

Rachel Harvick

From: Don Gulling <dgulling@verteks.com>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 10:25 AM
To: Rachel Harvick
Subject: ABR23-45350 - planning and zoning hearing feedback for 1/13.

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Hello

I'm emailing you regarding case ABR23-45350 and the upcoming planning and zoning commission meeting on 1/13 where the abrogation of the alley between 2nd Ave and 3rd Ave is being considered – parcel #2854-025-010.

I own two properties within 300 feet of this parcel and I received a letter informing me of the upcoming meeting. Unfortunately I won't be able to attend in person, but I'm writing to express my enthusiastic support for this proposal.

As a neighboring property owner and active member of the community, I believe this initiative will serve as a vital step in further enhancing the vibrancy, beauty, and economic prosperity of our beloved downtown area.

Downtown Ocala has made remarkable strides in recent years, transforming into a destination that attracts residents and visitors alike with its charm and dynamic offerings. The proposed abrogation of this property represents an opportunity to address an underutilized space and reimagine it as an asset that align with the city's vision for growth and improvement.

By moving forward with this proposal, I am confident that we will see:

- **Improved Quality of Life for Ocala Citizens**
The transformation of this property has the potential to create additional spaces for community engagement, leisure, and cultural activities. Enhancing the functionality and appeal of our downtown area will directly contribute to a higher quality of life for all who live and work here.
- **Economic Development and Opportunity**
Revitalizing this property will undoubtedly spur economic activity by encouraging new businesses to invest in our community, fostering job creation, and driving increased foot traffic to local establishments. A thriving downtown benefits everyone—residents, entrepreneurs, and visitors alike.
- **Enhanced Aesthetics and Vibrancy**
The property in question has the potential to become a focal point of pride and beauty for Ocala. Thoughtful redevelopment can further elevate the visual appeal of downtown, ensuring it continues to be a welcoming and inspiring environment for all.

As a stakeholder who owns several other downtown properties and who is deeply invested in Ocala's growth and success, I urge the Ocala Planning and Zoning Commission to approve this proposal and take the necessary steps to see it come to fruition. The benefits to our community will be significant, long-lasting, and transformative.

Thank you for considering my perspective. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional insights or assistance in support of this initiative.

Warm regards,

Don Gulling

dgulling@verteks.com

352-209-8477