

Equity Advisory Board

Date: November 21, 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 6:03 p.m.

Members Present: Kali Blount, Yvette Carter, Gerie Crawford (Vice Chair), Nancy Dean, Jorelle Degan, Alena Lawson-Bennett, and Frank White

Members Absent: Ronald Rawls (Chair)

Yvette Carter made a motion to allow Vice Chair Crawford to participate remotely due to extenuating circumstances; Alena Lawson-Bennett second; unanimous approval; motion approved.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Alena Lawson-Bennett made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Nancy Dean second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Nancy Dean made a motion to approve the October 17 minutes as presented; Yvette Carter second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

4. Sunshine Law Presentation - Courtney Wilson

Assistant County Attorney, Courtney Wilson, provided an overview of the Sunshine Law. Equity Advisory Board meetings must be open to the public, be reasonably noticed, minutes taken, and the public afforded the opportunity to provide comment. Equity Advisory Board members may only discuss topics that could reasonably come before the Board at noticed public meetings. Documents related to the Board are subject to Public Records Requests. Staff are always happy to answer questions and are here to assist you.

5. Listening Session Discussion

The Board had previously discussed hosting Listening Sessions to hear what equity issues the community desires to have addressed. The meetings were to be held in all cities and outlying areas. It was suggested that the first meeting be held at Chair Rawls church. Staff will check with him to see if that is a viable option.

Several discussion topics to consider are Zoning and the Enterprise Zone Designation.

Future Board meeting topics include Human Resources, Equal Opportunity (including language translation services) and Communications.

6. Annual Workplan and Accomplishments Report

The consensus was to approve the report with the inclusion of "topics for listening sessions" as a goal.

7. Member Comments

Chief Theus invited Board members to the "Let's Talk - How to have a conversation with someone who is different than you" session when he presented in September. The most recent session included 30 new hires (7 white females and 2 African American males). It is held twice annually. Staff will reach out to Chief Theus to determine when the next session will be held so interested Board members can plan to attend.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Announcements

The City of Gainesville's "A Very GNV Holiday Parade" will be held on Dec. 7 at noon. Shaquille O'Neal is the Grand Marshall.

A History of Kwanzaa at A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center will be held on Dec. 27 at 7 p.m.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.