

Community Redevelopment Agency
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Date: February 17, 2000
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
From: Matthew Dubé
Brownfields Coordinator
Via: Wayne Bowers, City Manager *TDS*
Tom Saunders, Community Development Director
Subject: Recommendations from the East Gainesville Sprout Project
Old Depot Building

Explanation

On December 7, 1999, the Sprout Project Task Force discussed the old depot building after hearing a presentation from UF Professor Kim Tanzer regarding potential uses for the structure. The discussion raised the possibility of moving the building as a safeguard against traffic accidents on Depot Avenue. At the same meeting, representatives from EXPO the Children's Museum of Gainesville presented a proposal to the Task Force to establish a children's museum in the old depot building.

At the January 4, 2000 Task Force meeting, members further discussed the matter and moved to recommend the depot be used for the children's museum. The motion was tabled until The Center for Construction and Environment (CCE) presented its feasibility study to the Task Force on February 10, 2000.

At the February 10th meeting, the Task Force heard a presentation by the CCE regarding potential uses for the depot. A timeline was also presented showing the overlap between the depot reconstruction and the remediation of the proposed stormwater park site, as well as other projects. Neighborhood residents contributed input regarding their wishes for the depot. The task force discussed the matter and approved a recommendation on the use of the building.

Recommendations

1) Recommend the depot building be moved to the east and south for safety and aesthetics. 2) Recommend that the depot building be used for a children's museum provided that EXPO obtains concurrence from the surrounding neighborhoods.

Date: February 17, 2000
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
From: Planning Division Staff
Via: Wayne Bowers, City Manager
Tom Saunders, Community Development Director *TS*
Subject: Recommendations from the Historic Preservation Board

Explanation

On December 7, 1999, members of the Center for Construction and Environment made a presentation to the Historic Preservation Board on the rehabilitation of the Old Gainesville Depot Train Station. UF Professor Kim Tanzer presented conceptual design work for the depot building, as well as possible uses for the structure.

Recommendations

The Historic Preservation Board recommended that the depot building be limited to non-profit uses, so as not to create competition for market rentals in the area. The Historic Preservation Board also recommended three acceptable locations for the building, ranking them from most desirable to least desirable. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Don't move the building.
2. Move the building slightly to the south.
3. Move the building to the east.

TS:sn