

Infrastructure Surtax Citizen Oversight Board

Date: October 23, 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 5:30 p.m.

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

City of Gainesville Members Present: David Ruiz (Chair)

Incorporated Cities (not Gainesville) Members Present: N/A

Members Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Gina Peebles

Other Municipal Staff Present: Debbie Leistner, Phil Mann, Andrew Persons, and Betsy Waite

Outside Counsel: Patrice Boyes

2. Approval of the Agenda

Jill Cunningham made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Steve Howard second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Jill Cunningham made a motion to approve the September 27 minutes as presented; Steve Howard second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

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

4.1 High Springs

At our September 25 meeting, the Oversight Board requested more information on the \$38,898 in Salary & Benefits of Staff maintaining Parks and clarification for the Old School. The High Springs City Manager

provided an email response explaining the Old School is a recreation facility and additional background on their salaries. The consensus of the Oversight Board was to request additional information on the breakdown of salaries (for example, the percentage of General Fund vs. surtax split). This item will be tabled until our January meeting.

5. Opportunities to Enhance Direct Access to Park Facilities for Adjacent Neighborhoods

At our September 25 meeting the consensus of the Oversight Board was for the City of Gainesville to prioritize their list of proposed park access projects with concept plan(s) and a rationale to allow the Oversight Board to visualize their intent. Ms. Leistner presented the City's plans and priority list for nine projects. Mr. Persons stated that Wild Spaces Public Places is the only available funding source to ensure these pedestrian improvements are completed, as there are too many infrastructure projects for them to compete well.

Eric Drummond made a motion that, as a pre-expenditure review, the proposed park interconnection/roadway crossings are apparently eligible with the understanding that they directly connect to a park project and are subject to the selection criteria provided by the City; Jill Cunningham second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

6. Other Business

Ms. Cunningham reported that the gates for Parker are often (if not always) locked. As a City of Gainesville/School Board partnership project, the expectation is that the property is available to the public after school hours. The posted signs provide public hours and she proposed removing the locks altogether. Ms. Waite offered to again follow up.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Date/Time/Location of Next Meeting

The Oversight Board will meet next on Monday, January 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the Grace Knight Conference Room.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.