

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes

Thursday, January 14, 2016

1:00 PM

City Hall, Roberta Lisle Kline Conference Room

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee

*Commissioner Randy Wells, Chair
Commissioner Helen Warren, 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

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 1:11pm.

ROLL CALL

Present 2 - Commissioner Warren, and Wells

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The RCAPW approved the agenda as submitted.

Adopted

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[150666.](#)

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting
Minutes of December 10, 2015 (B)

Attachments: [150666_Draft Minutes 12-10-15_20160114.pdf](#)

The RCAPW Committee approved the minutes as presented.

RECOMMENDATION

*The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works
Committee approve the minutes of December 10, 2015 as
submitted.*

Discussed

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

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

[140739.](#)

Welcoming City (B)

**This item is a continuation of a discussion about the possibility of
Gainesville becoming a designated “Welcoming City.”**

Attachments: [140739A Program Overview 20150312.pdf](#)
[140739B Commitment Form 20150312.pdf](#)
[140739C Welcoming Cities Report 20150312.pdf](#)
[140739A Getting Started - Local Gov 20151112.pdf](#)
[140739B WCC Framework 20151112.pdf](#)
[140739 Welcoming City Draft Resolution 20160114.pdf](#)
[140739A Welcoming City Resolution 20160218.pdf](#)
[140739B Welcoming Gainesville Presentation 20160218.pdf](#)

Daniel Valdez from Welcoming America joined this discussion by phone. Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers began this continuation of a previous conversation by introducing the citizen's group that has recently formed and been incorporated as Welcoming Gainesville. Richard MacMaster, a founder of Welcoming Gainesville, spoke first, updating the Committee about the tasks it had assigned the citizens at the November 2015 meeting. First, the group had researched Welcoming groups in Dayton, OH, High Point, NC, and Columbia, MO and found that each group is unique, depending on its community. Next, the group has been incorporated and is seeking 501(c)(3) status and has developed a board that represents a variety of religious groups, the Sister Cities program, the Chamber of Commerce, and Santa Fe College, and hopes to be joined by representatives from Oak Hall School, UF, and the Alachua County School Board. The group is already partnering with other local groups to produce their first event, a round-table discussion on "Welcoming Diversity". Commissioner Wells noted that the group had done what the Committee had requested and more. Mr. Folkers commented that the impact on City staff to support this group is minimal and there should be no fiscal issues. Assistant City Attorney David Schwartz commented that there are no legal concerns with the City supporting Welcoming Gainesville. The Committee recommended that an informational presentation be brought to the City Commission's regular meeting on February 18, 2016 and that the Committee request an annual proclamation to celebrate Gainesville as a Welcoming City. Ideally, there would be an initial proclamation, as Gainesville would be the first designated Welcoming City in Florida, and an annual proclamation each September, during which the annual Welcoming Week is held nationally.

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee hear a presentation from Welcoming Gainesville and discuss next steps.*

Discussed

150068.

Girls Place Referral to Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (B)

This item involves an update on the proposal from Girls Place, Inc. for consideration of a partnership with the City of Gainesville to transform the infield of the existing track in Kiwanis Challenge Park into a multi-purpose recreational field, and consideration of placing land adjacent to Greentree Park on the land acquisition list.

Attachments: [150068_ProposalLtr_20150702.pdf](#)
[150068_Girls Place Proposal_20150910.pdf](#)
[150068A_Map Ridgeview Girls Place_20160114.pdf](#)
[150068B_Girls Place and Ridgeview Property Presentation_20160114.pdf](#)
[150068C_Girls Place Presentation_20160114.pdf](#)
[150068A_MOD_Girls Place Presentation_20160218.pdf](#)
[150068B_PRCA_Presentation_20160218.pptx](#)

Paul Folkers began this continued discussion by stating that two public meetings have been held since this topic was last discussed by the Committee. Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA), Michelle Park, introduced Janna Magette, Executive Director of Girls Place, who provided a version of the presentation she gave at the public meetings. Ms. Park talked about PRCA's involvement in the proposed project, explaining that it fit into the department's vision and mission.

The project would require the removal of trees and mitigation would include planting 200 trees; Ms. Park stated that as many of those trees would be planted at the park as possible. At the December 2015 public meeting, opposition to the loss of trees in the track area came up, although everyone has been very supportive of Girls Place. Some citizens at the meeting reiterated their dissatisfaction with the concept of removing the trees and several letters were read for residents who could not attend the meeting; they asked that the City find ways to create more habitat for wildlife and add walking trails throughout the park.

Steve Phillips, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, reported on the church-owned land adjacent to the PRCA's land, which the Committee agreed to add to the land acquisition list.

The Committee agreed to continue its support for this project and to move the item forward to the City Commission once a tree mitigation plan can be developed by PRCA staff. Further, the Committee encouraged the neighbors of Greentree Park to form a support group and to work closely with PRCA and Girls Place to help drive the plans toward amenities they'd like to see.

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee: 1) hear a brief update from staff regarding a proposal from Girls Place, Inc. as well as the results from the two public meetings, 2) provide feedback on Girls Place, Inc. proposal, and 3) approve the Ridgeview Baptist Church being placed on the land acquisition list for potential land acquisition.*

Discussed

[150674.](#)

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Referrals (B)

Attachments: [150674_Pending Referrals_20160114.pdf](#)
[150674_Pending Referrals_20160211.pdf](#)

Debbie Leistner, Planning Manager for Public Works, and Scott Wright, Planner Senior for Public Works, updated the Committee on the Bike Sharing program. Locations have been determined and they are currently considering vendors for the

program. The City does not want to get involved with a vendor that requires heavy infrastructure. The pilot program will consist of 16 bikes and two stations between downtown and UF. Third parties who wish to add stations can work directly with our vendor. The Committee requested that Ms. Leistner and Mr. Wright return to the February RCAPW meeting with a presentation from the vendor.

RECOMMENDATION

The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee review and prioritize the list of pending referrals.

Discussed

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE -- Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 1:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54pm.