

Infrastructure Surtax Citizen Oversight Board

Date: September 25, 2023
Time: 5:30 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 5:31 p.m.

Alachua County Members Present: BJ Bukata, Jill Cunningham, Eric Drummond (Vice-Chair), and Steve Howard

City of Gainesville Members Present: David Ruiz (Chair)

Incorporated Cities (not Gainesville) Members Present: Megan Forbes

Members Absent: Kaitlyn Dickson and Thomas Hewlett

Staff Present: Gina Peebles

Other Municipal Staff Present: Betsy Waite, Deborah Leistner, Phil Mann, and Jesus Gomez

Outside Counsel: Patrice Boyes

2. Approval of the Agenda

Eric Drummond made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; BJ Bukata second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Eric Drummond made a motion to approve the July 24 minutes as presented; BJ Bukata second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

4. Review of the 2022 Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments

Ms. Peebles will ask the County Commission if the Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments is required since the Oversight Board's adopted Resolution requires quarterly updates to the Board.

5. Annual Audit Certifications (Oct. 1, 2021 - Sep. 30, 2022)

Attestations were received from all cities except High Springs which is expected in October and will be presented at our next meeting.

6. Review of Quarterly Wild Spaces Public Places Municipal / County Expenditures for 3rd Qtr. (Apr., May, Jun. 2023)

The Oversight Board briefly discussed reporting by project, or by expenditure. Ms. Peebles stated that current reports include actual expenditures made during the quarter.

6.1 Alachua County

Eric Drummond made a motion to approve the quarterly Alachua County report as presented; BJ Bukata seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.2 Alachua

Eric Drummond made a motion to approve the quarterly Alachua report as presented; BJ Bukata seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.3 Archer

Megan Forbes made a motion to approve the quarterly Archer report as presented; Jill Cunningham seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.4 Gainesville

Mr. Drummond questioned the Hippodrome improvements, specifically, improvements that primarily benefit a tenant. Discussion ensued. The consensus was that the improvements were appropriate as the general public can use and enjoy improvements made at the Hippodrome. BJ Bukata made a motion to approve the quarterly Gainesville report as presented; Steve Howard seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.5 Hawthorne

Megan Forbes made a motion to approve the quarterly Hawthorne report as presented; Jill Cunningham seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.6 High Springs

The Oversight Board requested more information on the \$38,898 in Salary & Benefits of Staff maintaining Parks (is it for Wild Spaces Public Places

specific projects or a General Fund offset?) What is the Old School (is it a parks and recreation facility?)

6.7 LaCrosse

Megan Forbes made a motion to approve the quarterly LaCrosse report as presented; Jill Cunningham seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.8 Micanopy

Megan Forbes made a motion to approve the quarterly Micanopy report as presented; BJ Bukata seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.9 Newberry

Jill Cunningham made a motion to approve the quarterly Newberry report as presented; Eric Drummond seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6.10 Waldo

Megan Forbes made a motion to approve the quarterly Waldo report as presented; Jill Cunningham seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

7. Review of Quarterly Infrastructure Municipal / County Expenditures for 3rd Qtr. (Apr., May, Jun. 2023)

BJ Bukata made a motion to approve the quarterly reports for all cities and the County as presented; Jill Cunningham seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

7.1 Alachua County

7.2 Alachua

7.3 Archer

7.4 Gainesville

7.5 Hawthorne

7.6 High Springs

7.7 LaCrosse

7.8 Micanopy

7.9 Newberry

7.10 Waldo

8. Opportunities to Enhance Direct Access to Park Facilities for Adjacent Neighborhoods - Andrew Persons

The City of Gainesville requested pre-expenditure approval for safe pedestrian access to 27 existing parks (crosswalks, sidewalk access, ADA ramps, etc.) to ensure the improvements would be Wild Spaces Public Places eligible. The consensus was for the City to prioritize the list and provide concept plan(s) and a rationale to allow the Oversight Board to visualize the intent. This will be re-considered at a future meeting.

9. Other Business

Ms. Boyes reviewed her July 28, 2023 memo she provided regarding (1) the City of Alachua's request to make improvements to Alachua Elementary would require a new agreement and (2) new surtax funding cannot be used for operations and maintenance for old surtax funded projects (and visa versa) as the two cannot be comingled.

Ms. Waite requested clarification on quarterly revenue reports. The consensus was that the reports should include actual revenues dispersed by the State and received by the jurisdiction during the quarter.

Both Megan Forbes and BJ Bukata reported that tonight is their last meeting as they are not seeking re-appointment.

Jill Cunningham reported that Parker Park, a joint City of Gainesville and School Board project, is often locked and that the public should have access to the park when the school children are not present. The City of Gainesville concurred and will follow up.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Date/Time/Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Oct. 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Grace Knight Conference Room.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.