

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Agenda - Final

March 9, 2015

3:00 PM

Joint City/County Commission Special Meeting

Jack Durrance Auditorium, 12 SE First Street, Gainesville, FL

City Commission

*Mayor Ed Braddy (At Large)
Commissioner Lauren Poe (At Large)
Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)
Commissioner Yvonne Hinson-Rawls (District 1)
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Todd Chase (District 2)
Commissioner Craig Carter (District 3)
Commissioner Randy Wells (District 4)*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Office of Equal Opportunity at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**ROLL CALL****AGENDA STATEMENT**

"Citizens are encouraged to participate in City of Gainesville meetings. In general, speakers will be limited to 3 (three) minutes per agenda item. Additional time may be granted by the Mayor or by the City Commission as directed. The City of Gainesville encourages civility in public discourse and requests that speakers limit their comments to specific motions and direct their comments to the Chair. Signs or Props are not permitted in the meeting room. Citizens are encouraged to provide comments in writing to the Clerk of the Commission before meetings and/or during meetings for inclusion into the public record. Citizens may also provide input to individual commissioners via office visits, phone calls, letters and e-Mail, that will become public record. In some instances, i.e., Quasi-Judicial Hearings, these particular contacts may be prohibited.

CITY MANAGER

[140766.](#)

Update on the use of City Lot 10 during Bo Diddley Plaza Renovations (B)

This item provides a brief update regarding the use of City Lot 10 during the Bo Diddley Plaza renovations.

Explanation: The Downtown Bo Diddley Community Plaza is scheduled for renovations beginning March 1, 2015. The improvements, which include new public restrooms, an information kiosk, a water wall entry feature, green room and a second café space, will take about one year to complete. The entire plaza is closed for construction except for the historic Bethel Station property on the south end, which will re-open under new restaurant ownership in late spring. Many events and programs that have routinely occurred at the Plaza will not be able to be scheduled there during this period.

To address the need to provide downtown programming space for the Farmers Market and other events and programs, City staff met and looked at several possible locations. Based on the type and size of space needed, feedback from the representatives of the Farmers Market and City staff, Lot 10 was felt to be the most viable location. Lot 10 is being reviewed for development opportunities but it is unlikely that the site will be needed before the Plaza renovation is completed.

Several steps have been taken to prepare Lot 10 for use as the temporary alternate site. Electrical work is currently being done to enable access to power for those authorized to use the site. Public restrooms are available at the adjacent Southwest Downtown Parking

Garage and will be open and staffed Wednesday through Saturday from 8 PM until 2 AM. Public metered parking is available on streets adjacent to the site. Additional information on the SW Downtown Garage, Downtown parking lots and on-street parking is available at <https://gvilleparking.com/>.

At the February 19, 2015 City Commission meeting, the Commission approved funding for purchase of a mobile stage for City programming, such as the "Free Fridays" concert series. This mobile stage will also be available for rent by other agencies who schedule Lot 10 for performance events.

Fiscal Note: Funding for the electrical work and mobile stage has been approved.

RECOMMENDATION The City and County Commissions hear an update from staff regarding the use of Lot 10 during Bo Diddley Plaza renovations.

[140766A Parcel photo 20150309.pdf](#)

[140766B Lot10PlazaAerial 20150309.pdf](#)

[140766C Stakeholder Feedback Slides 20150309.pdf](#)

[140772](#)

Update on the Provision of Homeless Services at the Empowerment Center (B)

This item is a request for the City Commission to hear an update on the provision of homeless services at the Empowerment Center.

Explanation: This item supports City Commission Strategic Initiative 3.1: Continue implementation and engage in the update of the 10 year plan to end homelessness.

The Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Ten Year Plan to End Homeless almost a decade ago. A major goal of the Plan was the development of a One Stop Homeless Assistance Center for Gainesville and Alachua County. On May 5, 2014, the Alachua County Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless (ACCHH) began limited services for the homeless at the Empowerment Center under a contract with the City of Gainesville in the amount of \$308,000. The services for the homeless were equally funded between the City of Gainesville and Alachua County for FY14 in the amount of \$154,000 each. Other homeless services were to be added throughout the year to the services available at the Empowerment Center.

The Service Agreement and the License Agreement have been modified several times in the first year to accommodate funding as well as the demand for services for the Homeless. Grace Marketplace has been operating as a one Stop Homeless Assistance Center for less than twelve months, however, the City, the County and ACCHH have been

working to meet the demands for services as well as control the expectations for this new Center. With the opening of the Empowerment Center, an unofficial campground developed adjacent to the Empowerment Center. There was an expectation that camping services would be provided on campus instead of on the adjacent property to the Empowerment Center. The campground brings its own set of challenges and opportunities for the City and the County. City staff was asked to negotiate a lease agreement with the State of Florida's Department of Agriculture to gain access and control of the ten acres adjacent to the Empowerment Center. The lease agreement was negotiated by staff, and approved by the City Commission on January 15, 2015.

Included in this presentation are some major milestones and action steps/decision points that have occurred since the homeless services began at the Empowerment Center.

Fiscal Note: The City of Gainesville recently executed an Amended and Restated Service Agreement with ACCHH in the amount of \$559,680 for the Provision of Homeless Services at the Empowerment Center for FY15. The Oversight Board reviewed the request and made the recommendation to the City and the County Commission for the increase in funding. In addition, the Oversight Board will be reviewing the fundraising efforts of ACCHH and the proposed FY16 budget for ACCHH and make recommendations to the City and the County regarding future funding.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Commission hear an update from staff on the provision of homeless services at the Empowerment Center.

[140772A_Homeless Services Update_20150309.pdf](#)

[140772B_Amended and Restated Service Agreement_20150309.pdf](#)

ADJOURNMENT