

# Minutes

## Student Community Relations Advisory Board

Thomas Center A, Room 201  
302 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue

June 12, 2012  
Tuesday, 10:00 AM

**Members Present:** Chair Jake Vermillion – Voting Student Member  
Thomas Rider - Voting Non-Student Member  
Vice Chair Cleopatre Thelus – Voting Student Member  
Beverly Hill - Voting Non-Student Member  
Dr. Karen Woods – Voting Non-Student Member  
Nora Kilroy – Voting Postsecondary Administrator

**Members Absent:** Ruthie Visuete – Voting Non-Student Member

**City Staff Present:** Peter Backhaus - Code Enforcement Supervisor  
Steve Baker - Code Enforcement Officer  
Connie Farrell – Code Enforcement Staff Specialist

**Others Present:** None

### **Goal:**

The goal of the Student Community Relations Advisory Board is to strive for a more cohesive non-student and student community; to act as a vehicle for students and non-students to voice their concerns and opinions; to review, discuss and forward recommendations as appropriate, on issues, concerns and initiatives relevant to students and non-students; to assess and address needs of non-students as they pertain to student issues; to be a knowledgeable liaison between the City Commission and the students and nonstudents of Gainesville; to encourage involvement by non-students and students in planning and implementation of improvements; and to ensure that student issues are addressed by providing a link between the students, non-students, and the City Commission.

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rider called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM.

The March 20, 2012 Minutes were reviewed. Chair Vermillion called for a review of the Minutes. Under section D, a grammatical error was noted. Discussion was held regarding the “Solutions” in paragraph two; bullet point two was removed. Changes were noted and will be corrected.

Chair Vermillion called for a vote to approve the revised Minutes; Dr. Rider motioned to approve; Dr. Woods seconded. Motion approval was unanimous.

An attendance sheet was circulated. Members and guests introduced themselves.

## **B. STAFF REPORT**

Code Enforcement Supervisor Peter Backhaus discussed student move-out issues, advising that trash was the main concern. Solid Waste continues to monitor these issues and handle them as they arise.

Plans are underway for the Fall Student Rental Welcome which includes members from GPD, Solid Waste, Code Enforcement, and UF Off Campus Life visiting rentals in residential single family neighborhoods near campus. A spring move-out event could also be effective.

A game day parking presentation was made at the Community Development Committee (CDC). For those interested in providing game day parking within the University Context Area, a revised permitting system will soon be in effect. The ordinance will specify guidelines for the applicant and allow for a more effective means of enforcement.

Supervisor Backhaus turned the discussion over to Code Enforcement Officer Baker who discussed an ongoing neighborhood sign issue. Currently, according to the sign ordinance (Sec. 30-316 & 317), freedom of speech signs on private property are not enforced; however, the ordinance requires that political signs are to be removed within three (3) days after the political event. The issue in this situation is – are the signs political or are they freedom of speech. As these signs are removed from yards, many of which are vacant, they are being replaced. An signs ordinance change may be forthcoming.

## **C. BOARD ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED**

### ***Alligator Ads – Critique of ads – continued from April:***

Copies of the revised drawings were distributed for review (*Attachments A*). The following suggestions have been noted:

- \* Over – occupancy – reduce the white.
- \* E-waste – add big screen TV
- \* Noise – no changes noted
- \* Front Yard Parking – remove helmet; add larger window decal

Captions will be required. Pricing research is also required for the *Alligator* ads.

The Board's budget for this fiscal year, which ends September 30, 2012, is \$2544. Mr. Steve Joplin, Solid Waste Manager, committed up to \$1,500 toward the advertising expense of solid waste issues. Completed drafts of the cartoons will be forwarded to Mr. Joplin for approval prior to publication.

### ***Student Community Relations Advisory Board Ordinance Discussion, Sec. 2-430:***

Chair Vermillion discussed forming a subcommittee to explore amending the ordinance. (*See New Business: Creation: below*).

Reaching out to other entities such as the Student Senate, the University Park

Neighborhood Association (UPNA) and other neighborhood associations could be a means for bringing items of discussion/exploration to the Board.

**Dates and Times of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at 10:00 AM in Thomas Center B, Room 201, 306 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**New Business:**

**Creation:** – Subcommittee on Proposed Changes to Sec. 2-430 of the City of Gainesville Code of Ordinance.

Chair Vermillion held a discussion concerning the need to create a sub-committee to explore changes to Sec. 2-430. Board members who are interested in participating on the subcommittee are asked to advise Ms. Farrell via email at [farrellac@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:farrellac@cityofgainesville.org) by Friday, June 14, 2012.

**Discussion:**

Introductory email to the City of Gainesville Mayor and Commissioners - Chair Vermillion drafted, for the Board's review, an introductory letter introducing himself and the Board to the Commission. Several changes were suggested. One included adding the commissioner who represents each Board member's district in parentheses next to the Board member's names.

A map of the voting districts can be found at the following location:  
[http://www.cityofgainesville.org/Portals/0/clerk/ccom\\_districts.pdf](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/Portals/0/clerk/ccom_districts.pdf)

Following is a list of the Commissioners and their areas of representation:

- Mayor – Craig Lowe
- Commissioner (At-large) – Thomas Hawkins
- Commissioner (At-large) – Lauren Poe
- Commissioner (District 1) - Yvonne Hinson-Rawls
- Commissioner (District 2) - Todd Chase
- Commissioner (District 3) – Susan Bottcher
- Commissioner (District 4) – Randy Wells

Board members are represented as follows:

- District 2 (Chase) – Dr. Woods
- District 3 (Bottcher) – Ms. Hill, Vice-chair Thelus and Chair Vermillion
- District 4 (Wells) – Dr. Rider, Ms. Visuete

**Appreciation:**

Mr. Zackary Gates, a 17-year old high school senior and the son of Code Enforcement Officer John Gates, graciously agreed to create the sketches for the *Alligator*. Ms. Farrell read the Board a note of appreciation that Zachary sent. It expressed his appreciation to the Board for allowing him to have the opportunity to create the sketches for the *Alligator*.

Ms. Farrell asked the Board for permission to give Zachary a certificate of appreciation and a small gift for creating the sketches. The Board was receptive of the idea and

agreed to the request.

D. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no new member comments.

E. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.