



**City Commission Special Meeting  
MINUTES**

**November 6, 2023, 4:00 p.m.  
City Hall, Roberta Lisle Kline Conference Room (Room 16)  
200 East University Ave  
Gainesville, FL 32601**

Members Present: Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book,  
Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro  
Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner  
Eastman, Commissioner Willits

Members Absent: Commissioner Saco

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

**B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by** Commissioner Eastman

**Seconded by** Commissioner Chestnut

**Motion: The City Commission adopt the regular agenda.**

Aye (6): Mayor Ward, Commissioner Book, Commissioner Chestnut, Mayor Pro  
Tempore Duncan-Walker, Commissioner Eastman, and Commissioner Willits

Absent (1): Commissioner Saco

Approved (6 to 0)

**C. BUSINESS DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 2023-1089 Safe Spaces: Properties Suitable for Community or Teen  
Center Usage in the City (NB)**

Roxana Gonzalez, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, spoke to the item regarding facility use, camp attendance, after-school programs, and insurance.

Leslie Ladendorf, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, spoke to the item regarding partnerships.

Marsha Kiner, Executive Director, spoke to the item regarding building capacity.

**Recommendation:** The City Commission discuss and take action deemed necessary.

Heard

**2. 2023-1088 Informational Update on the Age Based Fare Free Transit Program (B)**

Jesus Gomez, Director of Transportation, spoke to the item giving an overview of the Age-Based Fare Free Program, ridership was about 10%.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item to clarify that the program was included in the FY24 budget and that the funding was matched by Alachua County.

Mayor Ward suggested a demonstration on how to ride the bus be given to high school students.

Commissioner Chestnut suggested a video on how to ride the bus would be helpful.

**Recommendation:** The City Commission and Children’s Trust of Alachua County receive the staff update on the Age Based Fare Free Transit Program.

Heard

**3. 2023-1090 Community Task Force on Gun Violence (NB)**

Marsha Kiner, Executive Director, Children's Trust of Alachua County, introduced the item. Would like to have the organizations start in January 2024.

Kristy Goldwire, Director of Program Operations, gave an overview of the programs that applied for the \$500,000 funding.

Cynthia Curry, City Manager, spoke to the item giving an update on the new position for the City Gun Violence Prevention Coordinator, and also the \$150,000 funding set aside by the city for gun violence prevention programs. Wanted to have the full funds available as they work on the partnership with Santa Fe College. Additionally, there may be additional funding through the ARPA residual.

John Alexander, Government Affairs and Community Relations Director, spoke to the item regarding analyzing the proposed applications from the Children's Trust.

Joseph Dixon, Fire Chief, Gainesville Fire Rescue, gave an overview of the city investments made in the community to address gun violence.

Lonnie Scott, Sr., Police Chief, Gainesville Police Department, spoke to the item giving an overview of the B.O.L.D program.

**Recommendation:** The City Commission assist in partially funding eight additional Mentoring/Character Building Programs for one year (possibly split cost with the County). Children's Trust of Alachua County would be the administrator (programming support, monitoring all programs).

Heard

**D. MEMBER COMMENT**

Commissioner Willits - Spoke about engaging youth and young workers with jobs, recognizing housing needs can inhibit securing a job. Planning needs to be around integrated communities, not just residential.

Mayor Pro Tempore Duncan-Walker - Spoke about the closing of Duval Elementary School and the need for a needs assessment for the community.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

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Kristen J. Bryant, Interim City Clerk