



ALACHUA COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Marihelen Wheeler, Chair

Megan Yaeger, Vice Chair

Gail Johnson, Nancy Lavin, Adam McGovern, Erin Porter

November 20, 2019

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
12 SE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Commissioners:

The Alachua County Tourist Development Council (TDC) met on Wednesday, November 13, 2019. An update on the sports arena at Celebration Pointe was presented.

At the meeting, a motion was made by Tourist Development Council member Erin Porter to support the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners moving forward with exploring the sports arena at Celebration Pointe. It was seconded by TDC vice-chair Megan Yaeger. The motion carried 5-1, with Gail Johnson dissenting.

Celebration Pointe is the right location for the sports arena for many reasons, including its proximity to I-75, lodging, retail shops, and restaurants.

The economic implications of choosing the right location for the sports arena are profound. The 30-year estimate of \$1.2 billion in total (regional) economic output, \$392 million in wages, and nearly \$24 million in County sales tax and Tourist Development Tax, approximately 1,150 annual jobs and a \$76 million annual economic impact will have far reaching, long-term benefits to the residents and visitors.

The convenience and location close to I-75 will benefit from the 11 major markets with 15 million people that are a 5-hour drive from Alachua County, while leveraging the well-established Gainesville Sports Commission to attract multi-team youth and amateur sports.

The Alachua County Tourist Development Council supports the direction of the Board of County Commissioners in the development of the sports arena at Celebration Pointe.

Sincerely,

Marihelen Wheeler, Chair
Alachua County Tourist Development Council