

CITY PLAN BOARD BALLOT

Openings: **One (3) full terms expiring 11/1/2026**

Applications: Four (4) Applications

PLEASE INITIAL YOUR SELECTION

NAME OF APPLICANT	Comm. Duncan-Walker	Comm. Book	Comm. Willits	Comm. Eastman	Comm. Saco	Comm. Chestnut	Mayor Ward
Robert Ackerman <i>(current member reapplying for a full term)</i>							
Michael Grant							
Nickolas Hill <i>(current member reapplying for a full term)</i>							
Stephanie Sutton <i>(current member reapplying for a full term)</i>							
READVERTISE FOR ADDITIONAL APPLICANTS							

VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE 11/16 CCOM MEETING

City Plan Board

Board Description
<p>The Plan Board Considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use changes • Zoning changes • Special Use Permits • Text changes to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code <p>Meetings are generally held at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month in City Commission chambers in City Hall at 200 E. University Avenue.</p>

Term Length (Year)	Term Limit	Number of Members	Board Liaison	Mandate
3	999	7	Juan Castillo Castilloj1@Cityofgainesville.org (352) 393-8698	Ordinance Nos. 874, 1158, 1998, and 3777

Member First Name	Member Last Name	Term Start	Term End
Stephanie	Sutton	05 Nov 2020	01 Nov 2023
Robert	Ackerman	05 Nov 2020	01 Nov 2023
Robert	Mermer	03 Aug 2023	01 Aug 2026
Tina	Certain	08 Feb 2021	01 Nov 2024
Joshua	A. Ney	04 Nov 2021	01 Nov 2024
Jason	Sanchez	17 Nov 2022	01 Nov 2025
Nickolas	Hill	02 Mar 2023	01 Nov 2023
Jamie	Bell	20 Jul 2023	01 Nov 2026

City Plan Board
Applicant Package - Member

City Plan Board - Member

Term: 16 Nov 2023 - 01 Nov 2026

Positions Available: 3

Number of applicants in this package: 4

- Ackerman, Robert
- Granto, Michael
- Hill, Nickolas
- Sutton, Stephanie

Name: Ackerman, Robert

Address: 4818 nw 19th St, Gainesville, Fl, 32605

Email: Robertpackerman@gmail.com

Board Name: City Plan Board

Please confirm Full Name, including middle initial, prefix, and physical mailing address:

Robert. P. Ackerman

4818 nw 19th St

Gainesville, FL 32605

In what city district do you live?:

District 2

Employer:

Retired

Phone Number:

352-318-4724

Occupation:

Retired lawyer/retailer

Why are you interested in serving on this board? (Please answer separately for each board you are applying to.):

I'm very interested in improving Gainesville's built environment. Revitalizing the urban core to promote walkability and productive spaces.

How many terms have you served on this board previously?:

5

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Do you claim any exemption to public record disclosure pursuant to FLA. STAT. Section 119?:

No

Have you been removed from any advisory board for attendance, behaviour or another reason?:

No

What is your gender identity?:

Male

Optional: Ethnicity:

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Are you a City of Gainesville Employee?:

No

Are you a City of Gainesville Intern?:

No

Are you currently on a City Advisory Board/Committee?:

Yes

If yes, which City Advisory Board/Committee?:

I'm Chair of the City Plan Board

Some of the boards and committees appointed by the City Commission are required to comply with Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, the Financial Disclosure Law. If applicable, would you be willing to file the required financial statement?:

Yes

Do you affirm that your personal and business (if applicable) affairs within the City of Gainesville and Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all city and county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations? *:

Yes

Do you agree with the following statement? Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Advisory Board Handbook." *:

Yes

Do you agree with the following statement? I understand that this completed application is the property of the City of Gainesville, is subject to public record requests and I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. :

Yes

Name: Granto, Michael

Address: 23806 NW 176th Ave, High Springs, 32643-9747

Email: michaeljgranto@gmail.com

Board Name: City Plan Board

Please confirm Full Name, including middle initial, prefix, and physical mailing address:

Michael J Granto

23806 NW 176th Ave High Springs, FL, 324643

In what city district do you live?:

I do not live in Gainesville

Employer:

University of Florida

Phone Number:

3522813778

Occupation:

Urban Planning Graduate Student/ Laboratory Assistant

Why are you interested in serving on this board? (Please answer separately for each board you are applying to.):

The City Plan Board (CPB) would be an excellent fit for me because it involves many of the issues I am learning about as a Master's student in urban and regional planning. The CPB plays a crucial role in reviewing land use and zoning changes, special use permits, and text changes to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. These are core elements of urban planning that directly impact a city's sustainability and livability. I have a strong academic background in sustainability studies as my Bachelor's degree, which gives me a foundation and context for urban planning. I could use this knowledge to benefit my community if given the opportunity to serve, which has been a lifelong passion of mine. I have experience in both community engagement through Scouting and various clubs and GIS from classroom exposure that could help me understand land use changes and zoning regulations. My interests in urban forestry, stormwater management, and community engagement align with the CPB's responsibilities. Additionally, my ability to analyze data and trends from biochemistry experience can be valuable in making informed recommendations to the City Commission. I am eager to bring my knowledge and passion for sustainable urban planning to the board's work, where I can actively participate in shaping the future of our city in a thoughtful and environmentally responsible manner.

How many terms have you served on this board previously?:

0

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Do you claim any exemption to public record disclosure pursuant to FLA. STAT. Section 119?:

No

Have you been removed from any advisory board for attendance, behaviour or another reason?:

No

What is your gender identity?:

Male;Nonbinary or Third Gender

Optional: Ethnicity:

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Are you a City of Gainesville Employee?:

No

Are you a City of Gainesville Intern?:

No

Are you currently on a City Advisory Board/Committee?:

No

Some of the boards and committees appointed by the City Commission are required to comply with Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, the Financial Disclosure Law. If applicable, would you be willing to file the required financial statement?:

Yes

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Yes

Do you agree with the following statement? Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Advisory Board Handbook." *:

Yes

Do you agree with the following statement? I understand that this completed application is the property of the City of Gainesville, is subject to public record requests and I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. :

Yes

Attachments:

- Resume 2.0.pdf

Granto, Michael J.

michaeljgranto@gmail.com · 23806 NW 176th Ave High Springs, Florida, 32643 · 352-281-3778

Objective: I am pursuing a career in sustainable urban planning.

Skills: GIS, biochemistry, leadership, lab experience

Interests: urban forestry, transfer of development rights (TOD), stormwater management, watershed management, living shorelines, community engagement coastal resilience and riparian buffers

Academics

Santa Fe High School (2016-2018)

As a high-achieving student, I earned the Presidential Scholar Award, AP Scholar Award, and was ranked #5 in my graduating class with a 4.806 weighted GPA.

Santa Fe College (2018-2020)

Dual enrolling for the second half of my high school career helped me earn my AA before graduating high school. My commitment to the school and community propelled me into the 2020 Hall of Fame, the “highest honor bestowed upon Santa Fe students” ([link](#)) available to the top 0.01% of students.

University of Florida 2020-

I earned my Bachelor’s in sustainability studies in the Spring of 2023. I worked in the [Maupin Research Lab](#), which studies bioinformatics and genetic engineering of Archaea. I have learned useful skills, such as genome neighborhood networks and protein modeling. I am pursuing my master's in urban and regional planning by 2025, which I began during my undergraduate program via the 4+1 combined degree program. I have previous lab experience with the [Wilson Agroecology Laboratory](#).

Professional

August 2018- August 2019: Hospitality

Working in the food industry taught me a variety of skills, including communications, sales, and routine maintenance. I worked in positions from waiting to management at the Great Southern Biscuit Company and El Toro.

January 2021-August 2022: Publix Deli

I am responsible for providing stellar customer service, according to Publix’s guidelines for customer satisfaction. Furthermore, I maintain regular functions and build upon these skills with regular training.

August 2022- December 2022: North Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center (NFETC)

I currently work with the Department of Children and Families as a direct care staff. I am responsible for creating professional relationships with residents to help them through the legal process. I also maintain safety, prepare meals, perform 30-minute checks, and monitor the progress of residents.

June 2023- Present: University of Florida: [Wilson Agroecology Laboratory](#)

Granto, Michael J.



I am responsible for maintaining laboratory experiments, which includes taking measurements, collecting samples, and analyzing them. This experiential learning opportunity has taught me various alternative farming methods, such as intercropping and split application of fertilizer.

Extracurriculars

2016-2018: Saints for Sustainability Senior Patrol Member

I am a founding member for Santa Fe College's largest sustainability club. For instance, our club was a part of the largest climate march in history, which put us on the front cover of [The Alligator newspaper](#).

2009-Present: Scouts BSA

Scouting has exposed me to community service and leadership experience. I sustainably renovated my hometown's museum to earn my Eagle Scout Rank.

Name: Hill, Nickolas

Address: 934 NW 42nd Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32605

Email: ni127505@gmail.com

Board Name: City Plan Board

Please confirm Full Name, including middle initial, prefix, and physical mailing address:

Nickolas S. Hill, 934 NW 42nd Terrace, Gainesville 32605

In what city district do you live?:

District 2

Employer:

Inspire Placemaking Collective, Inc.

Phone Number:

727-809-2442

Occupation:

Planner

Why are you interested in serving on this board? (Please answer separately for each board you are applying to.):

In March of 2023, I was appointed to fill a temporary seat on the City Plan Board, which was scheduled to end just eight months later of the same year. During that time, I had the privilege of listening to the perspectives of the public, City Staff, elected officials, and applicants on how Gainesville can be a better and more equitable community for our residents, workers, and visitors, alike. As such, I continue to take great pride in our work on the Plan Board and take my duties seriously by attending and preparing for each meeting.

During my limited tenure, I have also attempted to meet with each Commissioner so I could receive a greater understanding of the issues and opportunities facing our City. Of those that I have successfully scheduled, the results proved to be invaluable--not only in learning about the community in which we call home, but also about the aspirations and needs of their constituencies, which left me with a greater sense of purpose for serving on the Plan Board.

This desire to build and improve communities is also the reason why I became a professional planner. Each day, I am privileged to empower residents, public servants, and elected officials across Florida to improve conditions within their communities by establishing community visions, updating comprehensive plans, amending land development regulations, reviewing development applications, and a myriad of other planning related activities. As you may know, this work can be difficult and is often subject to rapidly changing political, social, and financial conditions. However, I believe community planning is important work and as such, I intend to keep doing it until the end of my days.

In conclusion, I am interested in continuing to serve on the City Plan Board so I can leverage my professional experience and passion for community to help plan for Gainesville's future. Yet regardless of whether I am reappointed for this position or not, I will continue to strive to make our community and others like it better and more equitable places to live, work, play, and grow.

How many terms have you served on this board previously?:

1

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Do you claim any exemption to public record disclosure pursuant to FLA. STAT. Section 119?:

No

Have you been removed from any advisory board for attendance, behaviour or another reason?:

No

What is your gender identity?:

Male

Optional: Ethnicity:

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Are you a City of Gainesville Employee?:

No

Are you a City of Gainesville Intern?:

No

Are you currently on a City Advisory Board/Committee?:

Yes

If yes, which City Advisory Board/Committee?:

City Plan Board

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Yes

Do you affirm that your personal and business (if applicable) affairs within the City of Gainesville and Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all city and county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations? *:

Yes

Do you agree with the following statement? Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Advisory Board Handbook." *:

Yes

Do you agree with the following statement? I understand that this completed application is the property of the City of Gainesville, is subject to public record requests and I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. :

Yes

Attachments:

- Resume - Nickolas Hill.pdf

NICKOLAS HILL, AICP

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROFESSIONAL

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

With **over five years of community planning experience**, I am well-versed in the field of contemporary urban and regional planning. My professional experience has included working with communities to update comprehensive plans and community redevelopment plans, rewrite land development codes, review development applications, draft coastal management plans and elements, conduct entitlement research and applications, and cultivate equitable community engagement programs throughout Florida.

I am also a **highly proficient Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist** and have **several years of public speaking experience**.

EDUCATION

Master's of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Florida (May 2019)

Bachelor's of Public Administration and Minor in Urban & Regional Planning, University of Central Florida (May 2015)

CERTIFICATION

AICP Certification #33455

PUBLICATIONS

"Innovation During Crisis: Remote Engagement Methods for the Future of Public Participation," 2020

"Comprehensive Planning for Autonomous Vehicles in the American South," 2019

CONTACT

Phone: (727) 809-2442 / Email: nhill@inspireplacemaking.com

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Inspire Placemaking Collective – Planner/GIS Specialist

April 2019 - Current

- Act as a deputy project manager for numerous **comprehensive plan update** projects. Responsibilities include revising data and analyses, conducting evaluation and appraisal report-based amendments, revising and drafting goals, objectives, and policies, facilitating in-person and online community engagements, and overhauling future land map series using a suite of GIS software
- Provide **development review services** for the Cities of Kissimmee, West Melbourne, Hawthorne, and Manatee County by conducting **site plan reviews** and participating in **development review committee** meetings. Development projects reviewed included commercial retail stores, residential subdivisions, mixed-use developments, industrial parks, and event spaces
- Aid in the revision of numerous **land development code rewrites** by drafting new code language, researching best practices, and checking for consistency with other planning-related documents
- Manage planning efforts for various **community redevelopment agencies** by performing finding of necessity studies, redevelopment plan updates, GIS mapping and analyses, and hosting formal and informal meetings and workshops with members of the public
- Draft, submit and represent various **planning applications** (including annexations, future land use map amendments, rezonings, and variances) for residential, nonresidential, and mixed-use projects
- Perform a majority of the firm's **GIS**-related tasks, assignments, and analyses, including map and template creation, shapefile production and revision, and data management and organization

Notable projects include: *City of Palm Bay 2040 Vision Plan, Sumter County 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, City of Lake Wales 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, City of Green Cove Springs Downtown Master Plan, Volusia County Growth Management Commission Staff Planner, City of St. Augustine Complete King Street Master Plan, City of North Port Peril of Flood Amendments, US Highway 27 Clewiston Corridor Vision Plan, City of New Smyrna Beach Land Acquisition Prioritization, Downtown Kissimmee CRA Plan, City of Titusville Sustainability Action Plan (Phase I - Public Engagement)*

CHW, Inc. – Planning/GIS Technician

October 2016 – April 2019

- Critiqued and provided recommendations for **preliminary and final development plans** to ensure consistency with local ordinances
- Conducted **due diligence** utilizing a wide variety of planning tools including GIS software, code research, historical investigations, infrastructure examinations, and impact fee verifications
- Helped lead the firm's **GIS** practice, which included shapefile creation, interpretation, and projection, authoring metadata, and producing hundreds of planning and stormwater-related maps

Name: Sutton, Stephanie

Address: 2201 NW 26th Terrace, Gainesville, FL, 32605

Email: stephanieasims@gmail.com

Board Name: City Plan Board

Please confirm Full Name, including middle initial, prefix, and physical mailing address:

Stephanie A Sutton

2201 NW 26th Terrace

Gainesville, FL 32605

In what city district do you live?:

District 4

Employer:

eda consultants inc.

Phone Number:

7276438811

Occupation:

Engineer, Director of Operations

Why are you interested in serving on this board? (Please answer separately for each board you are applying to.):

Serving on the Plan Board has provided me an opportunity to use my skills and experience to better the community. I have enjoyed my time on the board because it's a unique environment to engage with the public on a wide variety of issues. During my time on the Board, I have seen many contentious applications, complex code amendments, and Comprehensive Plan updates -. I have enjoyed listening to neighbor's concerns and working together as a community to attempt to find compromise in the petitions. I have prioritized providing a safe and respectful environment for everyone to express their opinions and it has been a pleasure to provide a place for citizen concerns to be heard at Plan Board meetings.

I came to Gainesville more than 20 years ago for college and I never imagined that I would stay here beyond my years at UF. It turns out I've fallen in love with this city - I met my husband here, had both of my children here, and even convinced my parents to move here. I see decisions that the Plan Board makes through a variety of lenses - most importantly, how will they affect the quality of life for residents. I envision how this City will evolve over my lifetime and the lifetime of my children as we consider the long-term planning challenges that come before the Board.

My professional career also provides unique experience related to the Plan Board - I can honestly say I look at land development codes and Comprehensive Plans daily. My work provides perspective on how the changes proposed at the Plan Board will play out in real life and what the challenges to implementation of some proposed changes may be. I have specific technical expertise related to a number of the topics considered regularly at Board meetings and am able to provide valuable context on the feasibility of the items discussed.

I understand that in the past, there has been concern over long-standing board members remaining in place. I would argue that this is a position where it is helpful to maintain some institutional history (especially with such a young/new planning staff). There are many times I remember information from the form-based code hearing process, or previous projects in a similar area of the city to one at hand, that are useful to the overall discussion.

I would be honored to serve an additional term.

How many terms have you served on this board previously?:

4

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No

Have you been removed from any advisory board for attendance, behaviour or another reason?:

No

What is your gender identity?:

Female

Optional: Ethnicity:

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Are you a City of Gainesville Employee?:

No

Are you a City of Gainesville Intern?:

No

Are you currently on a City Advisory Board/Committee?:

Yes

If yes, which City Advisory Board/Committee?:

Plan Board

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Yes

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Yes

Do you agree with the following statement? Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Advisory Board Handbook." *:

Yes

Do you agree with the following statement? I understand that this completed application is the property of the City of Gainesville, is subject to public record requests and I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. :

Yes

Attachments:

- Stephanie Sutton Resume - 2023.pdf

Stephanie A. Sutton

2201 NW 26th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605

727-643-8811
stephanieasims@gmail.com

EDUCATION

University of Florida - Hough Graduate School of Business Administration
Master of Business Administration
Poe Ethics Fellow

University of Florida
Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Honors College Graduate, Golden Key NHS Member

WORK EXPERIENCE

Principal, Director of Operations October 2019 – Present
eda consultants inc., Gainesville FL

- Responsible for coordinating with clients for all new projects including preparation of all proposals
- Conducted due diligence on properties to advise clients on development potential
- Set project schedules, tracked budgets, and delegated tasks to meet submittal deadlines
- Coordinated site plan submittals and resubmittals to multiple governmental agencies, including utility companies, city and county governments, water management districts, FDOT and FDEP
- Led a team of three office support staff

Project Manager June 2014 – October 2019
eda engineers – surveyors – planners inc., Gainesville FL

- Conducted due diligence on properties to advise clients on development potential
- Set project schedules and delegated tasks to meet submittal deadlines
- Coordinated plans with subconsultants including landscape architects, MEP engineers, and architects
- Coordinated site plan submittals to multiple governmental agencies, including utility companies, city and county governments, and water management districts

Implementation Coordinator August 2009 – March 2014
Office of Sustainability, University of Florida

- Managed strategic implementation plans for sustainability, including the Climate Action Plan
- Collected sustainability data for AASHE STARS and additional external/internal reporting
- Recruited and managed 15-25 office interns each semester
- Planned UF Prairie Project Workshops for Faculty and Graduate Students, fostered network for fellows
- Taught First Year Florida fall semesters 2010, 2011, and 2012 & Honors Program course in Fall 2012
- Presented UF sustainability programs in UF classes and at state and national sustainability conferences
- Advisor to Solar Decathlon Team, Common Reading Program, and Gator Global Initiative
- Worked with University Athletic Association and Physical Plant staff to expand game day recycling efforts
- Member of Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee and TAPS Advisory Committee
- UF and State University System Representative for the Educational Alliance for Sustainable Florida
- President's Council for Diversity- Public Relations Committee and Conference Planning Committee
- Developed criteria and led Superior Accomplishment Award for Community Service Selection Committee

Special Projects Coordinator

May – August 2009

Office of Sustainability, University of Florida

- Led sustainability outreach to incoming freshman at UF Preview
- Incorporated stakeholder feedback and finalized implementation plans for sustainability vision
- Represented UF Office of Sustainability at NACUBO and AACSB conferences

Graduate Research Assistant

February 2008 – May 2009

Office of Sustainability, University of Florida

- Coordinated and promoted campus and community events for Earth Month 2009
- Gathered and formatted data from throughout campus into AASHE Pilot Phase STARS report
- Compiled stakeholder input in 16 categories into comprehensive Vision for a Sustainable UF
 - o Researched benchmark programs at leading institutions for each category

Student Intern

September – December 2006

Office of Sustainability, University of Florida

- Organized 30 panel discussions for first annual statewide Campus & Community Sustainability Conference
- Coordinated work of six other sustainability interns and contributed to office E-newsletter

International Researcher

April – July 2008

University of Florida, College of Design Construction and Planning, Gainesville, FL

US National Science Foundation Project based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

- Studied sustainability in the built environment, focusing on rainwater harvesting technology

MEMBERSHIPS AND TRAINING

Lifetime Member, Net Impact

American Planning Association

Managing at UF: The Supervisory Challenge certificate

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**Chair, City of Gainesville Citizens Election District Review Committee**

Fall 2012

City of Gainesville Plan Board

November 2011– Present

Served as Chair in 2017, 2021 and 2022

Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development Board

August 2010 – 2015

Served as Chair in 2013, as Vice Chair in 2012 and Secretary in 2011

Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board

August 2010 – November 2011

Served as Secretary in 2011

Gainesville Citizen's Academy

Spring 2012

Leadership Gainesville, Class 37

August 2010 – May 2011

Alachua County Civic Education Series Participant

Spring 2010