

## Equity Advisory Board

Date: October 16, 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 p.m.

Members Present: Kali Blount, Yvette Carter, Gerie Crawford, Jorelle Degen, Alena Lawson-Bennett, Ronald Rawls (Chair), and Frank White (Vice Chair).

Members Absent: Maritza Quiroga Arcos

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

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

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Gerie Crawford made a motion to approve the April 17 minutes as presented; Jorelle Degen second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 4. Comp Plan Equity Audit

Camisha Alexis reported that the County does not identify historical districts in the Comprehensive Plan, so the corresponding policy does not apply county-wide. Historical surveys exist with regard to historical resources, but the most recent is approximately 20 years old, so the Historic Commission is working to update them.

Ivy Bell noted the County is currently updating the Comprehensive Plan, so input provided by the Equity Advisory Board is timely. Several policies require renovation over demolition and can reference resources located within incorporated cities (like the Cotton Club) since they do impact the greater Alachua County community. The County is currently pursuing Certified Local Government status. While there are no specific goals to advance equity and social justice, the County Commission has invested in projects for underserved communities like Copeland, which benefited from extensive community outreach

efforts and addressing infrastructure needs. Discussion ensued regarding holding a workshop in the coming months to develop recommended equity language in the Comp Plan.

Before development of a new school occurs, it is required to have the necessary infrastructure to serve the students. This is called "concurrency." The County's partnership with the School Board for Lake Forest was noted as a model, wherein, the County updated the playground equipment which is then open to the public after school hours. *Safe Streets to Schools* addresses safely getting students to/from school. Concurrency is a planning tool; it is not regulatory.

Community health data and healthy food options are addressed in the Comp Plan. The County has an office dedicated to local food systems.

**5. Review of Underserved Communities**

The document was provided for informational purposes only.

**6. Attendance Policy Review**

The Board reviewed the updated advisory board and committee guidelines and agreed that the changes addressed their concerns. Meeting days/times are flexible, so long as the meeting is properly noticed. Alena Lawson-Bennett made a motion to start future meetings at 5 p.m.; Gerie Crawford seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

**7. Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments**

This item was tabled until the Nov. 20 meeting.

**8. Member Comments**

None.

**9. Public Comment**

None.

**10. Announcements**

None.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.