



CITY OF GAINESVILLE

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TO: Economic Development University/Community Committee (EDUCC) Members

FROM: Erik A. Bredfeldt, Economic Development Director

DATE: August 17, 2006

SUBJECT: EDUCC Referral Status Review

Over the past two years, the Economic Development University Community Committee (EDUCC) has reviewed a diverse set of issues. This has led to number of pending referrals, some of which are in various degrees of development, and others which are no longer being acted upon.

I have briefly provided a status report on the pending referral below and a staff recommended action to the Committee in an effort to hone down the list to those items of particular concern to the Committee

1. **040171 – WI-FI Proposal and Community Telecommunications**

The Committee reviewed a GRUcom prepared business model in March, 2005 for the provision of Wi-Fi services in an area along the University Avenue corridor from Waldo Road to NW 22nd Street. In addition, a survey of effected businesses was conducted by the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce with minimal participation. GRUcom staff has been analyzing various WI-FI alternatives Citywide with participation by General Government staff. It is reported that this item has recently been referred to the Regional Utilities Committee as well. **Staff Recommended Action: Maintain as a pending referral; receive a presentation from GRUcom staff on current alternatives.**

2. **040171 – Reinvesting in East Gainesville**

This referral was a result of the Mayor's Transition Committee and focused on three items: 1) flexibility in rehabilitation codes; 2) growth in Entrepreneurship in East Gainesville; and, 3) the establishment of public/private partnerships as well as outside funding sources. A presentation was given to the Committee on the UF Eastside Campus on Waldo Road and subsequent presentations have been given on GTEC's status; both of these are representative of a significant amount of investment and both are based upon partnerships. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from pending referral list.**

3. **040247 – EDUCC Information for Review**

This referral was instituted as a place holder for items that were designed as information only to the Committee. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from pending referral list. In the event that information only items need to be reviewed by the Committee, staff can provide to the Committee e-mail list for consideration.**

4. **040487 – City Stormwater Regulations Modification**

The Committee heard a presentation from Public Works staff in May, 2006 regarding efforts to balance redevelopment in the CRA's with stormwater regulations enforced by the City of Gainesville and water management districts. Staff is to come back to the Committee following a meeting with the District's regarding a proposed change in regulatory model. **Staff Recommended Action: Maintain as a pending referral; hear a report back from Public Works staff at the September EDUCC meeting.**

5. **040490 – Urban Parking Facilities and Funding Mechanism**

A report was provided on the status of the financial status of the downtown parking garage in October, 2005. The Committee directed that information be brought back to the Committee following the beginning of calendar year 2006 in order that additional data could be collected. **Staff Recommended Action: Maintain as a pending referral; hear a report back from Public Works staff at the September EDUCC meeting.**

6. **040492 – Transportation Modes for Increased Density**

The Committee received a report in November, 2004 from RIS staff on prospects for development of a shuttle service linking the University with Downtown based upon proposed increases in downtown living densities. RIS staff reported that they would continue to keep this in mind as construction of new facilities and expanded service became necessary and look to including this item in their 5 year plan. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from the pending referral list.**

7. **040493 – EDUCC Communications and Marketing Recommendations**

This referral was reviewed by the Committee in September, 2004. As a consequence of this review, a Communications and Marketing Manager was hired by the City staff and various related actions have since been generated by the Director including forming a marketing partnership and a community marketing plan and branding effort. **Staff Recommended Action: Maintain as a pending referral; hear a report back from Communications and Marketing Manager on Marketing Gainesville Partnership (community marketing plan and branding effort) at the September EDUCC meeting.**

8. **040496 – Arts and Culture Sub-Committee**

This item represents a referral from the Norfolk and New Haven sub-committee looking at various arts and culture related issues. Based upon recent information provided by Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs staff, the various issues flowing from this group have been addressed or are in the process of being worked through by staff. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from pending referral list. In the future, should any of the various issues need to be addressed, referral should be made to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee.**

9. **040535 – Community Strategic Plan for Economic Development**

The Committee heard a report on this item from Ms. Tubb in October, 2005. The HCI Committee drafted an Economic Development Strategic Action Plan and it was indicated that upon adoption by HCI this report would be provided to the EDUCC and City Commission. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from pending referral list. Staff to inquire as to the status of the Strategic Action Plan.**

10. **040626 – Gainesville Housing Authority Restructure**

A joint meeting of the City Commission and Gainesville Housing Authority was held in December, 2004. City Housing staff continues to work with Gainesville Housing Authority staff. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from pending referral list.**

11. **040689 – City of Gainesville - Alachua County School Board Recreation Cooperation**
This referral was generated by the Norfolk-New Haven Government Sub-committee in November, 2004 with an emphasis upon jointly tackling community recreation issues. Since this time this issue has been addressed through Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs staff and through the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from pending referral list.**
12. **040694 – City Advisory Boards Modification and Consolidation**
This referral was generated by the Norfolk-New Haven Government Sub-Committee and has been addressed by the City Commission in the form of establishment of a Charter Review Committee and recent consolidation and modification of several advisory Boards. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from pending referral list.**
13. **050399 – Civic Lights**
This item was reviewed by the Committee in September, 2005 and by the entire City Commission in November, 2005. The City Commission directed that a \$10,000 start-up contribution be provided to the effort from City Commission contingency and that staff assist in bringing the project to fruition. Staff has been providing periodic updates to the Committee and Commission on this project. **Staff Recommended Action: Maintain as a pending referral for future reporting and direction purposes.**
14. **050400 – Homeless Issues**
This item was referred to the Committee by the City Commission in September, 2005. In October, 2005, the item was discussed and staff subsequently provided the Commission with information on services provided in the community from an economic development perspective by Goodwill Industries Inc. From that point forward, this matter has been taken up primarily by the Public Safety Committee and City Commission in its entirety in the context of the 10 Year Community Plan to end Homelessness. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from pending referral list.**
15. **05835 – Gainesville/UF/Santa Fe Innovation Zone**
This item was originally reviewed by the Committee in February, 2006. Since that time, staff has moved the Innovation Zone forward to the Plan for adoption in the City's Comprehensive Plan and a contract is being structured with the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce to provide development services within the Zone. In addition, venture funding is being explored as are Waldo Road development standards and prospects for the GRU property. **Staff Recommended Action: Maintain as a pending referral item for future progress reports.**
16. **051014 – Gainesville Partners – Statement of Philosophy**
This item has been reviewed by the Committee and at the last meeting, May, 2005 the Committee approved a revised Statement of Philosophy. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from pending referral list.**
17. **051120 – Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Refund – DayJet**
This item was reviewed by the Committee in April, 2006 and the Committee recommended that the matter be sent to the full Commission. The City Commission adopted the QTI Resolution in April, 2006. **Staff Recommended Action: Remove from pending referral list.**