

Minutes

Student Community Relations Advisory Board

Thomas Center A, Room 105
302 NE 6th AVE, Gainesville, FL

January 12, 2017
Thursday, 8:00 AM

Members Present: Nora Kilroy – UF Advisor (Chair)
James Tyger – Voting Non-Student Member (Vice-chair)
Layne Prebor – Voting Non-Student Member
Thomas Rider – Voting Non-Student Member
Sarah Blanc – Non-voting Advisor
Valery Raymond – Voting Student Member
Gloria Li – Voting Student Member

Members Absent: Harold Shaw – Voting Student Member
Ricardo Sabater – Voting Student Member
Clarinda Choice – Non-voting Advisor

City Staff Present: Pete Backhaus – Code Enforcement Supervisor (Liaison)
Justin Torres – Gainesville Police Department
Yvette Carter – Community Relations Director – GRU
Glenda Russell – Community Relations Coordinator – GRU

Other Guests: Bob Mounts – President, University Park Neighborhood Association

Goal:

The goal of the Student Community Relations Advisory Board (SCRAB) 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 Nora Kilroy called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

* The October 27, 2016 Minutes were reviewed. Dr. Rider moved to approve the Minutes; Mr. Tyger seconded –Minutes were approved.

* Attendance sheet was circulated.

* All members and attendees introduced themselves.

B. STAFF REPORT

Liaison Backhaus informed the Board that residents have had numerous concerns about construction in the Mid-town/13th Street area. The Community Redevelopment Agency has announced that work will continue in order to create a more pedestrian friendly community.

Dr. Rider expressed concerns regarding the size of trash receptacles in cases where garbage continues to overflow. Trash receptacle sizes can be changed by contacting the Solid Waste Division at 352-334-2330.

C. GPD REPORT

Officer Torres informed the Board that crime was minimal during the UF break. He has no major issues to bring to the Board.

D. BOARD ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

Discussion Topics:

- Yvette Carter, Community Relations Director, GRU:

Ms. Carter reached out to other departments to obtain their initiatives:

- a. GRU General Manager Ed Bielarski and his executive team have a goal to create a communication canopy throughout the city which will allow customers to access cutting edge technology such as behind the meter renewable energy systems and smart metering which will allow customers to save money by quickly tracking and managing their personal utility consumption.
- b. Enterprise Resource Plan (ERP) implementation started in 2016 to align technical support with current demands.
- c. A state of the art financial management information system (FMIS) will help to save money by streamlining budgeting processes. All departments will be on the same system and will be able to seamlessly interact with each other, ultimately returning those savings to the customers. Smart metering will then be available for customers.
- d. Working to keep the GREC biomass plant off line as much as possible as a cost savings for the customers. If arbitrations go well the contract could be amended to allow additional customer savings while utilizing the GREC biomass plant.
- e. GRU has expanded their community footprint by strengthening their ability to bridge the digital divide. The telecommunications company provides community

support, enhancement and engagement in making Gainesville a better place to live. Each year, more student textbooks can only be accessed online. In an effort to bridge the digital divide gap high speed internet portals are being placed in locations that are readily available to the community. GRUCom is working to provide community centers and low income housing developments with the technology that will be needed. Some of the parks and recreation department community centers are already available. A contract has also been worked out with the Alachua County School Board to add high-speed internet access to the outlying areas of Hawthorne, Alachua and Archer.

- f. They will continue to grow their relationship with UF Health. The south energy center will be completed mid-2017. It provides uninterrupted electrical power to UF Health and Shands south of campus. This will be a template for powering UF Shands and other health locations.
- g. Several questions were asked: How long with the transition take for the new meters to be in place? Who will pay for the new meters? Who is the owner of the meter? Ms. Carter will research information on smart metering and provide responses to the Board. Energy Audits are free for any GRU customers who request them; group presentations (GRU in the Neighborhood) are also available. GRU has a list of apartment houses and their electrical usage. GRU has tours – Joann Hutchinson will be happy to schedule it. Ms. Carter and her staff act as ombudsmen for the community.

- Bob Mounts – President, University Park Neighborhood Association

Mr. Mounts informed the Board that approximately 200 members make up the University Park Neighborhood Association, with about 20 board members who are mostly retired professors. The Association consists of College Park, Florida Park and Hibiscus Park, with J.J. Finley Elementary School (built in 1938) in the middle.

The Association's main concern is how to protect a single family community and still allow regional economic development. Neighbors are encouraged to introduce themselves to their neighbors, and to educate neighbors in efforts to prevent conflicts. Several other concerns include permitted uses in single family residences, game day issues, who to contacts for assistance, the need for a development plan.

Off Campus Wi-Fi Location Map – The map is ready to be published; it will be posted as an ad. The map is basically a Google map with a Wi-Fi locaitons. The cost depends on the number of views. There have been some issues with payment. It is branded for the City of Gainesville. It can be shared with friends, etc. Santa Fe students can also be targeted.

Budget – The budget was approved for \$2500 which includes \$1000 for printing and binding and \$1500 for Facebook. Some ideas and suggestions for usage are: Public Service Announcements (PSA) and digital PSAs using student creativity that would address how to be a better neighbors; getting to know your neighbors; welcoming newcomers to Gainesville; addressing the benefits of knowing your neighbors; Golden Flamingo Award to promote being a good neighbor; sharing stories of how you meet your next-door neighbors. Some benefits of meeting neighbors are making friends, meeting new people, caring about your neighbors and them caring about you.

How do you do a crime watch? Basically in residential neighborhoods; it's a good way to bring the community together; it is to encourage others to be aware of their surroundings.

Most students and their families want to be close to campus. Most Santa Fe students live at Santa Fe Crossing or on NW 62nd ST because the bus routes are readily available.

Speakers for Next Month

Representatives from the below locations will be invited to speak at the February meeting:

- New Complex Representation – The Standard; Trimark; Circa

Next Month's Discussion Topics:

- ASO or UF Planning Office
- 2016/2017 Budget information
- Wi-Fi Map - When should it be posted?

Future suggested topics:

- Guests who impact community relations
- Apartment management representation
- Neighborhood density issues
- UAA
- The Foundation
- IFAS and other agricultural programs
- Alcohol Beverage Tobacco
- Solid Waste – Sustainability Issues
- Commissioner Representation
- GRU Tour

New Business: PSA Plan

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting:

- The February meeting will be Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 8:00 AM at Thomas Center "A", Room 105, 302 NE 6th AVE, Gainesville, FL
- The March meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 8:00 AM at Thomas Center "A", Room 105, 302 NE 6th AVE, Gainesville, FL

PUBLIC/MEMBER COMMENTS

Meeting adjourned 9:40 AM.