Click here for the Alachua County Commission’s Guiding Vision and other strategic planning documents

Commission Meeting Highlights 05-10-05

Presentations

- The Board heard a presentation by Pam Carpenter, Supervisor of Elections, regarding early voting, election law changes, and space requirements. Click here for power point presentation. The Commission requested this item be discussed at an off Tuesday workshop at 10:30 a.m. and requested the Supervisor to share with the Commission where early voting has been conducted in other communities. The Manager was asked to include remote locations for early voting as the space requirements for the Supervisor’s Office. The Commission moved and unanimously approved the County Manager to meet with the Supervisor and discuss the space requirements request and bring back implementation recommendations to the Commission as soon as possible.

- The Board heard a presentation by Marilyn Tubb, Chair Economic Development Advisory Committee. The committee requested that the Board adopt the resolution supporting the request of Infinite Energy Inc. for participation in the Qualified Targeted Industry (QTI) program and authorization from the County Commission to apply to the Office of Tourism Trade and Economic Development (OTTED) for funds from the Economic Development Transportation Fund (EDTF) or ‘Road Fund’ on behalf of Infinite Energy Inc. Motion passes 4-1 (Byerly dissent based on principle of giving public money to private companies) to support the resolution, authorize the Chair’s signature, and authorize staff to apply to OTTED, for funds for the necessary road improvements, on behalf of Infinite Energy, Inc.
Commission Meeting Highlights, cont.

Presentations, continued

• The Board heard a presentation by Dr. Taraneh Darabi regarding the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women). The Board directed the County Attorney to prepare a resolution in support of CEDAW and bring it back to the Commission’s May 24th meeting.

• The Board heard a presentation on the public education and outreach campaign for the Alachua County Scenic Roads program from County Engineer David Cerlanek. Click here for Scenic Roads Website.

• The Board heard a presentation on Annual Performance Evaluation Instruments for the County Manager and County Attorney. Administrative Services Director Betty Baker presented three performance instruments. After discussion, the Commission accepted the second instrument as the performance evaluation form for the County Manager and County Attorney and asked that any necessary modifications to the forms be proposed and considered.

Proclamations

• Proclamation declaring the week of May 8th-14th, 2005 as “International Building Safety Week” in Alachua County.

• Proclamation declaring the week of May 8th-16th, 2005 as “National Tourism Week” in Alachua County.
Commission Meeting Highlights, cont.

Proclamations, continued

- Proclamation declaring May 12, 2005 as “Alachua County Employee Health and Fitness Day” in Alachua County.

- Proclamation declaring May 15th – 21st, 2005 as “Alachua County Public Works Week” in Alachua County.

- Proclamation declaring May 15th – 21st, 2005 as “National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Week” and May 20, 2005 as “Local Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Day” in Alachua County.

- Proclamation declaring May 15th – 21st, 2005 as “Emergency Medical Services Week” in Alachua County.

- Proclamation declaring May 20th – 22nd, 2005 as the “26th Celebration of the Fifth Avenue Arts Festival” in Alachua County.

Appointments to Advisory Boards and Committees

- The Board appointed Queenchiku Ngozi and Vinay Raj to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board Committee, both with terms ending in July 2006.

- The Board appointed Brian Herman, David Kerner and Vinay Raj to the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee; one to complete a term ending in June 2007, two to complete partial terms followed by full terms ending in June 2008

- The Board appointed Melanie Bar, Phil Denton, Harold McGee and Carl Rose to the Historical Commission, all with terms ending in April 2008.

- The Board appointed Carl Rose and Betsy Hurst as the two citizens-at-large on the Scenic Roads Advisory Committee, both for one two-year term.
Commission Meeting Highlights, cont.

Commission Comments

- The Board agreed to send letter to Eastside High School congratulating them on being ranked the number four high school in the nation.

- The Board expressed concern over projected impacts of State Growth Management Act legislation especially concerning the issues of school concurrency and transportation. County Manager Reid stated that County Legislative Affairs Director Rick Mills would be providing a summary of the impacts of the Growth Management Act legislation.

- The Board thanked the participants of the agriculture tour of Alachua County coordinated by the Rural Concerns Advisory Board last week.

Public Hearings

- Request public hearing to allow citizens the opportunity to review and comment on the application package for a 2005 Florida Small Cities CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) housing rehabilitation grant and to request approval of the Resolutions authorizing the Chair to execute and submit the application, pledging SHIP (State Housing Initiatives Partnership) funds and leverage, and adopting the CDBG Housing Assistance Plan. Amount: $75,000. The Board approved unanimously to conduct the public hearing, approve the 2005 CDBG housing rehabilitation grant application as amended and adopt the resolutions.

Zoning Matters

- Application ZOS-05-05 (Special Use Permit) - A request was made by Chip Williams, agent, for Chip Williams & Mary Ann Williams, owners, for a boat dock (Boat lift replacement due to hurricane) in an ‘A’ (Agriculture) district on approximately .5 acres located at 22826 NE 69th Avenue, Melrose, FL on Tax Parcel Number 18688-013-000. The Board approved the request.

- Application ZOM-06-05 (Rezoning) - A request was made by Ralph Eng of Eng, Denman & Associates, Inc, agent for Larry Ross, owner, for a renewal of an existing special use permit (ZOM-01-99) in a non-residential ‘PD’ (Planned Development) district on approximately 2.37 acres located at 404 SW 143rd Street on Tax Parcel Number 04344-002-000. The Board approved the request.

- Application ZOS-04-05 (Special Use Permit) - A request was made by Paul Florence of Southeast Landholdings, Inc., agent, for Southeast Landholdings, Inc., owner, for renewal of an existing special use permit (ZOS-29-99) in an ‘A’ (Agriculture) district on approximately 48 acres located at 3003 SE 15th Street on Tax Parcel Numbers 16225-000-000 and 16227-000-000. After discussion, the Board deferred the item until May 24, 2005.

- Application ZOM-07-05 (Rezoning) - A request was made by Mark Cook of Remax, agent, for Estella Clark, owner, to rezone from ‘R-2’ (Multi-family residential) district to ‘BP’ (Business Professional) district on approximately 2.0 acres located at 2420 NW 45th Street on Tax Parcel Number 06178-015-000. At the request of applicant and staff, the item was deferred to an uncertain date.
Comprehensive Plan Found In Compliance

On May 2, 2005, the State Department of Community Affairs (DCA) issued a final order finding the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan 2002 amendments, as modified by the 2003 amendments, in compliance. The plan amendments are effective on the date of the final order. Parties to the administrative proceeding may appeal the final order to the First District Court of Appeal, but the filing of an appeal will not suspend the effective date of the plan amendments.

To view the final order click here: http://publicinformation.alachua.fl.us/Documents.htm

For more information on the Comprehensive Plan click here: http://growth-management.alachua.fl.us/compplanning/compplanning_index.php

If you have any questions concerning the Final Order or the Comp. Plan, please contact Rick Drummond, Growth Management Director 374-5249.

Alachua County Talks: Homelessness

On March 16, 2005 County Commissioner Rodney J. Long went on a 48 hour Homeless Pilgrimage of Understanding. The following week an Alachua County/City of Gainesville Homelessness Summit was held.

Tune into Alachua County Talks on Cox Channel 12 to see an interview with Commissioner Long and highlights from both of these events. Click here for a Channel 12 schedule.
Please join Alachua County in welcoming Candice King as the new CHOICES Health Services Program Director.

The CHOICES program, funded by a quarter cent sales tax approved by voters in August 2004, will provide healthcare services to low-income county residents who are working full-time, but do not have access to any healthcare coverage.

“Alachua County and this community are amazingly thoughtful and progressive in terms of recognizing that local level actions can make a real difference when addressing a growing area of concern, such as healthcare access. I am excited and committed about the opportunity to make a difference in our community’s overall health status through the innovative CHOICES program,” said King.

King comes to us from the ACORN Clinic, where she served as the executive director since 2003. She holds a Masters in Business Administration in marketing, a Masters of Arts in Education in research methods and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. She has over twenty years of management, health planning and research experience with several corporations, universities and governmental organizations.

She is also actively engaged in local area initiatives for the uninsured including HealthCare is A Human Right and local efforts to increase federal funding for healthcare through federally qualified community health center programs.

Her research experience includes a focus on public program evaluation, our aging population and health studies. Ms. King has managed large scale research and evaluation projects in several settings and has been a leader in several community initiatives.

She has previously served on boards of numerous nonprofit organizations in the arts and programs for children with disabilities. King has also been a prolific community volunteer in schools, church, Girl Scouts and disability organizations.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!

Your’re invited to participate in the Jobs, Jobs, Jobs! Job Fair on Saturday, May 21, 2005, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the gymnasium at Lincoln Middle School.

The Job Fair is co-sponsored by Alachua/Bradford Career Centers, The Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Alachua Bradford Regional Workforce Board.

The purpose of the Job Fair is to provide local employers the opportunity to publicize positions that are currently or often available with their companies. Also, potential employees will have the chance to fill out applications, submit resumes and learn about the participating companies and their employment needs. The Job Fair will be a well-publicized event.

For more information concerning the Job Fair, you may contact Rebecca Weir at (352) 955-2245 ext. 108, or Joe Johnson at (352) 334-7104 ext 311.
Alachua County Geographic Information System’s GeoGM Mapper is out of this world!

Have you ever seen a picture of your property taken from a satellite orbiting the earth? Is your property in a potentially high radon area or a flood zone? Have you ever wondered about the zoning, planning and development history of your property?

Alachua County is pleased to report that the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division at the Department of Growth Management has recently gone public with an Internet GIS application named GeoGM Mapper (http://growth-management.alachua.fl.us/mapper). This application is an excellent example of the integration of the four overlapping areas in which the GIS Division has been operating in the last four years:

- Geographic Information Science
- Land Records and Asset Management
- Web Development
- Design and Implementation of e-Governmental Services

The GeoGM Mapper is an Internet Map Service for view and exploration of 37 GIS layers. The Parcel and Section Township Range layers can be searched by number or owner’s name. They are also tied to building permits, zoning, and other planning applications, thus integrating GIS with Relational Database Management Systems stored in Oracle and located at the Growth Management and at the Property Appraiser’s Office. The Mapper has a built in Tutorial and its GIS layers are fully documented with Metadata.

GeoGM’s geographic layers come from several sources:

- The majority are part of Growth Management’s GeoLibrary (GMGL).
- A subset of them was created at Growth Management expressly for other agencies in the County, including Schools, School Districts, Group Homes, etc.
- A few layers are from the Florida Geographic DataLibrary (FGDL), representing standardized data created from other Public Agencies, re-projected at the Growth Management.
- A few others are from federal and other public agencies, such as the Census Bureau.
- One dataset is from the County’s Public Works Department (county maintained roads).
- One dataset is from the County’s Environmental Protection Department (champion trees).
- Two datasets are from the County’s Property Appraiser’s office (aerials and parcels).

During the first twenty-two days of GeoGM Mapper’s life, the web log has recorded 695 visits 30% of which are by returning visitors. GeoGM complements our current on line Map Atlas (http://growth-management.alachua.fl.us/gis_mapatlas.php), which provides ready, standardized maps, at a Section Township Range unit and which has been in good use in our community for more than two years.

Just as any previous software application that we have introduced, the GeoGM Mapper was conceived, designed, and implemented entirely and exclusively in house at the Growth Management. It has not received any extra allocated budget and it could not have been possible without its foundation, a GIS and Land Record Management System, built during the last four years.

For an understanding of the work that was indispensable to the building of this application, check History of the GIS Division, Our Story in Plain Numbers, and Our Areas of Operation at: http://growth-management.alachua.fl.us/gis_index.php.

For more information on the GIS Department, call (352) 384-3180
Now that summer is on its way, it is time to take a dip in the springs at the new and improved Poe Springs County Park!

While you’re there, take notice of the restoration work the Environmental Protection Department facilitated during three workshops in February and March. The workshops were very well received and drew people from as far as West Palm Beach! We thank the 140 participants who enthusiastically planted over 800 trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants.

Participants also helped establish “no mowing zones” along the river to allow native vegetation to act as a filter, trapping pollutants from the watershed. Natural materials were used to stabilize banks and prevent erosion. Educational signs will be installed to explain the restoration strategy to the public.

Due to the popularity of the event, we will host a pond restoration workshop in the Springhill Neighborhood this fall, so grab a shovel and come help EPD enhance water quality and wildlife habitat! For more information, call (352) 264-6800.
Foster Grandparents will be Rockin’

On May 6, 2005, the Alachua County Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Council held its ninth annual Rock-a-thon, in which the Foster Grandparent volunteers and local celebrities rock on the Cracker Barrel’s front porch to raise funds to support the grandparents, who serve special needs children 15-40 hours per week in our schools, day cares, and after-school programs. This year, the Rock-a-thon raised more than $7,000. The funds support events such as a yearly picnic, sending volunteers to the annual Foster Grandparent Conference and other things that the volunteers may not receive without the community’s support. The volunteers collect pledges the month before the event, competing for prizes.

To support next year’s event or for more information, please call, Norma Berger, at 264-6757.
City of Waldo Homecoming

On Saturday, April 30th, the City of Wald held its first ever homecoming celebration. Many enjoyed the day including County Commissioner Lee Pinkoson and other staff from various departments.

Great American Cleanup

If you missed the Great American Cleanup (GAC) on Saturday, April 16th, you also missed a great “Thank You” party at Westside Park for all the volunteers. Donated Domino’s pizza, Publix goodies, Coca Cola products, TDC entertainment and prizes galore were enjoyed.

The GAC encompasses cleanups, painting, planting and graffiti removal from March 1 through May 31st every year. If you would like to help out next year, call Jeanne Rochford at Keep Alachua County Beautiful, 352.371.9444, to schedule your cleanup.

If you would like to adopt a length of roadway now to keep clean throughout the year, contact Butch Skipper, Adopt-a-County-Road coordinator at Alachua County Public Works, at 352.374.5245, ext. 212. And to the hundreds of volunteers who helped clean Alachua County on April 16th, Thank You for all your hard work!
Speed Hump and Traffic Monitoring Programs

Have you ever gone into a subdivision and run over two rubber hoses in the road connected to a small gray box? Chances are that those tubes were put out by Chris Ziegler or Sam Middleton. Why, you ask? They are checking the subdivision for speeding vehicles. Each year the Transportation and Development Division receives 10 to 15 requests to study subdivisions to determine eligibility for speed hump installation. To qualify for speed hump installation, more than 85% of the vehicles on the monitored road must be exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 10 miles per hour. After that is verified, the residents and homeowners in the subdivision must vote whether or not they want the humps installed. If a majority of the residents or owners vote yes, the humps will be installed. In a typical year, one or two subdivisions will qualify and vote to install the speed humps.

A speed hump is a twelve foot long, four inch high mound of asphalt which stretches across all lanes of traffic in a roadway. It is designed to slow vehicular traffic down to 15-20 miles per hour. At the request of the Contracts Manager, our own Road and Bridge Division will install them.

Speed hump studies should not be confused with the annual traffic monitoring program, which also uses the tubes and counters. The annual monitoring program is designed to monitor the volume and speed of traffic traveling on the roadways in Alachua County. All roadways classified by Florida Department of Transportation as collector and above are monitored. John Nazal’s Sign Shop staff place and retrieve the devices. The information gathered is then reviewed by Contracts Administration for use in developing the long range transportation needs plan and planning for and identifying potential areas of concern.

Master Gardener Plant Sale

The annual Master Gardener Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 14th, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., at the Alachua County Extension Office, 2800, NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville.

The Extension Office is located on the corner of 39th Avenue & Waldo Road, next to the Alachua County Fairgrounds & the Gainesville Airport – look for the signs.

Come and purchase some unique plants at great prices, and get expert advice from the plant growers themselves. The money raised will support the community projects of the Alachua County Master Gardeners.

Please call Wendy Wilber at (352)955-2402 for more information.
The county team known as the “Alachua County Partners for Elder Readiness” (ACPER) team was formed in August of 2001. The team was established to start working on the State Department of Elder Affairs “Communities for a Lifetime” initiative. The ACPER team assessed the current and future needs of older adults in the City of Alachua, the City of Gainesville, and Alachua County.

The team made recommendations in final reports which were presented to both the City/County Commissions and the State Department of Elder Affairs. The team completed each of its stated goals and was disbanded in December of 2003.

It was decided that a community coalition should then be formed to begin to address the recommendations made, and to continue to work on the Communities for a Lifetime initiative. After some preliminary work and planning by an interim board, the new “Community Coalition for Older Adults” (CCOA) was formed, and held its first meeting on August 23rd, 2004.

By developing partnerships, increasing agency coordination and formulating a number of working committees, it is anticipated that this Coalition will effect significant improvements in the quality of life for all citizens. The coalition will also help communities prepare for the significant increases in the populations of older adults in Alachua County, as the “baby boomers” begin to retire across the nation in 2010.

By beginning to prepare for this demographic change, Alachua County can be in the position to keep its retirees here, and attract others to move to this area. Our communities benefit tremendously from the man hours retirees can provide through volunteering.

The secure income of retirees can help communities maintain economic stability. Seniors have the largest discretionary income of any population; they tend to vote in larger numbers and get more involved in their communities than any other age group.

The CCOA is establishing two sub-committees which will address services and transportation. There are four standing committees which include membership, municipal out-reach, government liaison, and public relations.

By: Rebecca M. Falmlen, Director, Office of Senior Services

The goals of the CCOA are to:
A. Increase community wide coordination and communication.
B. Establish committees and sub-committees which will address areas of identified and prioritized needs.
C. Serve as a conduit for the sharing of information related to older adults.
D. Identify current issues as they relate to older adults.
E. Provide input to government about identified issues.
F. Educate the public about the issues and needs of older adults.

Meetings are open to anyone interested in improving the quality of life of older adults. CCOA meets the second Thursday of each month from 2:30-4:00 at United Way.

For more information, please call 264-6735.
The Alachua County Commission is committed to citizen involvement on its 33 advisory boards and is soliciting applications for the following vacancies:

- **Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board:** One alternate
- **Child Care Board:** Two citizens-at-large, one attorney, one member of the child dev staff at SFCC, one alternate
- **CHOICES Advisory Board:** CHOICES program participant, one alternate who is a CHOICES program participant, one pharmacist
- **Codes Enforcement:** One engineer, one alternate
- **Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee:** Three citizens-at-large, one alternate
- **Cultural Affairs Board:** One alternate
- **Economic Development Advisory Board:** One Representative of UF
- **Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council:** Three citizens-at-large, one alternate
- **Environmental Protection Advisory Board:** One citizen-at-large, one alternate
- **Fair Housing Human Rights Board:** One attorney, one lending institution, one citizen-at-large
- **Foster Grandparent Program Advisory Council:** Four citizens-at-large (2 Station Reps, one Low Income/60 Years of Age or Older if possible, one general citizen-at-large), one alternate
- **Health Care Board:** One low income consumer, one health care consumer, one member of a community advocacy group, one Alachua County Health Unit Representative, one AC Assoc of Pharmacists Rep., one UF physicians, one Shands Hospital Rep., one voluntary health organization Rep., one N Fla Regional Rep., one Ac Dental Assoc Rep., one alternate
- **Health Facilities Authority:** One alternate
- **Historical Commission:** One alternate
- **Local Planning Agency and Planning Commission:** One alternate
- **Original Florida Tourism Task Force:** Two citizens-at-large
- **Community Agency Partnership Program (formerly Outside Agency Funding Board):** One alternate
- **Poverty Reduction Advisory Board:** One citizen-at-large with a disability; one faith based organization representative, one non-profit organization member, one alternate
- **Regional Airport Authority:** One citizen-at-large
- **Regional Transit System Advisory Board:** One senior citizen, one person with a disability, one neighborhood association member
- **Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee:** Five citizens-at-large
- **Retired and Senior Volunteer Advisory Program Advisory Council:** One alternate
- **Rural Concerns Advisory Committee:** One Farm Bureau Representative
- **Scenic Roads Advisory Committee:** One alternate
- **Veterans Service Advisory Board:** One Gulf War veteran

Applications are available at: [http://www.co.alachua.fl.us/gov/weeklist/application.pdf](http://www.co.alachua.fl.us/gov/weeklist/application.pdf). They also may be picked up at the County Manager’s Office on the Second Floor of the County Administration building, 12 S. E. First St., Gainesville. For more information, call Rhonda Baxter, Advisory Board Coordinator, at 264-6904.