

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

February 25, 2021

1:00 PM

City Hall Auditorium

General Policy Committee

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)
Commissioner Reina Saco (At Large)
Commissioner Gail Johnson (At Large)
Commissioner Gigi Simmons (District 1)
Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)
Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem David Arreola (District 3)
Commissioner Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 1:03 PM

AGENDA STATEMENT

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola, and Commissioner Ward

[200682.](#) **Attendance Affidavit (B)**

Need to click on Item Number for Attachment.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes-Santos, seconded by Commissioner Simmons, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Ward

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[200860.](#) **Approval of Minutes from the General Policy Committee Meeting of February 11, 2021 (B)**

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee approve the minutes of February 11, 2021.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Saco, seconded by Commissioner Simmons, that this Matter be Approved as Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Simmons, Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, and Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Ward

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

180257. Food Access (B)

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Simmons:

1) City Manager to identify a funding source and placeholder in the amount of \$3-\$5 million for a community grocery.

2) Have our office of Communication and Engagement coordinate with Grace Grows Community Food.

Planning Project to assist in planning and executing a community engagement process that will be driven by people that will be primarily served by the grocery.

3) The engagement process should include, but not be limited, to the following:

a. Define and develop a definition and shared understanding of a community grocery.

b. Community visioning process-What are the important considerations for developing a community grocery to serve east Gainesville and the eastern part of the county-examples; a cafe, supervised children's area, prepared foods, live in store performances, etc.

c. Community identified locations. Answer the question-where do you think a grocery store is most needed? Specific locations and areas of the city should be identified.

d. Ownership model (give options for types of ownership models) and operations model.

4) Research and come back to the Commission with the mechanism for accomplishing this goal.

Example; RFP, assist an organization in building capacity to lead this project, a public/private partnership, government run, etc.

5) City identify potential locations for a community grocery with a focus on publicly owned land; City, County, School Board.

6) Have a conversation with the County about ways to collaborate since the location of this grocery will benefit the eastern part of the County such as Hawthorne, Micanopy and Waldo.

7) *Identify funds to conduct a leakage study. Major grocery stores systematically reject the opportunity to locate in neighborhoods due to their misperception that these neighborhoods lack spending potential. A leakage study will help us understand where people are shopping and how much money is “leaking” to other areas of the city and out of town. Leakage study will show that there is sufficient spending power to support food retail, as well as address issues deemed important by staff and the Commission.*

8) *Identifying barriers and restrictions for zoning in low food access areas.*

Commissioner Johnson spoke to the matter.

Zeriah Folston, Policy Oversight Administrator spoke to the matter.

Lee Feldman, City Manager spoke to the matter.

Erika Clesj, Policy Research Fellow gave a presentation.

Donald Shepherd, Alussia, Ms. Mullen, Kip Hayes, Nancy Daren and Tammi Dial Gray spoke to the matter.

Karissa Raskin, Civic Collaboration Specialist gave a presentation.

Commissioner Ward arrived at 2:58 pm.

Mayor Poe asked to add discussion of potential partnerships with County to upcoming Joint City/County/School Board meeting.

Vote (Part #1): Motion passed 5-1. Commissioner Hayes-Santos in dissent. Commissioner Ward absent.

Vote (Parts #2-8): Motion passed 6-0. Commissioner Ward absent.

Approved, as shown above

[200738.](#)

Food Access (B)

RECOMMENDATION

The General Policy Committee discuss and take action deemed necessary.

Withdrawn

[200836.](#)

Wild Spaces & Public Places and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Presentation (B)

Lee Feldman spoke to the matter.

Betsy Waite, Wild Spaces & Public Places Director gave a presentation.

Russell Etling, Cultural Affairs Manager gave a presentation.

Leslie Ladendorf, Assistant Cultural Affairs Manager gave a presentation.

Jeff Cardozo, Golf Course Manager gave a presentation.

Lee Feldman spoke to the matter.

Donald Shepherd and Kathleen Pagan spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee hear a staff update by Wild Spaces & Public Places and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs on an outdoor event center in Gainesville, Tom Petty Park and Glen Springs.*

Heard

[200888.](#)

Discussion of RTS COVID Protocol (B)

Mr. Feldman spoke to the matter.

Jesus Gomez, RTS Director spoke to the matter.

Kali Blount spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee review the current RTS COVID Protocols.*

Heard

[200858.](#)

Community Based Approach to Panhandling (B)

Motion: Direct staff to develop the logistics of a community outreach program to assist panhandling neighbors; explore partnerships to help administer the project; develop a project and identify funds.

Commissioner Simmons left the meeting at 4:31 PM.

Zeriah Folston, Policy Oversight Administrator spoke to the matter.

Samantha Steiner, Policy Research Fellow gave a presentation.

Donald Shepherd spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION *The General Policy Committee discuss and take action deemed necessary.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Saco, seconded by Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola, that this Matter be Approved, as shown above. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Johnson, Mayor Poe, Commissioner Hayes-Santos, Commissioner Saco, Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Arreola, and Commissioner Ward

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Simmons

MEMBER COMMENT

Commissioner Hayes-Santos: Asked if COVID items can be placed first on agendas for future meetings. Mayor agreed.

Mayor Poe:Invited the public to attend a memorial mural this Sunday at 2:00 pm at the MLK Building for Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn. Please wear masks.

NEXT MEETING DATE

March 11, 2021

ADJOURNMENT - 5:19 PM