

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

September 13, 2018

1:00 PM

City Commission Special Meeting

Roberta Lisle Kline Room

City Commission

Mayor Lauren Poe (At Large)

Commissioner Helen Warren (At Large)

Commissioner Gail Johnson (At Large)

Commissioner Gigi Simmons (District 1)

Commissioner Harvey Ward (District 2)

Commissioner David Arreola (District 3)

Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Adrian Hayes-Santos (District 4)

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CALL TO ORDER - 1:00 PM**AGENDA STATEMENT****ROLL CALL**

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Ward

BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS**180336. Next Steps for the Gainesville CRA (B)**

Sarah Vidal-Finn made a presentation.

Brenda Durdin spoke to the matter.

Breakout at 1:35 PM.

Reconvene at 2:41 PM.

Commissioner Ward arrived at 2:53 PM.

Summary of Group Priorities:

Group #1 (Commissioner Simmons) Many communities don't have an identity. For example - Porters is surrounded by many districts, but neighborhoods go unnoticed - surrounded by major corridors. Create connectivity through neighborhoods, signage, entry/exits, with historical signage. Wayfinding signs would add to quality of life - i.e. Welcome to Duval, etc. Critical Home Repair Program - Layers of health/safety, reduce slum/blight. Use folks in workplace training within their own neighborhoods. Ambassador Program - Within CRA to mentor and incentivize entrepreneurship. Partner with the University of Florida and School of Business. Equity, quality of life, unemployment rate. Pop Up Stores - In empty locations downtown. Stop incentivizing - large development and managing property. Tailor a program for small business with employees.

Group #2 (Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Hayes-Santos) "Reimagine Programs" -

long-term sustainability of commercial districts - create Business Improvement District. Connect multi-modal areas/public spaces and revitalize. Share funds across all needed areas. Incentive Programs - rate to go after highest need. Economic Development - help build companies and keep growing companies here.

Group #3 (Mayor Poe) - Façade grants aren't transformational in terms of development. Stormwater problems - could this be creatively solved with creating of infinity loop. Affordable housing - top three priorities. All parts of organizations must play a role. See how the CRA can serve as the "Connective tissue" - Rebuilding Together, CWC, Habitat for Humanity, Gainesville Housing Authority, together, GRU. Business Improvement District - get all businesses to take ownership of the outcome - private/public.

Group #4 (Commissioner Arreola) - Affordable housing and policy changes to require those demolishing homes to replace with certain amount of affordable housing. Inclusionary zoning, destination projects, create specific designs for education/after school programs. Focus on the needs of the community. Activate "dead zones" - be it commercial/dead zones, activate for nonprofits. Public/private partnerships. Complete streets upgrading amenities on main corridors.

Group # 5 (Commissioner Johnson) - Redirect funds/resources to help affordable housing and a community food center, clinic, etc., especially on the eastside. Safety - adequate lighting, streetscaping. Public/private partnerships. Funding/financing - do it better. Regulated community engagement - do the work to get the real engagement needed in the community. Steps - use the least amount of money for the most good. Don't displace people already there in the neighborhoods.

Group # 6 (Commissioner Warren) - Good food, i.e. grocery stores in Eastside. Incentivize downtown locations to rent to small businesses. More residential support for homeowners/tenants - paint projects, paint the town, etc. Expand boundaries for CRA districts - 6th Street, Koppers, Grove Street area. Partners: CareerSource, GRU, Project Youthbuild, Santa Fe College, School Board and University of Florida.

Group #7 – Workplace Training (Ed Bielarski) – Power Academy, Workplace Training Institute, Co-housing-workforce housing. Rehabbing homes as a workforce - especially in 1200-1500 square-foot cinder block homes. CCC Programs for example. Partnerships for targeted industries at entry level - with Chamber of Commerce/Santa Fe College. No stops on current resources.

Kali Blount and Ken Cornell spoke to the matter.

Note: Add to the GPC agenda of October 11, 2018: 1) CRA discussion; and 2) ConnectFree Program

RECOMMENDATION

CRA Executive Director to the City Commission: Hear presentation and provide feedback.

ADJOURNMENT - 4:03 PM