusiasm and support for the Cade Foundation's proposed museum project envisioned for construction at Depot Park. Our hope has always been that the park, once remediated, would become a wonderful urban green space, further enhancing Gainesville's hard-earned reputation as a desirable place to live, work, and play.

The Cade Museum dramatically adds excitement to this vision. The organizing principle of "Inspiration, Invention, and Innovation" is a visionary approach to creating an experience that will stimulate citizens to explore their own creativity. We are also impressed with your embracing of environmental sustainability, a vital theme that is aligned with the City's own adopted objectives. The project team you have assembled is excellent. The project will embody the highest levels of innovation and creativity. All in all, the museum will be a tremendous asset to our community and its quality of life. It is a great concept that will transform our city.

The City of Gainesville is committed to the development of the Depot Park project. We are fully aware of your completion schedule and projected opening date of 2013. First, the site remediation plans are moving forward; clean up will begin in July. Gainesville Regional Utilities and regulatory authorities are working to expedite the project wherever possible. The City anticipates completing all site remediation in early 2010, which will enable all prepared park construction plans to commence soon after.

Second, as the lead agency for park development, the CRA is now preparing to ready park construction plans for 2010. The CRA selected the Depot Building rehabilitation architect on February 16th and will select the park landscape architect on March 16th. Both design firms will be given the green light to proceed and coordinate plans this spring with the goal to substantially complete design in under 12 months. The CRA is also working to design roadway medians on South Main Street this year, which when constructed, will create an attractive gateway to the park.

Ms. Phoebe Miles

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The park is an integral part of its surroundings, and as such, it is important to note related neighborhood improvements underway. The CRA is working to install new lighting and improvements on the Depot Avenue rail trail. Also, Public Works recently redesigned Depot Avenue and plans to bid construction of the portion adjacent to Depot Park this month to enable starting construction by mid-year. This project will include decorative paving and lighting to enhance the north edge of the park. To the east of the park, the CRA is leading the master planning of the GRU operations center property, so that redevelopment efforts can be launched soon after GRU vacates the site. Downtown Gainesville is literally on the move and we expect these changes to catalyze exciting opportunities.

Our funding commitment reflects our unwavering dedication to the overall vision. General Government and CRA are committing \$14.5 million to fund park, roadway, rehabilitation, and stormwater projects. Our staff has assembled an array of funding sources consisting of local funds, federal grants, and state appropriations. Overall, we have successfully raised 80% of our goal of \$18 million for these improvements. To complete the funding picture, the City has requested the remaining park construction funds from the federal government. In addition, GRU is committing approximately \$9 million in cleanup funds and funding partner Florida Department of Environmental Protection is providing \$3.5 million.

Momentum and excitement are gathering quickly to drive our vision forward. I have no reservations saying that the City of Gainesville is fully committed and equipped to execute the Depot Park project. On behalf of the City of Gainesville and the Gainesville CRA, we extend our complete support to the Cade Foundation. Our team is prepared and ready to assist you with anything necessary to make our shared vision a reality.

Sincerely,



Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor



Jeanna Mastrodicasa
Chair, Community Redevelopment Agency

xc: Gainesville City Commission
Russ Blackburn, City Manager
Robert Hunzinger, General Manager for Utilities
Anthony Lyons, CRA Manager
Depot Park Team

