



ALACHUA COUNTY Citizen Climate Advisory Committee

408 W University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32601
Tel: (352) 264-6800 Fax (352) 264-6852

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

August 19, 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 – There was not a quorum, the meeting was called to started at 6:03pm
Members: In person -- Kathryn Taubert, Sage Cera, and Jennison Kipp Searcy; Jackie David (Zoom only); and John Nix and James Fulton Absent
Staff: Sean McLendon (SEEDS), Stephen Hofstetter (EPD), Jennie Ford (City) Dan Zhu (City), Sofia Aviles (EPD), Taissja Moore (SEEDS), and Lara Colley (Crisis Center)
Guests: Matt Williams, Ellen Siegel, and Jyoti Parmar and three additional unidentified individuals all on zoom.
2. Approval of Agenda—No motion. Meeting continued as a Workshop with existing members agreeing to have the scheduled presentations given by staff.
3. Approval of Minutes from the May, June, and July 2024, regular meetings — No Motion made.
4. Follow up and recommendations from last meeting presentations – Not discussed
5. Presentation on climate and mental health (Lara Colley, Crisis Center)
 - 5.1 Lara has knowledge of the overlap between climate change and mental health
 - 5.2 Climate change has acute, chronic, and indirect effects on mental health
 - a) Eco-anxiety/climate anxiety
 - b) Higher rates of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and ASD (Acute Stress Disorder)
 - c) Higher rates of domestic violence/aggression
 - 5.3 Crisis Center offers short/long term counseling
 - a) Operate 988 phone lines and mobile response
 - b) Operate 311 during natural disasters to address community concerns
 - c) 80-hour crisis intervention training - offered 3x per year
 - d) Work closely with social services
 - e) Have 20 staff and approx. 150 volunteers that cover the phone lines 24/7/365
 - 5.4 In the future:
 - a) provide ongoing training on effects of climate change
 - b) provide resources on the effects of climate change

- c) hold an in-service for volunteers to learn about coping with climate change
 - d) counselors using evidence-based treatment interventions related to climate change
 - e) Train some staff on climate therapy techniques through workshops and other short trainings as they are available
 - f) Train additional staff in FCRT (Florida crisis response team)/NOVA (National organization of victim's assistance)
 - g) Hire a member with expertise in climate change and mental health
- 5.5 Alachua county crisis center
- a) Crisis Lines
(352)264-6789 (Direct)
988 (Suicide and Crisis Lifeline)

6. Presentation on food security and related initiatives (Sean McLendon – Economic Development and Food systems)

6.1 Alachua County's Food System

- a) not just the farmer and consumer, but also all sorts of other things
 - marketing, aggregation, distribution
 - Is food distribution equitable? Should petrochemical fertilizers etc be used?
- b) Good Food Purchase Program
 - For large food purchasers (such as schools, hospitals, jails, etc) to audit their food supply to improve their supply chain

6.2 Challenges: current and future

- a) Current: Low nutrition/hunger, economic disparity, waste, conglomeration/market barriers, too big to fail, aging farmers, weather, access to capital, regulatory barriers
- b) What do we do about: Loss of farmland, increasing capital costs, tech gaps and requirements, disconnect between environmental/social/economic outcomes, meaningful community engagement
- c) Future: Climate change impacts or resilience, Soil loss or organics rejuvenation, policy disconnects or bridges, infrastructure gaps or integration, people and production removed or engaged

6.3 Small farmer grants

- a) 51.4% increase in applications
- b) to be used for capital purchases (equipment/facilities)
 - <\$5000
 - used on equipment, building improvement, fencing, and irrigation

6.4 Oxford released a study titled "The Economics of Food System Transformation"

- a) Sean recommends that we check this out
- b) https://foodsystemeconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/FSEC-Global_Policy_Report.pdf

7 Staff updates –

7.1 Stephen Hofstetter (County): The August 5th JWCPB meeting was canceled so the next meeting is scheduled for September 9th and the Board will be selecting new CCAC members and receiving presentations on Water, Energy and Transportation from City and County staff.

7.2 Dan Zhu (City): Presentations on Climate action plan update – Food system plan

- 4 major objectives
 - Healthy bites for all
 - food to school
 - expand community gardens
 - expand food bank access
 - Waste not, Want lots
 - food waste reduction initiatives
 - Grow and Show

- educational initiatives
- integrating urban agriculture in city planning
- Economy and Gastronomy
 - Foster community gardening and promote local food/farmers markets

Climate action plan update – Transportation presentation:

- RTS busses
 - 118 busses (4 electric + 5 hybrid = 7.6%)
 - goal 2045 = 80% low or 0 emission RTS fleet
- RTS light duty
 - 36 light duty – 8 hybrids
 - 100% by 2045
- General fleet
 - 1080 vehicles (11 EV+20 hybrid)
- Charge infrastructure
 - 3 levels:
 - level 1 = 120V ==> 1-2 days
 - level 2 = 240V ==> 4-6 hours
 - level 3 = DC fast charging 480V ==> 20-50 min
 - 80% of charge infrastructure are level 2, and half are free
 - Need 600+ level 2 to cover expected EV loads by 2030
- Nothing in plan regarding bus rapid transit (BRT) or similar plans

7.3 No GRU updates – Dan stated that there is still ongoing collaboration with staff on grants and other projects

8 Suggest items for October regular meeting:

- 8.3 Onboarding of new members
- 8.4 Sunshine law presentation
- 8.5 Drafting Annual report

9 Member recap, action items and member comments – Sage gave a recap of highlights of the meeting, there were no action items and member comments.

10 Public comments – Ellen Siegel considered the meeting thoroughly educational and recommended that the video of today's meeting be provided to the new members and any citizens interested in watching.

11 Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm