



Legislation Text

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Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Plan (B)

This item provides the report and recommendations of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Plan, PRCA Vision 2020.

At the May 6, 2010 meeting, the City Commission approved the expenditure of funds for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) Department to contract with a Consultant to develop a Master Plan for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department.

The goal of this project was to develop a ten-year implementation plan for the various recommendations to serve the parks, recreation and cultural needs of Gainesville's citizens and create a framework for a well-balanced parks, recreation and cultural system for the City. The plan being presented is a twenty-year plan recognizing the economic challenges that exist in today's world.

The Master Plan included a community needs assessment, an inventory of existing park, recreation and cultural facilities, an assessment of recreation and cultural programs, maintenance operations, staffing and funding sources. Based on the analysis of this data, information and recommendations have been formulated for: 1) improvements to existing parks, 2) acquisition and development of new parks and recreation facilities, 3) acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands for nature parks, 4) recreation and cultural arts programming needs, 5) estimated operating cost impacts, and 6) funding options for implementation of the Master Plan.

The Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee heard numerous presentations over the past 24 months and have provided direction throughout the process. Over 1,500 citizens have participated in the process giving input through surveys, focus groups, interviews, community meetings and more. Representatives from the City Public Works Department and Community Redevelopment Agency participated in numerous meetings as did the Alachua County Visitor and Convention Bureau and Parks and Recreation Department. The following City Commission Advisory Boards have participated in several day-long workshops giving guidance and advice: 1) Nature Centers Commission; 2) Public Recreation and Park Board; 3) Gainesville/Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board; 4) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

This evening's presentation by staff and consultant provides an overview of the process, findings and recommendations and requests adoption of the Master Plan.

Funding for creation of the Master Plan is available in the Wild Spaces Public Places Program, utilizing a portion of the funds dedicated for the approved Priority 1 project, "Neighborhood Park Improvements Recreation Master Planning Development."

The City Commission: 1) adopt the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Plan; and, 2) direct staff to return to the City Commission at a later date with funding option scenarios.

Alternative Recommendation:

The City Commission not adopt the PRCA Master Plan and provide feedback and direction.