

## Wild Spaces Public Places

Citizens Oversight Board  
SPECIAL MEETING  
September 26, 2019  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Alachua County Appointed Members**

Joni Ellis  
Vacant  
BJ Bukata (alternate) – Chair

**City of Gainesville Members**

Vacant  
David Ruiz (alternate)

**Incorporated Cities (not Gainesville) Members**

Gary Kocher (alternate)

**Staff Present**

Gina Peebles – Alachua County

**Outside Counsel Present**

Patrice Boyes

**Incorporated Cities (not Gainesville) Members**

**Absent**

Dudley Wade

**City of Gainesville Members Absent**

Carla Lewis - Miles

**Other Municipal Staff Present**

Betsy Waite – City of Gainesville

**Clerk's Office Staff Present**

JK "Jess" Irby, Clerk  
Todd Hutchison – Finance Director

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion:** Joni Ellis made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Gary Kocher seconded; unanimous approval.

**Administrative Suggestions**

**Motion:** Joni Ellis made a motion to include an attendance report in each agenda packet, the date of the next meeting on each agenda and that municipalities be notified of all meetings; David Ruiz seconded; unanimous approval.

**Clerk's Office**

Ms. Ellis requested Mr. Irby's Office audit the City of Gainesville's expenditures. Mr. Irby explained that he has no auditing authority or control over any entity other than the County, unless there is a County match-style project with Interlocal Agreement. Wild Spaces Public Places revenues are currently disbursed from the Department of Revenue directly to the County and municipalities. Todd Hutchison confirmed that the Clerk's Office has no statutory or constitutional authority for financial oversight over any city's spending. Gina Peebles stated that the County provided \$6 million of its population based Wild Spaces Public Places funding to partner with all cities on partnership projects (\$3 million for the City of Gainesville and \$3 million for all nine municipalities, including Gainesville).

### **County and City Joint Meeting Results**

Ms. Ellis met with each Commissioner before the Joint City of Gainesville / Alachua County Meeting and reported that each Commissioner stated that it was not their intent for Wild Spaces Public Places proceeds to be used for salaries. It is her understanding that a 20-year ballot initiative is planned for the 2020 ballot (with a 2024 implementation), but the City of Gainesville's spending may jeopardize its success. Her recommendation is to send a letter to the City of Gainesville to advise them of this.

Mr. Bukata stated that a letter has been discussed at several meetings, but failed.

Tamara Robbins stated there is a state audit requirement for future surtaxes, passed in early 2018 (subsection 10 of FS 212.055).

Ms. Boyce stated that there may be a grandfathering provision, but it would need to be looked at more closely.

### **Board Vacancies**

Gina Peebles stated the City intends to fill their full and alternate member vacancies on Oct. 3 and the County intends to fill its full member vacancy on Oct. 8, leaving a County alternate position vacant.

### **Elections**

Gina Peebles indicated, per Section 5.1 in Resolution 17-36, elections shall be held annually. Chair Bukata was elected at the Nov. 7, 2018 meeting. "Vacancies in offices shall be filled by election at the next regular meeting following the date the vacancy occurred." As this is a Special Meeting, the election of our Chair will occur at the November regular meeting agenda.

### **Review Resolutions**

No discussion, as this was discussed at a previous meeting.

### **Meeting Time Discussion**

Chair Bukata suggested meeting at 5:30 p.m. instead of 4:30 p.m. The consensus of the group was to implement that change.

Jo Beatty stated the Oversight Board should meet monthly.

Tamara Robbins suggested that financial reports be requested monthly from the County and municipalities to the Board to allow monthly audits to be completed. She stated other counties (Manatee?) have a more rigorous audit and a list of allowable expenses.

**Motion:** Joni Ellis made a motion to send a letter to the County and municipalities informing them of a monthly expenditure review for the new fiscal year starting October 2019; Gary Clayton seconded; motion passed 3:1 with David Ruiz in dissent.

Ms. Ellis volunteered to lead a subcommittee (tentatively scheduled for Oct. 7, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at the City of Alachua City Hall) to discuss allowable expenditures and report back to the full Board at the October regular meeting.

**Motion:** Joni Ellis made a motion for the Oversight Board to meet the third Monday of each month beginning in October 2019 at 5:30 p.m.; Gary second; unanimous approval.

**Review DRAFT Letter to County Commission re: Staff Salaries**

The letter may be unwarranted, so the Chair withdrew his letter.

**Public Comment**

None

**Old/New Business**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

The Wild Spaces Public Places Citizens Oversight Board will meet next on October 21, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Grace Knight Conference Room.

**Attendance Report for the last 7 meetings.**

Wild Spaces & Public Places Citizen Oversight Committee											
Staff Liaison: Gina Peebles											
Member	Position	Mbr Start	Mbr End	2/7/2019 4:45 PM	3/11/2019 4:45 PM	4/8/2019 4:45 PM	5/13/2019 4:45 PM	7/15/2019 4:45 PM	8/19/2019 4:45 PM	9/26/2019 4:00 PM	Meetings Attended
Bukata, Mr. B.J.	County resident (alternate) - appointed by County Commission	10/1/2017	9/30/2019	P	A	P	P	P	P	NR	5 of 6
Ellis, Joni	County resident - appointed by County Commission	4/23/2019	9/30/2021	--	--	--	P	P	P	NR	3 of 3
Gaddy, Colleen M	County resident - appointed by County Commission	10/1/2017	4/8/2019	A	A	A	--	--	--	--	0 of 3
Kauper, Amy L	County resident - appointed by County Commission	12/11/2018	9/17/2019	P	A	P	P	A	P	--	4 of 6
Kocher, Mr. Gary	Representative (alternate) - Incorporated Cities - not Gainesville	4/23/2019	9/30/2023	--	--	--	P	P	A	NR	2 of 3
Kovachich, Sarah	City of Gainesville resident - appointed by City of Gainesville	10/1/2017	7/22/2019	P	P	P	A	P	--	--	4 of 5
Miles, Carla	City of Gainesville resident - appointed by City of Gainesville	10/1/2017	9/30/2021	A	P	A	A	P	P	NR	3 of 6
Ruiz, David J	City of Gainesville resident (alternate) - appointed by City of Gainesville	10/1/2017	9/30/2019	P	P	P	P	P	P	NR	6 of 6
Wade, H. Dudley	Representative (alternate) - Incorporated Cities - not Gainesville	10/1/2017	2/12/2019	P	--	--	--	--	--	--	1 of 1
Wade, H. Dudley	Representative - Incorporated Cities - not Gainesville	2/12/2019	9/30/2021	--	P	A	P	P	A	NR	3 of 5

[P=Present] [A=Absent] [C=Cancelled] [PNQ=Present No Quorum] [ANQ=Absent No Quorum] [NR=Member Active But No Attendance Record]  
 [--=Member Not Active]