

TO: Honorable Mayor Hanrahan & Members of the City Commission

Via: Russ Blackburn, City Manager

From: Barbara Lipscomb, Assistant City Manager

Subject: Sustainability Steering Committee

Date: December 18, 2006

In 2005 the City of Gainesville established an Interdepartmental Committee on Sustainability which was a recommendation from one of the transition teams appointed by newly elected Mayor Hanrahan. This Committee met and subsequently presented its recommendations to the City Commission. Since the initial report, several key members of this committee have left the City and the Committee has been inactive. In reviewing the composition of the committee, it was noted that while there were a number of staff members representing environmental and energy interests, there were no representatives relating to economic or social justice/equity issues.

Recently City staff began initiating a number of new efforts relating to sustainability. Staff believes it is best to sunset the previous committee and to appoint a new Sustainability Steering Team. Proposed members will represent the three “legs of the sustainability stool as proposed by the previous committee —economic, environmental, and social equity/justice” and include the following staff or their designees:

- Barbara Lipscomb, Chair
- Teresa Scott
- Erik Bredfeldt
- Tom Saunders
- GRU representative (To be determined)
- Milton Reid

These members will begin a process to capture the current status of sustainability in the City organization, initiate a new Environmental Management System (EMS), and review and coordinate current or proposed new sustainability initiatives. Suggestions from the recent Sundance Summit attended by Mayor Hanrahan will be reviewed by the committee for their practicality for inclusion in our organization and potential yield for the City. Please be advised that this sustainability initiative is not a funded initiative, and research and development of new initiatives must be performed within existing resources or budgeted in the future.

Besides the proposed Sustainability Steering Team, there are a number of specific teams that have already coalesced around specific sustainability issues. It is anticipated that additional teams may be initiated around specific issues; however, the steering committee will provide oversight to avoid duplication and to insure that specific elements are addressed.

To expedite the establishment of a proposed new Sustainability Committee, this information is being forwarded to the Community Development Committee which will be discussing this issue in the near future.