



ALACHUA COUNTY Citizen Climate Advisory Committee

408 W University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32601
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**Officers: Chair Jennison Kipp Searcy
Secretary Sage Cera**
**Staff Liaisons: Stephen Hofstetter (County)
Dan Zhu/Jennie Ford (City of Gainesville)
Eric Walters (GRU)**

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2024 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Grace Knight Conference Room
12 SE 1st Street, Second Floor Gainesville,
Florida 32601

1. Call to Order – Attendance and Determination of Quorum – 6:04pm
Members: In person -- Kathryn Taubert, Sage Cera, Jackie Davis, John Nix, John Lawson, and Barry Jacobson; Pamela Hawkins (online)
Staff: Corbin Hanson (CAO), Stephen Hofstetter (EPD), Betsy Riley, Jennie Ford (City) Dan Zhu (City), Sofia Aviles (EPD), Mike Castine (GM) and Sean McLendon (SEEDS)
Guests: Kali Blount, Ellen Siegel, and Natalie (Last name?) from climate reality.
2. Approval of Agenda—Motion by Kathryn, seconded by Barry. Approved 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes from the May, June, July 2024, and August 2024 regular meetings — Motion by Jackie, seconded by Kathryn. Approved 6-0.
4. Introduction and welcome to new members in attendance – John Lawson, Barry Jacobson, and Pamela Hopkins
5. Presentation on Sunshine Law by Corbin Hanson, County Attorney’s Office
 - a. Government should be transparent
 - a) Agendas, Public buildings, notices of meetings
 - b. Discussions that relate to committee business must be held in public
 - a) Publicly accessible meeting
 - b) Agenda is not required for a sunshine meeting, but they are helpful for keeping meeting in line
 - c) Call for public comments
 - c. Limitations of sunshine law:
 - a) Cannot discuss things that may come up to the committee with other members outside of the meetings
 - d. Be cautious and aware of sunshine law obligations
 - a) Especially be careful with discussions before and after meetings
 - These should not be climate related until the meeting is in session
 - b) The first person to speak is not the violator, the second person creates the dialogue.
 - e. Communications with Steve or other county or city staff are considered public record

- f. Florida has a very broad public records law. Information starts from the point of being a public record, and we are unlikely to encounter any exceptions
 - g. Voting conflicts: If you are in a meeting, you are obligated to vote
 - a) The exception is if there is a “special private gain or loss” of a financial nature that is reasonably likely to happen
 - b) The reason for not voting will be noted in the minutes
 - h. If in doubt, contact your liaison or the County Attorney’s Office
6. Presentation on EcoLoop Projects (Sean McLendon – Economic Development and Food systems)
- a. Goal is to bring sustainable waste-based industries to Gainesville
 - b. Previously, we talked about:
 - a) GreenEdge technologies: renewable natural gas, organic fertilizers
 - b) Sunshine Compost: compost, biochar
 - c) GreenEdge dropped out due to competition
 - c. We were getting close to a deal with Sunshine, but the airport authority informed us that FAA regulations do not allow composting facilities within 10,000 ft of an airport
 - a) The worry is that compost will act as an attraction for birds, which will be problematic for airplanes.
 - This is considered not true for modern composting operations, but FAA regulations still consider it an issue
 - d. Staff is still working with Sunshine Compost, but ecoLoop will not work
 - e. What options should staff pursue for the ecoLoop site?
 - a) Aviation, semiconductors, high tech, etc.
 - f. Barry Jacobson moves to recommend that potential businesses at ecoLoop be expanded to include a variety of clean businesses, ranked according to staff’s assessment of environmental and climate impact. Kathryn seconded, Approved 6-0
- 6 Staff updates –
- 6.1 Stephen Hofstetter (County): Discussed annual report, will give a brief update to CCAC and get first draft of CAP at next meeting. Summit is at Blount Center and invites will be going out in a few weeks.
- 7.2 Dan Zhu (City):
- a) planning a public review for draft climate action plan this coming Wednesday Sep 18th from noon to 1 at the GPD facility on the corner of 6th and 8th
 - Will focus on green transit, green purchasing, zero waste, heat mitigation, food insecurity, equitable community engagement, and smart technology
 - b) Grants: LEED for cities application, Critical infrastructure plan funding from FDEP, Anaerobic digestion feasibility study, Low emission RTS grant for hybrid busses, EPA video challenge (3rd place!)
- 7 Suggest items for October regular meeting:
- 7.3 Select new officers
 - 7.4 First look at draft CAP
 - 7.5 Approve Annual report
- 8 Member recap, action items and member comments – Sage gave a recap of highlights of the meeting.
- 9 Public comments – Kali Blount -
- a) Publicizing the summit: Have the environmental ambassadors talk
 - b) EcoLoop: Push for a tiny homes assembly plant to meet housing needs

- c) Use our recommendations to push for permeable pavement, green roofs, rooftop solar, etc. from the county commission.

Ellen Siegel -

- a) Seconding pavement and roofs comments
- b) Biochar for ecoloop? Does this still run afoul of FAA
- c) Reverse Tashlich – interfaith ceremony on Sep 29th
 - Collect litter out of water
 - Steve may forward info about this event

10 Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm