



ALACHUA COUNTY Citizen Climate Advisory Committee

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**Officers: Chair Jennison Kipp Searcy
Vice Chair Barry Jacobson
Secretary Sage Cera**

**Staff Liaisons: Stephen Hofstetter (County)
Dan Zhu/Jennie Ford (City of Gainesville)**

MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 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 – 6:03pm
Members: In person – Jennison Kipp Searcy, Kathryn Taubert, Sage Cera, Jackie Davis, John Lawson, Terry Clark, Pamela Hawkins, John Nix (Barry Jacobson absent)
Staff: Stephen Hofstetter (EPD), Jennie Ford (City) Dan Zhu (City), Betsy Riley (EPD), Mike Castine (GM), Gail Mowry (City, on zoom)
Guests: Sachi Mulkey, Victor Animos, on Zoom: Ellen Siegel, Mo (last name?), Andy (last name?), Jacob Ville, Jyoti Parmar, Mark van Soestbergen
2. Approval of Agenda—Motion to approve by Jackie Davis, seconded by John Lawson. Approved 7-0. Pamela showed up after agenda was approved.
3. Approval of Minutes from the October 21, 2024 regular meetings — Motion by John Nix, seconded by John L. Approved 8-0.
4. Staff updates –
Stephen Hofstetter (County): Climate specialist position has 22 applicants. Hope to have the person start in January.

Dan Zhu (City): Climate resiliency plan for CoG community engagement at Alachua County library. Will be presented the plan at the December 2nd JWCPB meeting

GRU - Steve stated we may get a representative coming back at December meeting
5. Review and approve annual report objectives and goals (Goes to county commission Dec 10)
Jackie moves, Terry seconded, Approved 8-0
6. Discuss outcomes of Nov 16th County Climate Summit
 - a) John Nix commends the team approach
 - b) Jackie said the keynotes were excellent
 - c) Terry said the chairs were comfortable, presentations were good, small breakout groups were good, turnout was good, food was good, organized well Overall excellent
 - d) Pamela: very inclusive: youth, various communities, etc
 - e) John Nix suggests that we should get teachers involved; engage them during process

- a) Kathryn: Suggests using bite sized pieces targeted toward specific groups
 - f) Steve: we do a lot of environmental education outreach
 - a) Because it was called a climate event, schools were not allowed to participate
 - b) Pamela picked it up in a different way to get word out regardless
 - g) Jennison loved the intergenerational component of the climate summit
 - h) Jennison: Is it possible to have 16-18 yr olds on CCAC committee?
 - i) Jackie suggests that we ask JWCPB to add a youth position to the CCAC
 - a) Steve suggests that the age limit be raised to 21
 - As well as a 1 yr position
 - Perhaps as a non-voting member if they are too young
 - b) Pamela suggests perhaps a youth ambassador position
 - c) Move to request that JWCPB add a non-voting youth ambassador position to the CCAC
 - John Nix moves, Kathryn seconded
 - Approved 8-0
 - j) Jackie suggested that Carl Smart is a good source for identifying leaders in rural committees
 - k) Steve – Next year, we plan to have another summit, with the CAP plan getting adopted at the summit
 - a) Essentially a celebration of the adoption of the CAP
 - b) The goal is to eventually develop a regional plan for north central Florida
 - l) Terry – Will we see the input from the climate summit to review?
 - a) Steve – Plan to provide those for December meeting, as CAP chapters will not yet be ready
 - m) Jennison – Were presentations recorded?
 - a) There was an attempt to record as much as possible of the event
 - n) Kathryn – can we use any of the slides for community outreach?
 - a) Steve will ask to see what we can share
 - o) Steve thought it went really well!
 - a) He helped coordinate the team that put everything together
7. Hear presentation from City of Gainesville Climate Action Plan (Dr. Dan Zhu)
- a) The city is shooting for Net zero GHG by 2045 and Zero waste by 2040
 - b) The city has performed a greenhouse gas inventory and a vulnerability assessment
 - c) Plan focuses on mitigation and adaptation
 - a) Mitigation: transportation:
 - By 2025: at least 10 electric/hybrid busses
 - Expansion of charging infrastructure is important part of plan so that we can accept a significant amount more EVs
 - b) Mitigation: Water and energy
 - LEEP plus program to help with efficiency improvements
 - c) Mitigation: Waste
 - Several single use plastics limits
 - Grocery stores must donate foods that are past best-by date to food banks
 - If unsuited for humans, it will be fed to livestock
 - If unsuited for livestock: use for composting or anaerobic digestion
 - d) Adaptation: heat
 - Warning systems, home cooling, public cooling
 - Public cooling: cooling centers and tree coverage
 - e) Adaptation: Food security
 - Healthy bites for all - farm to school program
 - Waste not, Want lots - reduce food waste

- Grow and show - Food production on private property
 - Promote local farmers market
- f) Adaptation: Smart tech
- Smart lighting for streets
 - Autonomous vehicle
 - Smart bench with solar and wifi
 - Smart trash cans - Communicate trash fullness to pickup team
 - Digital tree inventory
- d) Kathryn: Is there any enforcement for restaurant zero waste?
- a) No, it's all education
- e) Terry: Is there an implementation strategy for this plan?
- a) A lot of collaboration with other departments
- b) Progress is tracked by staff with a biannual schedule
- f) Jackie: How is farmer's market helped?
- a) Help is through advertising for farmers markets
- g) Pamela: Are restaurants subject to food waste restrictions?
- a) City is currently working on restaurant issue
- b) Some pizza places around town donate leftover pizzas
- h) Jackie: Is community composting going to expand? Yes
- i) Jackie: We lost Sunshine Organics at ecoloop, is there any further industrial composting efforts? Betsy: We are still looking for a location for Sunshine
- j) Kathryn: What is the source of the community gardens
- a) Owned by city, run by neighborhood
- k) Terry: Have you considered how plan will be adopted by city commission; How forceful will the implementation be? City will need to adopt it.
- l) Jackie: are flooding and water use part of the plan?
- a) Water quality and usage is in the plan
- b) Flooding is under control of FDEP
- c) GRU is under a consumptive use permit, so they may seek to expand that. If the water management district allows it.
- m) Jennison: How much direct coordination with other municipalities are you getting?
- a) There is a bi-weekly check-in meetings with county
- b) There are several ongoing projects with GRU that require weekly check-ins
- c) There are monthly check-ins with various governments
8. Suggest items for December regular meeting:
- Review comments and suggestions summit event
 - Finalize strategy to review County CAP Chapters over the few meetings
9. Member recap, action items and member comments – Sage gave a recap of highlights of the meeting.
10. Public comments –
- Victor Animos - What is the general infrastructure required to run and maintain a city like Gainesville? How many people does it take to maintain critical infrastructure like power, water, telecom, etc.?
- Dan: smart tech improves work efficiency using data. We don't necessarily have info tonight
 - County budget book has info about salary and staffing info
- Ellen Siegel – Great meeting, and summit was sensational!
11. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm