




## Board Details

(12-members; 3-year terms) City Residency NOT Required

The Nature Centers Commission (NCC) assists the City Commission through recommendations and advice given in respect to developing programs, ordinances, use regulations and resource management policies as required to protect the natural system and other values to the Nature Centers of the City of Gainesville. The NCC was created by Ordinance 2062 (07/21/75); amended by Ordinances 2592 (04/27/81) and 3088 (12/17/84).

## Overview

 **Size** 12 Seats

 **Term Length** 3 Years

 **Term Limit** 2 Terms

## Additional

### Advisory Board Website

<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/ParksRecreationCulturalAffairs/NaturalResourcesandPrograms/SupportOrganizationsL>

### Agendas and Minutes are located

upon request

### Ordinance

Code 1960, § 2-113; Ord. No. 3088, § 3, 12-17-84





City of Gainesville

## Nature Centers Commission

### Board Roster



**Mr. Bruce A. Blackwell**

**1st Term** Nov 07, 2019 - Nov 01, 2022

**Appointing Authority** City Commission



**Marylin Prado**

**1st Term** Jan 16, 2020 - Nov 01, 2022



**Jonathan Reiskind**

**4th Term** Jun 20, 2019 - Nov 01, 2022

**Appointing Authority** City Commission

**Position** Chair



**Ms. Cindy J. Boulware**

**1st Term** Nov 07, 2019 - Nov 01, 2022

**Appointing Authority** City Commission

**Position** Secretary



**Leanne Sheffer**

**1st Term** Feb 18, 2021 - Nov 01, 2022



**Jessica W Wilson**

**1st Term** Feb 21, 2019 - Nov 01, 2022

**Appointing Authority** City Commission

**Position** Treasurer



**Penny Weber**

**8th Term** Nov 05, 2020 - Nov 01, 2023

**Appointing Authority** City Commission

**Category** Friends Of Morningside Liaison



**Madilena E Campbell**

**1st Term** Jun 03, 2021 - Nov 01, 2023

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**Ms Karen Garren**

**1st Term** Nov 05, 2020 - Nov 01, 2023

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**Michael J Hill**

**1st Term** Nov 05, 2020 - Nov 01, 2023

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**Dr. Richard L. Bennett**

**1st Term** Nov 04, 2021 - Nov 01, 2024

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**Dr. Susan Jacobson**

**1st Term** Jan 13, 2022 - Jan 13, 2025

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**Vacancy**

**Appointing Authority** City Commission

**Category** Student Member

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**Profile**

View current Advisory Board and Committee openings [online](#).

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Prefix	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Suffix

<hr/>
Email Address

<hr/>	<hr/>
Street Address	Suite or Apt

<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
City	State	Postal Code

**In what city district do you live? To find your district visit:**

**<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/CityCommission/CityCommissionDistricts.aspx> \***

☒ District 4

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Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

**Primary Phone Type**

☒ Cell

**Alternate Phone Type**

☒ Not Specified

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Employer	Job Title

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**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Nature Centers Commission: Submitted

PLEASE NOTE: You may only apply for two (2) City Advisory Boards/Committees each application cycle. A person may only be appointed to two (2) City Advisory Boards/Committees, only one can be a quasi-judicial board.

**STUDENT BOARD SEATS, terms ending 9/30/2022**

**City Residency NOT Required**

- Fire Safety Board of Adjustment
- Gainesville Cultural Affairs Board
- Nature Centers Commission
- Public Recreation and Parks Board

Question applies to Utility Advisory Board

**Do you have any of the following experience? (you may select more than one) \***

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☒ experience as a utility demand customer

Question applies to Nature Centers Commission

The Nature Centers Commission has 1 STUDENT SEAT term ending 9/30/2022. City Residency Not Required

Question applies to Utility Advisory Board

The Utility Advisory Board has 1 full term ending 3/3/2026. Residency NOT Required,

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**Do you claim any exemption to public record disclosure pursuant to FLA. STAT. Section 119?**

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☐ Yes ☒ No

Jonathan C Stephens

Review the text of FLA. STAT. Section 119 [HERE](#).

**If yes, it is required that you submit a detailed explanation of exemption. Upload additional documentation if necessary.**

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Consistent with Section 2-247 of the City Code, board and committee members can be removed from the board or committee for poor attendance.

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## Interests & Experiences

Question applies to Nature Centers Commission

### **Why are you interested in serving on the Nature Centers Commission?**

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The flora and fauna that inhabit the natural world are awe-striking to witness but also possess a fragility with the emergence of environmental deterioration. However, I believe that pragmatic policies which help to expand and address environmental choices/concerns can allow for these potentials of changes within our local environments to be mitigated and potentially reversed. I am passionate about serving within the Nature Centers Commission because I hope to develop recommendations in collaboration with numerous entities which allow for implementing newfound nature centers across the Gainesville community. I believe that these developments can help to preserve our environments across Gainesville but also allow for newfound amenity-like qualities to emerge which set Gainesville apart from other cities/locations. Furthermore, I also hope to support programming/events which help to bridge student leaders within the University of Florida and the Nature Centers Commission to create cohesion and cooperation between both entities.

Question applies to Utility Advisory Board

### **Why are you interested in serving on the Utility Advisory Board?**

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From the electric flow that powers our floodlights and rotisserie chicken lines to the sewage that flows below our feet, utility services intersect almost every facet of our daily lives. Furthermore, the importance of progressive and scientific-founded policies to best innovate and manage these systems are critical to the prosperity and tranquility across the greater Gainesville community. I hold a deep passion for serving on the Utility Advising Board because I would hope to deliver high-quality recommendations that would help support the rural and low-income utility accessibility and affordability, specifically those who are impacted by agricultural and environmental utility implications. Additionally, I would hope to provide my youth-constituent perspective to these deliberations so that the Board can possess the diversity and awareness to support constituencies like University of Florida students to the best of their ability.

Question applies to Nature Centers Commission

**How many terms have you served on this board or committee previously?**

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Members of the State Housing Initiatives Partnership must only serve three (3) terms per statute.

Question applies to Nature Centers Commission

**Are you applying for a student seat?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Have you been removed from any advisory board for attendance, behavior or another reason?**

☐ Yes ☒ No

**If you answered yes to the question above, please explain: (upload a file if needed)**

[JONATHAN C. STEPHENS -  
\\_ADVISORY\\_BOARD\\_MEMBERSHIP\\_RESUME.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Please upload a file

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## Demographics

**Ethnicity**

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☒ African American

**Gender**

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☒ Male

**Are you a City of Gainesville Employee?**

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☐ Yes ☒ No

**Are you a City of Gainesville Intern?**

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☐ Yes ☒ No

**Are you currently on a City Advisory Board/Committee?**

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☐ Yes ☒ No

**If yes, which Advisory Board/Committee?**

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# JONATHAN C. STEPHENS

APPLICANT - ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER (GAINESVILLE)

## CONTACT INFO

### PHONE NUMBER:

(407) 868-0898

### EMAIL:

jonathan.stephens3215@gmail.com

### ADDRESS:

1122 Priory Drive  
Winter Garden, FL  
34787

## CORE COMPETENCIES

- Negotiation/Compromise Strategies
- Data Analysis/Organization
- Digital Programming Design
- Strategic Events/Logistics Planning
- General Equipment Maintenance/Troubleshooting
- Educational Curriculum Writing
- Agricultural Industry/Systems
- Cohort Facilitation

## CERTIFICATIONS

- AEST Agritechnology Specialist (2017)
- AEST Agriculture Associates (2018)
- AEST Agriculture Systems Associates (2019)
- Food Handler Certification (2020)

## REFERENCES

### RACHAEL CRISWELL

Southern Hill Farms Manager  
Rachael@southernhillfarms.com  
(407) 506-4185

### WAYNE LONG

Publix Deli Assistant Manager -  
Store #1560  
Bryantdlong@gmail.com  
(352) 231-7405

## CAREER PROFILE

College student with two and a half years of experience in the food/agricultural industry utilizing customer service and food production skills to help expand the brand of established agritourism and grocery companies. Formerly apart of an ambassador internship which granted opportunities to influence and impact students and stakeholders within the agricultural industry across Florida.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Area IV State Vice-President

Florida FFA Association | 06/2020 - 06/2021

- Served as an ambassador for over 30,000 students within the Florida FFA Association.
- Coordinated with Florida FFA State Officer Team, Staff, and Board of Directors to plan/manage leadership event continuum, competitive events, business/industry visits, financial budget allocations, etc.
- Facilitated workshops/leadership programs for students within the youth organization.
- Communicated agricultural education current events/topics to general student body across state, working within an 32-person cohort that coordinate informative social media posts to over 700,000 students across the nation.

### Deli Clerk In-Charge

Publix | 06/2021 - Present

- Assists customers to deliver highest, most desirable product through utilizing wide knowledge of products, including but not limited to: sliced meats/cheeses, specialty platters/party trays, hot/fried food items, specialty subs/sandwiches, and other tertiary products.
- Focuses on committing to the Publix mission statement, heavily focusing on the "Intolerance to Waste" aspect through correctly providing exact proportions, following a strict FIFO procedure, and preparing near to exact amounts of products to reduce the potential of waste.
- Supports newfound associates through hands-on training/education within the department, training over 15 associates on proper equipment maintenance/safety, customer service practices, and many other interrelated associations.

### Sales Associate

Southern Hill Farms | 08/2020 - 06/2021

- Ensured a quality customer experience with unwavering professionalism and effective communication within a fast-paced environment, which helped to increase capacities to upwards of around 4,000 guests per day.
- Stayed up-to-date with wide line-up of produce and product knowledge, the inventory of stations, and farm standards to keep customers and management aware of changes and product abilities.
- Committed to flexibility in crop production changes over three seasons, supporting the first ever strawberry crop season/product development on the farm.
- Took full ownership of departmental positions, helping in numerous cases facilitate select departments in the absence of supervisors and managers.

## EXTRACURRICULAR/PHILANTHROPIC EXPERIENCE

### Past State Officer Representative

Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters Council

- Coordinates with Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters Council to support student experiences and build inroads with alumni and stakeholder engagement across the state of Florida, in order to best support agriculture and agriculture education practices.
- Serves as a liaison for student representation within the board, articulating student experiences and needs from the Alumni and Supporters Councils and creating scholarship programming which allows for students to gain conference/professional experiences for future career development.
- Collaborates with a diverse coalition with entities to produce diverse initiatives, from supporting future agricultural educators with unique scholarship programs to developing engaging auction programming to fundraise for future alumni and student developments

### General Volunteer

Field and Fork Pantry

- Restocking foodstuffs on shelves, prepping individual packages of around 55 lbs. worth of rolled oats and rice within an two-hour working shift
- Receives shipments/donations within the pantry, continuing to following food standard operating procedures.
- Contributes ideas/concept plans to staff from time-to-time to effectively organize and store foodstuffs efficiently, focusing heavily on categorical distribution of resources across the pantry (i.e. easy-prep foods vs. grains vs. canned fruits/vegetables)

## EDUCATION

### University of Florida

Double Major in Food Science & Agricultural Education/Communications  
02/2021 - Present  
3.93 GPA

### Windermere High School

High School Diploma (Completed) | 08/2017 - 06/2020  
Graduated in the top 10% of class