

Equity Advisory Board

Date: April 17, 2025
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 6:00 PM.

Members Present: Kali Blount, Gerie Crawford, Nancy Dean, Jorelle Degen, Ronald Rawls (Chair), Maritza Quiroga Arcos and Frank White (Vice Chair).

Members Absent: Alena Lawson-Bennett, Yvette Carter.

Staff Present: Heather Akpan, Nephtali Dzubin, Ivy Bell, Camisha Alexis, Courtney Wilson

2. Approval of the Agenda

Gerie Crawford made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Frank White second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Gerie Crawford made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Nancy Dean second, all unanimous; motion carried.

4. Name of the Equity Advisory Board

The conversation of a name change for the Equity Advisory Board was initiated by Heather Akpan. Currently, there is no directive or requirement by the County Commission to change the name.

Ronald Rawls cited the Equity Resolution 20-105, which states that the County officially acknowledges the existence of potential racial and gender bias in County policies and the delivery of programs and services. In this acknowledgement, the County seeks to address disparities within county policies and delivery of programs and services to treat all citizens fairly. Social equity is a goal within the land use principle and is defined as a principle of fairness.

The group discussed the impacts of a name change for the Equity Advisory Board and shared some potential names, such as fairness. Then, the group came to a consensus for the Equity Advisory Board to keep its name unless directed otherwise by County Commission.

Gerie Crawford moved for the Equity Advisory Board to maintain its name as it currently stands, Nancy Dean second the motion, all unanimous; motion carried.

5. Equity Audit of the Comprehensive Plan

Growth Management has presented to the Equity Advisory Board meetings for the past several meetings, primarily on issues on the Comprehensive Plan. The initiative began with the Friendship Seven Committee, a study that the County Commissioners commissioned, which included the University of Florida and Alachua County School Board. The study identified disparities based on race, socioeconomics, ability, among other factors. The Board of County Commissioners directed its staff to incorporate findings from in County documents and services. This led to the hiring of the Equity Advisory manager and establishing of the Equity Advisory Board.

The Comprehensive Plan is a guide for how property is developed. The Equity Audit Tool is a tool to audit how disparities are being addressed.

8 elements out of 16 have been completed. The intent of the comprehensive plan cycle has been submitted to the State of Florida.

Recreation Element

The Equity Advisory Board reviewed the recreation element and its seven questions and responses provided by the Growth Management Department. The Master Plan addresses demographic and geographic analysis, as well as placement of parks and recreation facilities in areas of greatest need, but the Master Plan needs to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. Community engagement meetings help to identify new parks and park improvement projects within underserved areas of the county.

The Historic Resources Element, Public Schools Element, Community Health Element, and Public School Facilities Element were tabled for the next meeting.

6. Member Comments

Chairman Ronald Rawls shared comments about the attendance policy for advisory boards and committees. The Equity Advisory Board wishes to bring recommendations for changing the Advisory Board and Committee Guidelines on attendance to the Board of County Commissioners. They recommended a virtual

option for extenuating circumstances and for regular attendance to be counted as present so long as members do not count for quorum while attending virtually. They also suggested 2 automatic excused absences in a year and for absences to count as excused when voted on by the respective advisory board or committee.

Staff members will direct questions on attendance and excused absences to the County Manager.

7. Public Comment

8. Announcements

Kali Blount shared an advertisement for a jazz event on Friday, 4/18 on Cypress and Grove.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.