

LEGISLATIVE #

120779

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes

Monday, November 26, 2012

1:30 PM

City Hall, Room 16

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

Meeting called to order at 1:31 PM

ROLL CALL

Present 3 - Hawkins, Chase, and Bottcher

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee adopted the agenda as circulated.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

120589. Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2012 (B).

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee approve the minutes of the October 22, 2012 meeting as submitted.*

The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee approved the minutes of the October 22, 2012 meeting as submitted.

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

080481. Update on Status of Commercial Recycling

This item is a request for the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee to receive an update on the progress of Strategic Initiative 7.2: Review the status of commercial recycling ordinances.

Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers introduced Solid Waste Manager Steve Joplin who presented a brief report and status of commercial recycling. Inspectors have been proactive by visiting businesses to determine compliance and found most businesses are trying to recycle. Only one fine was issued in Fiscal Year 2012 for non-compliance. Additional recycling containers, conveniently located, are needed in public places and in multi-housing units to increase recycling efforts. Mr. Joplin expressed the opinion that the de minimis amount for recycling outlined in the current ordinance needs to be lowered. Attorney Ron Combs will research whether the City can require solid waste companies to bundle a flat rate for recycling with solid waste collection fees.

RECOMMENDATION *The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee receive an update on the status of Commercial Recycling*

110258. Private Purchase of Public Land Update (B)

This item involves an update to the referral for the Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee to review the matter of private purchase of public land.

Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers introduced this item. Mr. Nathan Collier has expressed interest in acquiring conservation land adjacent to his property. Land Rights Coordinator Sam Bridges indicated that the land Mr. Collier is interested in acquiring was deeded in 1980 to the City from the trust of Elizabeth Dell. There are no restrictions on the deed regarding conveyance.

Mr. Folkers explained that Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs staff has indicated that there could be potential fiscal impact to the City if the property is sold. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director Steve Phillips explained that the City has been the recipient of a grant from the Florida Game & Fish Commission for \$50,000 per year for the removal of exotic plant species. Future funding could be threatened if the City cannot guarantee that conservation land will stay in conservation for perpetuity. According to the City's Comprehensive Plan, if the property is sold, the proceeds from the disposal or sale shall be used for recreation and park infrastructure enhancement and improvements, and land acquisition.

In his offer, Mr. Collier requested a street vacation for the 30' wide road between NW 9th Place and NW 11th Avenue. Apparently this is an unnamed, unimproved road that the City does not own. An official title search would need to be conducted to determine ownership.

The zoning on the property would allow for development of one home per five acres.

Commissioner Bottcher mentioned that the recently approved Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Plan includes trail improvements with an estimated cost of about \$500,000. As an example, the proceeds of this sale could pay for the entire project.

A question was posed as to whether the revenue from a sale of this property could be earmarked for acquisition of conservation land. Staff responded that the City Commission could do so.

These citizens spoke to the matter: Art Stockwell, John Rice, Richard Gonzales, Matthew Carrigan, Chip Sullivan, Dave Silverman, David Pace, Pegeen Hanrahan, Dave Miller, Francine Robinson, Sally Dickinson, Bruce Morgan and Sal Locascio.

Commissioner Chase expressed concern with how the land will be used; whether or not there will be a conservation easement or fence; and the process to declare it surplus. With answers to these concerns he is willing to move forward to explore the sale of the property. Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers was asked to provide a list of the priority projects that \$1 million could cover and to provide an aerial map of the property.

Commissioner Bottcher expressed concern with the property being declared surplus when it is being utilized by citizens. Future donations of conservation land could be jeopardized if the City cannot guarantee that the property will remain conservation

land for perpetuity.

Commissioner Hawkins expressed his desire to have the property remain conservation land no matter who owns it. The City does not bind itself to doing the same thing each time because every situation is unique. The City may have other pieces of real estate that we may wish to sell in the future. Attorney Ron Combs stated that the property could be sold with restrictions but would need to determine how restrictive.

RECOMMENDATION

The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee: 1) hear an update from City staff on this referral; 2) make a recommendation to the City Commission to either a) declare the property surplus and direct the City Manager to initiate a bid process for sale of the property or b) decline to recommend surplus of the property and discontinue consideration of Mr. Collier's request to have the opportunity to purchase the property; and 3) provide City staff with guidance as appropriate on the Draft Disposition of Conservation Land Policy.

Commissioner Hawkins made a Motion to refer the matter to the full City Commission to consider and discuss options. This is not a Motion to surplus the land. Commissioner Chase seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Aye: 3 - Hawkins, Chase, and Bottcher

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

December 18, 2012 at 2:00PM

ADJOURNMENT

Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee meeting adjourned at 4:00PM