



Citizen Climate Advisory Committee

Officers: Chair Barry Jacobson
Vice Chair John Nix
Secretary Sage Cera
Staff Liaisons: Jennison Kipp &
Stephen Hofstetter (County)
Dan Zhu & Jennie Ford (City of
Gainesville)

MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2025 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Grace Knight Conference Room
12 SE 1st Street, 2nd Floor,
Gainesville, Florida 32601

1. Call to Order 6:05pm – Attendance and Determination of Quorum: No Quorum
Members: In person – John Nix, John Lawson, Sage Cera, Pamela Hawkins; Absent – Barry Jacobson, Kathryn Taubert, Terry Clark, and Jackie Davis
Staff: In person – Jennison Kipp (EPD), Betsy Riley (EPD), Dan Zhu (City), Jennie Ford (City), Mike Castine (GM), David Cohen (City), Summer Waters (EPD), Lara Colley (CSS); Via Zoom: Lalit Lalwani (PW), Sean McLendon (TED); Absent – Stephen Hofstetter (EPD); Jaime Verschage (GRU)
Guests: In-Person: Mateusz Buszko; Via Zoom: David Hastings, Sandy Vardaman
2. Approval of Agenda: No Quorum.
3. Approval of February 17, 2025 regular meeting minutes. No Quorum; will approve at next meeting April 28th.
4. Staff updates –
 - Betsy Riley and Jennison Kipp (County): County has launched “Routes to Roots” program to offset carbon emissions from tourism; allows attendees to contribute to a county tree planting program. April 2nd event at Matheson Museum: 30-minute film premiere about Alachua County residents’ response/opinion on climate change, includes facilitated discussion for feedback on CAP. Update on CCAC timeline and events including Jennison coordination with CCAC members on CAP, draft resolution on youth and alternate member positions; communication with Joint Water and Climate Policy Board (JWCPB) on CAP progress.
 - Jennie Ford (City): City is launching their zero waste campaign; vulnerability assessment has been completed; summary of several outreach events and efforts to engage residents with resiliency action plan including issues of energy, water, and waste; next activity will be a tour of Cape Canaveral. Continuing to make connections with interested citizens and working on implementing resiliency adaptation plan.
 - GRU - Jennison read information provided by Jamie Verschage (GRU) that included: Still no update on the DOE grid resilience grant that GRU was to receive; still hopeful that the funding will be approved. GRU’s low-income energy efficiency (LEEP plus) program is almost at capacity; interested applicants should apply as soon as possible on GRU.com. The American Public Power Association recently awarded GRU its RP3 Diamond designation, recognizing the

utility's commitment to reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement. This is the third time GRU has received this award, the association's highest honor.

5. Review of the Flooding Management & Infrastructure Chapter of Climate Action Plan (CAP). Summary by Lalit Lalwani. Comments and questions were received from members including clarifying terminology and eliminating jargon, hardening major roadways to reduce flooding vulnerability, addressing flood management opportunities from the beginning of the development process through to the end (existing neighborhoods and infrastructure); limiting percent of developable land in floodplains; flood mitigation and stormwater retention vs. detention options; expanding scope of chapter to include flooding effects on most vulnerable populations' health (e.g., maternal and childhood health); including/highlighting other communities' solutions and case studies as proof of concept for flooding resilience.
6. Review of the Heat & Mental Health Chapter of CAP – summary by Lara Colley. Comments and discussion from members including: clearly highlighting links between heat and mental health, detailing how extensive the mental health effects of climate change impacts are (violence, substance abuse, etc.); expanding scope to include physical health impacts of heat extremes; creative ways to communicate data on healthy vs. adverse responses to heat (e.g., through art); local resources available that specifically address climate impacts on youth and build resilience.
7. Review of the Agriculture & Food Security Chapter of CAP – summary by Sean McLendon. Comments and discussion from members including: five broad County strategies (strengthen local food systems, build on food systems' workforce; farmland protection; expand composting options; and encourage entrepreneurship); investing in people to maintain viable local and regional food systems; food hub creation; considering food quality and nutrition; agricultural land protection and conservation easements; youth culinary programs; agrotourism opportunities; processing and distribution part of the food system supply chain; hydroponic/aquaponic gardening; pollinator-friendly gardening/urban agriculture programs.
8. Suggest items for April 28, 2025 regular meeting (one week later than normal):
 - Review draft Introduction and Terminology sections of CAP
 - Discuss synthesis of all draft CAP chapters: action strategies across chapters, major themes, gaps, needs moving forward
 - Discuss Green industries and workforce development sections
9. Member recap, action items and member comments: Recap given by Sage; Jennison will tabulate action items across CAP chapters and provide update on status of CCAC resolution; Sage will find more information about PHA and its industrial cost and viability.
10. Public comments – David Hastings (via Zoom) commented on engagement and hearing people's ideas for CAP, will provide written feedback on energy chapter, specifically, and flaws/tradeoffs of strategies such as tree planting to offset carbon emissions.
11. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm