

## Equity Advisory Council

November 21, 2024

6:00 pm

County Administration Building - Grace Knight Conference Room

12 SE 1 Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville, FL 32601

Pages

1. **Call to Order**  
Members: Kali Blount, Yvette Carter, Gerie Crawford (Vice Chair), Nancy Dean, Jorelle Degen, Alena Lawson-Bennett, Ronald Rawls (Chair), and Frank White.
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
3. **Approval of Minutes** 1
4. **Sunshine Law Presentation - Courtney Wilson**
5. **Listening Session Discussion**
6. **Annual Workplan and Accomplishments Report** 4
7. **Member Comments**
8. **Public Comment**
9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjournment**

## Equity Advisory Board

Date: October 17, 2024  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Location: County Administration Building - Grace Knight Conference Room  
12 SE 1 Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville, FL 32601

### 1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Members Present: Kali Blount, Nancy Dean, Jorelle Degen, Ronald Rawls (Chair), and Frank White

Members Absent: Yvette Carter, Gerie Crawford (Vice Chair), and Alena Lawson-Bennett

### 2. **Welcome and Introduction of New Members - Jorelle Degen and Frank White**

Jorelle Degen and Frank White were welcomed and introduced.

### 3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Kali Blount made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Nancy Dean second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 4. **Approval of Minutes**

Nancy Dean made a motion to approve the September 19 minutes as presented; Kali Blount second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 5. **Comp Plan Review - Environment, Climate, and Energy**

Growth Management Director, Jeff Hays, reported staff are conducting an equity audit of the entire Comprehensive Plan. Environmental Justice is defined as, "no group of people, including those from marginalized, racial, ethnic, or socio-economic groups or persons with disabilities should disproportionately bear the cumulative, negative, social, or environmental consequences resulting from land use decisions. Principles of Environmental Justice recognize historically that the largest proportion of environmental burdens come from industrial development, energy production facilities, disposal of waste, and transportation systems and that these burdens often fall on the communities that are least able to withstand

the impacts of them (i.e. poor and marginalized communities). Environmental Justice is a principle and practice that emerged historically from people of color organizing to protect their environments, community rights, land, and health." .

The term "underserved" is used in the Comp Plan, but not in the Conservation and Open Space Element. Maps used do not currently include community demographics, nor do they target specific populations. The Element also doesn't focus on hazards to individuals. There may be room for policies, as it relates to inequity for populations living in flood plains and low lying wet areas, for example. Mr. Hays also brought up sustainability practices such as vehicle idling, alternative fuel, renewable energy production, and the Climate Action Plan.

Alison Moss, Transportation Planner, briefly discussed the "Safe Streets for All" plan and will share draft recommendations with the Equity Advisory Board for input.

Stephen Hofstetter, Environmental Protection Director, reported that \$15,000 rebates to replace septic tanks are available to contractors.

The Equity Audit, along with the Climate Action Plan, Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR), Safe Streets for All, and Bicycle Pedestrian Plan, will lead to amendments of the Comprehensive Plan in 2025.

## **6. Departmental Orientation**

### **6.1 Environmental Protection Department - Stephen Hofstetter**

Stephen Hofstetter, Environmental Protection Director, provided an overview of his department's mission, programs, and staffing including Land Conservation, Natural Resources, Petroleum Management, Hazardous Materials, Water Resources, and Sustainability and Resiliency.

His department handles three advisory boards including the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee, Land Conservation Board, and Citizen Climate Advisory Committee.

The demographic make up of the department will be nearly 50/50 male/female with the addition of the Sustainability and Resiliency division. Staff are 84% white and 16% a mix of Asian, Black, Hispanic, and other.

Discussion ensued regarding water usage/quality, rebate programs, marketing efforts, east side wetlands, and superfund sites.

A Climate Summit is scheduled for Nov. 16 from 9 am - 4 pm at the Blount Center.

**7. New Business**

**7.1 Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments Report**

This item was deferred until the November meeting.

**8. Member Comments**

The consensus was that the

- November agenda will focus on the Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments Report, Listening Sessions, and Sunshine Law presentation
- January agenda will include a Human Resources/Equal Opportunity presentation
- February agenda will include a Communications presentation

**9. Public Comment**

None

**10. Announcements**

None

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Equity Advisory Board  
Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments Report: 2024

Chair: Ronald Rawls

Board Liaison: Gina Peebles

Brief History of Board: The Equity Advisory Board was established by Resolution 20-105 on September 22, 2020.

**Responsibilities and Duties:**

The Equity Advisory Board (EAB) assists the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners to:

1. establish an annual work program for the Equity Advisory Board
2. assist and advise the County on equity action plans.
3. collaborate with Alachua County Staff Core Team on citizen participatory research related to organization and departmental equity plans and processes.
4. assist the County in reviewing policies, programs, and services for racial and gender bias, and make recommendations to the County on means for eliminating such bias.
5. engage with other County committees, relevant stakeholders, agencies, non-profits, and communities related to equity.
6. ensure that input from neighborhoods and communities that are most impacted or disadvantaged by racial and social inequity is included in the development of policy recommendations and the design and delivery of County programs and services.

**Accomplishments:**

- Held meetings on Jan. 11, Feb. 15, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16, Jun. 20, Jul. 18, Aug. 15, and Sep. 19, 2024.
- Received presentations from: Community and Strategic Initiatives; Public Works, Growth Management, Solid Waste, and Codes Administration; Community & Administrative Services; and Fire Rescue.
- Developed the Equity Audit Tool and evaluated the Housing Element of the Comp Plan.
- Presented the EAB's first workplan to the Board of County Commissioners on May 14, 2024.

**Goals:**

- Receive presentations from Environmental Protection; Equal Opportunity; Human Resources; and Communications.
- Fill full and two alternate member vacancies.
- Review and provide feedback for Inclusionary Housing policies.