

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Agenda

April 23, 2013

2:00 PM

City Hall, 4th Floor, Room 408

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works

Committee

*Commissioner Susan Bottcher, Chair
Commissioner Todd Chase, Member
Commissioner Thomas Hawkins, 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

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[121050.](#)

**Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting
Minutes of April 2, 2013 (B).**

RECOMMENDATION

*The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works
Committee approve the minutes of the April 2,
2013 meeting as submitted.*

[121050_Minutes_20130423.pdf](#)

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

[120542.](#)

Signage and Pavement Marking Improvements for Pedestrian Safety (B)

**This item is a referral from the City Commission to discuss the issue of
improvements to signage and pavement markings to enhance pedestrian
safety.**

*Explanation: In 2011 the Public Works and Police Departments participated in a
NHTSA sponsored Pedestrian Study. The study conducted by Western
Michigan University targeted mid-block crosswalks and motorist's yield
rate before (45.4%) and after (82.7%) education, engineering &
enforcement efforts were applied. The final report is pending.*

*The Public Works Department kicked off the development of a
Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Action Plan that identifies locations of high
incidence of bicycle/pedestrian crashes, identifies trends and
recommends countermeasures to reduce the number and severity of
crashes. The plan includes an evaluation of all bicycle/pedestrian
crashes between 2006 and 2010.*

RECOMMENDATION

*The Committee discuss the issue of improvements
to enhance pedestrian safety.*

Legislative History

11/1/12 City Commission Referred to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public
Works Committee

[120542 Presentation 20130128.pdf](#)

[120542_Signage PowerPt_20130423.pdf](#)

[120712.](#)

Status Update on the City Commission Strategic Initiative 5.1 (B)

Strategic initiatives have been referred to Standing Committees to promote efficient and effective communication streams between elected officials, City staff and Gainesville residents concerning the implementation of the City's Strategic Plan. This item is a request for the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee to receive an update and discuss Strategic Initiative 5.1: Assess neighborhoods to determine the need for infrastructure improvements for bicycle and pedestrian use.

Legislative History

1/3/13 City Commission Referred to the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee

[120712_SI 5-1 PowerPt_20130423.pdf](#)

[121053.](#)

Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (B)

This item is an overview of existing plans and status of implementation.

Explanation: The following documents were produced and adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization and/or the City:

Alachua County Bicycle Master Plan, 2001

PURPOSE: Plan categorized individual roadway segments, identified infrastructure priorities and strategies to increase system safety and encourage mode shift.

OUTCOME: System segmentation by blocks did not facilitate implementation; system was further analyzed and refined in the 2004 Addendum.

Bicycle Master Plan Addendum, 2004

PURPOSE: Study refined the data in the Master Plan and identified 8 priority segments for implementation, including in order of priority:

Archer Braid (Archer Rd); Alachua Braid (W 13th St); University Braid (University Ave); Hawthorne Braid (W 6th St); Bivens Braid (SW 23rd St/Ter); Westside Braid (W 34th St); Millhopper Braid (N 23rd /16th Ave) and Glen Springs Braid (Glens Springs Rd/NE 23rd Ave). The Archer Braid was identified as the top priority.

OUTCOME: Study served as basis for project prioritization and inclusion on MTPO list of priorities. Funds for segment of Archer Braid have been obtained over time, portions of the trail west of I-75 are currently funded and under design, including collaboration with the private sector; within City limits the portion from I-75 to SW 34th Street will be implemented as part of transportation requirements for two on-going land development projects, and the portion through UF campus is funded. Multimodal improvements to both the W 13th St and University Ave corridors are included in the MTPO list of priority projects.

Sixth St trail is partially funded and implementation is on-going, the segment between NW 16th Ave and NW 23rd Ave is currently unfunded; a trail was constructed along SW 23rd St from Williston Rd to Archer Rd.

Archer Braid: a multi-use path, 2008

PURPOSE: Refine the top priority identified in the Addendum.

OUTCOME: Majority of Archer Braid has committed funding; trail is being implemented as a coordinated effort between different agencies as it traverses areas in the County, City and UF.

Parks Master Plan, 2012

PURPOSE: Identify improvements and strategies to encourage cycling and create an interconnected and accessible system.

OUTCOME: Identified both on/off road facility types such as multimodal trails, enhanced sidewalks, shoulder trails, bike lanes and sharrows, and trail head improvement. Four priority multimodal trail projects were identified consistent with other City efforts along Archer Braid, Sixth Street trail, Norton trail and SW 40th Blvd trail.

The City Commission also referred to the Committee an item to discuss achieving a Gold Level Bike Friendly City designation. Staff along with the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee has been discussing issues associated with gold level designation.

Fiscal Note: None

RECOMMENDATION

The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee: 1) hear a presentation and discuss options for implementation of projects; 2) direct staff to incorporate recommendations into Strategic Initiative 5.1; and 3) recommend that the City Commission remove the referral from the referral list.

[121053_BikeMasterPlan PowerPt_20130423.pdf](#)

[121038.](#)

Casual Sunday Events at McPherson Park (NB)

This is an event that has occurred on Sunday afternoons and evenings at the TB McPherson Center, 1707 SE 15th Street, for the past 18 years. The event originated for persons to gather and socialize without any programmatic components.

Explanation: History of Events:

This is an event that has occurred on Sunday afternoons and evenings at the TB McPherson Center, 1707 SE 15th Street, for the past 18 years. It starts in April and concludes in late June. The event originated for persons to socialize without any programmatic components associated with the gatherings.

The events originally started at Lincoln Park, 800 SE 15th Street; however it grew in participation and relocated to TB McPherson. The most significant crime associated with the event occurred more than 15 years ago when a shooting resulted in the death of an individual. The event was suspended for the remainder of that year due to concern of repeated violence.

Throughout the years there have been four problems associated with this activity:

- 1) Large crowds (estimates between 2000-3000 persons). With only 88 parking spaces at the TB McPherson Center, vehicles park on the north and south side of SE 15 Street creating traffic congestion on SE 15 Street, particularly when the event has concluded;*
- 2) Noise associated with either persons at the park or vehicles cruising north and south of SE 15 Street;*
- 3) Open container and illegal possession of small amounts of controlled substances; and*
- 4) Increased staffing to manage the gathering.*

The benefits of these gatherings include a greater use of the park; people are congregating in one location in lieu of being in multiple locations; and a sense of community. Participants assist with some limited responsibilities associated with the activity, (i.e. traffic, trash pickup).

Gainesville Police Response:

GPD has taken a Community Policing response to the matter in the past four years. This response calls for meeting with the organizers, establishing guidelines for the activity, and enforcement of violations of the law. The International Association of Police Chief and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) have an increasing amount of information available on best practices in crowd management including a meet-and-greet strategy. Instead of using riot police in menacing outfits, police officers in standard uniforms engaged the crowd. They shake hands, ask people how they were doing, and tell them that officers are here to keep them safe, creating a psychological bond with the group that pays dividends.

Recommendations/Lessons Learned:

- 1) Know your community and the type of crowd you are managing. Make sure you have the appropriate personnel and engage the crowd respectfully.*
- 2) Identify areas where you expect crowds to gather and plan your resources accordingly.*
- 3) Being friendly with the participants can win them over.*

Fiscal Note: The cost for GPD to staff these Casual Sunday events is estimated at 4 officers at 5 hours each = \$1,070 each Sunday. This does not include the staff time spent meeting with the organizers and establishing guidelines for the activities.

RECOMMENDATION

The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee: 1) hear a report from Parks and Recreation staff and GPD staff on the Casual Sunday events; and 2) make a recommendation to the full City Commission on how to proceed with the weekly events.

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT