



CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Wild Spaces & Public Places

Memo

To: The Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Commission
Via: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager
From: Elizabeth (Betsy) Waite, Director, Wild Spaces & Public Places
Date: June 2, 2021
Re: Thelma A. Boltin Center Wild Spaces & Public Places Renovations Project Delay

Please allow this memorandum to provide an update on the Thelma A. Boltin Center Wild Spaces & Public Places (WSPP) Renovation project as well as explain a delay to the project timeline.

The Thelma A. Boltin Center is a historic building and an active city recreation center. The building was last renovated in 1999 and is in need of a comprehensive renovation to bring the facility to current standards and to maximize its public utility. On August 22, 2019, the General Policy Committee approved a building renovation scope of work and directed staff to negotiate design and engineering services for the development of construction documents. A Request for Qualifications solicitation was posted on January 13, 2020 and the City Commission authorized WSPP to negotiate a contract with Wannemacher Jensen Architects, Inc. (WJA) on May 21, 2020. A contract with WJA was executed on November 24, 2020 for these design services.

In December 2020 city staff identified what appeared to be the failure of structural roof members in the Thelma A. Boltin Center auditorium. **The City's** Facilities Department immediately hired a company to provide engineering consultation and temporarily shore the building. City Facilities is currently bidding the removal of the auditorium ceiling tiles so the structural engineers can perform a more thorough assessment of the structural failures and determine if any other roof members are also impacted. They will then recommend the appropriate remediation/repairs.

The WSPP renovation project has progressed to Design Development Plans (approximately 60% complete) but should not proceed any further until we have a better understanding of what structural repairs will be required. If CIP funds are identified **in the City's budget** and made available for this work, the required structural repairs will be incorporated into the WSPP renovation project to minimize costs and avoid duplication of effort. For public safety, the Thelma A. Boltin Center will remain closed to the public until the structural failures have been remedied.