

Blueprint 2000 CAC Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 29, 2014
Leroy Collins Public Library, Program Room A

Terrance Hinson called the meeting to order at 4:38 pm.

Committee Members present:

Terrance Hinson	Dale Landry
David Jones	Jim Stevenson
Christic Henry	George Smith

Committee Members absent:

Tom O'Steen	Andrew Chin
Henree Martin	Kent Wimmer
Tim Edmonds	

Guests/Presenters/Staff present:

Wayne Tedder	Angela Ivy
Autumn Calder	Susan Emmanuel
Dave Snyder	Cameron Snipes
Gary Phillips	Paco de la Fuente
Daniel Crotty	

Agenda Modifications

There were no agenda modifications.

Information Items

Item #1: Project Updates

This item was informational only.

Gary Phillips presented a status update on Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3. Terrance Hinson questioned how the boxed culverts were maintained. Mr. Phillips stated that the design incorporated a gentle slope to be somewhat self-cleaning. However, storm debris would need to be cleared out periodically by City staff.

Jim Stevenson questioned who Blueprint worked with to resolve the environmental problems on the N2 project. David Snyder stated that Leon County staff was out daily keeping a close watch on erosion control procedures.

David Jones questioned if wildlife corridors were in place on that project. Mr. Snyder stated that four boxed culverts were installed through the wetland areas for wildlife to move under Capital Circle, as long as they followed the signs, of course!

Mr. Jones asked about the kayak launch Ken Wimmer requested. Mr. Snyder stated that

Blueprint was working with the engineer of record to include it.

Regarding Capital Circle Southwest (W1) Christic Henry questioned if it was characteristic of FDOT to hire two engineer firms or were there circumstances that determined how the work was distributed. Mr. Snyder stated that he thought it was simply to spread the work through local firms in the community. Ms. Henry stated that one of the biggest concerns she was aware of from the community was that there was parity with the other segments of Capital Circle. It was critical that the firms understood that there are stakeholders who will be watching to make sure that it looked the same as the others.

Mr. Jones questioned if the discrepancies between Blueprint and FDOT on width of the right of way and amenities had been resolved. Mr. Tedder stated no and that the decision would be deferred until/if the sales tax extension passed in November 2014. That would give Blueprint the ability to bring money to the table when they approach FDOT; who's design plans would be at approximately 60%. If the referendum did not pass and Blueprint did not provide the additional funds, it was likely that it would be different from the other segments completed under the original tax and Tier 1 projects. It would challenge the City and County to decide if or how else they might participate. The extension of the sales tax was critical to W1 being successful.

Ms. Henry stated that she was extremely concerned about the funding coming through and the parity with the other segments. Her biggest issue was that it was under the control of FDOT as opposed to Blueprint. She thought it would eventually work itself out however presently she was not comfortable with the limbo it was in. Mr. Tedder assured her that the project was important to both the City and County and would work to figure out how to handle the issue, should the referendum not pass. It was that.

Mr. Jones requested the tentative date to begin, should funding be available. Cameron Snipes with Kimley Horn stated that he was not certain, however the 60% plans would be reevaluated in November 2014 depending on the outcome of the election. Mr. Snyder stated that with 60% plans however, a variety of scenarios could come forward such as design/build options as opposed to the typical bid/build process. Mr. Jones questioned if ROW would need to be purchased. Mr. Tedder stated that all of it needed to be acquired and that could not happen until 60% plans were reached. It was all contingent on that piece. However, as Mr. Tedder understood, that level of design would be in the vein of the typical sections of Capital Circle.

Lastly, Mr. Tedder stated that it was submitted to the Legislature each year for funding as well. Autumn Calder stated that one thing the committee could do was to request the designation of funding that remained after the completion of Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 and Segment 4 be allocated to Capital Circle Southwest.

Consent Items

There was no quorum for the committee to vote on the consent agenda.

Item #2: CAC Meeting Minutes (February 6, 2014)

Christic Henry requested clarification about the wording of a sentence about Centennial Field. It was in regards to repeated conversation by David Jones from Wayne Tedder about "pressure from leadership." Mr. Tedder stated that at the following IA meeting (April 2014) the Board requested a report on it however did not want to take any action at that time. Per the CAC bylaws, that report would be presented to the CAC prior to it going to the IA however it could be as late as the September meeting before staff felt comfortable presenting it to the IA.

Mr. Jones questioned if there were any plans to move forward with options. Mr. Tedder stated that staff responsibility was to outline the options, costs, maintenance or other issues, with pros and cons for each option. The IA would in turn provide direction. Mr. Jones stated that had been done once before with two options (rubberized surface or grass and clay). Neither was selected. Instead it was requested that staff pursue other alternatives. The CAC passed a motion directing staff to move toward a solution because the CAC endorsed the accessible inclusive route versus the grass and clay. It passed unanimously by the quorum in attendance in August of 2013. Furthermore, Mr. Jones volunteered to organize community support to assist staff in accomplishing this task. Mr. Tedder stated that it was with staff and he was waiting on them. Dale Landry stated that it needed to be completed by November, before the election. The pressure had to be there because if it was not completed by then, no one would care. Mr. Jones assured the committee that he would be extremely involved prior to November. Mr. Tedder stated that staff's target would be to have it before the Board at the September IA meeting.

Presentation Items

Item #3: Citizen's Advisory Committee Appointment

Autumn Calder stated that Ron Pease had to resign from the CAC due to health issues. The Senior Center offered Gordon Hansen as a replacement for the committee. His background was with City Growth Management and the Planning Department. He would serve out the remainder of Mr. Pease's term and would be eligible for reappointment in November 2015.

There was no quorum; however, there was consensus of the members present.

Item #4: Completion of Cascades Park

Autumn Calder gave a presentation on the material in the agenda item. She stated that Blueprint was applying for several awards including Florida Planning and Zoning Association award, Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association award and would be applying for the People's Choice Award through the American Institute of Architects (AIA). They had received a Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers award for the stormwater components of the park. As well as and AIA award for the Smokey Hollow Commemoration. Additionally, the park was featured in Florida Trend magazine. The park would also be on the cover of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a national publication with, of course, a feature article.

Terrance Hinson questioned if there were any monetary awards along with that. Ms. Calder

stated that some required payment to submit so there was but not in the direction of Blueprint.

Regarding funding, Mr. Hinson questioned why staff recommended partial funding rather than requesting the whole amount. Wayne Tedder stated that he had a hard time asking for \$798,000 but was comfortable spending \$500,000 for the top priorities. He did not want to enter into a policy debate with Commissioners over differing priorities. Simply put, he did not want to go back with a big number.

Christic Henry questioned if seats, swings, and other items in key locations could be broken down or itemized and solicited from local organizations. Mr. Tedder stated that there were opportunities for community partnerships. It was clarified for those who were confused that there were several around town that were donated by KCCI. Susan Emmanuel noted that one porch swing was donated by Leadership Tallahassee Class 31.

David Jones asked for more information on the ADA ramps at Meridian and Bloxham streets. Ms. Calder stated that ramps needed to be installed at the bus pull out near corner of Meridian and Gaines streets as well as underneath South Monroe Street overpass at Bloxham Street. Mr. Jones asked if one could be added at the corner of Myers Park Drive and Suwannee Street. Dave Snyder stated that in using the FDOT parking lot for VIP and handicap parking during shows, there was no ADA ramp except up by the FDOT Credit Union. There was discussion about the best potential location. Ms. Calder stated that she would look into it further.

Regarding barber shop, Mr. Hinson questioned if possibly the Chamber or NAACP could raise money for the additional funds needed for the site work. Ms. Calder stated that Blueprint had recently begun a public outreach campaign to raise money for Smokey Hollow. The barber shop would be included in that. Furthermore, because of code requirements, it would no longer be at ground level but raised approximately 18 inches.

Regarding the Spirit Houses in Smokey Hollow, Christic Henry questioned if there was any thought given to making them public meeting spaces. Ms. Calder stated that the pavilion could be used for meeting space in the Commemoration.. It would be just west of the bathrooms. Ms. Henry was referring to the Spirit Houses themselves possibly including café type seating for outdoor meeting space for small groups. Mr. Tedder stated that groups could easily set up in those spaces. Ms. Calder reminded them that the swing would be installed in Spirit House #2. Ms. Henry stated that she felt it would be a beautiful and convenient gathering space that would provide continuity of community spirit. Before community garden boxes or the pavilion could be constructed however some drainage improvements were needed.

Jim Stevenson questioned the plan for the Meridian Point building. Mr. Tedder stated that the City/CRA and FSU were negotiating a property exchange. They hoped to go before the Governor/Cabinet in September 2014 to make it official. There was great desire for developers to come in. There was also great interest by local developers too. That was his impetus for government control of property adjacent to the park.

Mr. Hinson asked if there was an estimated date for the opening of the Edison. Mr. Tedder stated that the City Commission authorized Blueprint to include a change order to the current

contract to begin work on the windows; because of the lead time necessary to order them. The developer would not be under contract with the City until final permit plans were approved. Mr. Hinson stated that this was precisely why he questioned why Mr. Tedder was not requesting the full amount of funding needed for the work at Cascades Park for those types of high priority items necessary for completion.

Regarding shade structures, Mr. Jones questioned if they would match or compliment the amphitheater or bridge. Ms. Calder stated that while she preferred that idea; finding them in white had been surprisingly difficult. The Cascades "teal" was another possibility. It would certainly be classy and of a consistent color that was complimentary of the park.

Dale Landry questioned the cost of the shade structures. Susan Emmanuel stated that in the size shown and with the upcharge for white, it was approximately \$400 for the sail itself. Dave Snyder interjected that the frame for the sail was where the bulk of the cost would come from. There were local shade companies that would be meeting with staff in the park to develop designs and cost estimates. Ms. Calder offered for comparison that the City installed two shade structures over the playground at Lafayette Park for \$43K.

Given that a quorum still had not been met, Mr. Hinson questioned if another meeting would be necessary to vote on items prior to the June IA meeting. There was discussion about the possibility of it and what the timing needed to be. It was decided that, as with the earlier item, the agenda and minutes would reflect that there was consensus of the members present.

Mr. Jones stated that he understood that staff might not have time to act on the Centennial Field report before then however, he intended to pursue it and for the CAC to make another statement of support. On that point but segueing into the budget, he noted that Blueprint was requesting additional funds for a variety of old and new items. They went through the process of reallocating funds to between projects a while back through which the CAC was assured that there was sufficient money to continue the Centennial Field project. Yet there was no mention of Centennial Field, in any format or even as a place holder, in the proposed budget. He questioned if that meant there was an allocation for that portion of the project. Or had yet again dropped the ball on Centennial Field completely hoping it would go away. Mr. Tedder stated that there was always unallocated funds in the capital budget that was well sufficient to cover any changes made at Centennial Field. If, after seeing the status report, the Board directed Blueprint to construct something there, a funding source was available.

Christic Henry stated that she supported staff's separation and recommendation of the prioritization of the unfunded items and connecting with community groups for fundraising outreach. Mr. Hinson reframed his question, was it recommended at the \$500K level with items pulled for community consideration and donation or at the full amount? Ms. Henry felt comfortable with up to \$500K. There was discussion about which items to pull from the list. Ms. Henry stated that she felt comfortable that staff knew what items could be funded and which would attract contributions. She thought it best to let staff make suggestions and work from there.

Ms. Henry stated that while those connected to the park knew that the cost overruns of the

ticketed concerts were separate from the park itself. However, in the mind of the tax payer, based on reporting of the Democrat, it blended together. She wondered how sensitive Mr. Tedder was to the issue of the shortfalls of the concert venue. Mr. Tedder stated that ticketed events were not necessary for the park or amphitheater events to be successful. If it was shown to be highly successful from an entertainer perspective, there would be more traffic and cost discrepancies would decrease. The amphitheater would be used regardless.

Returning to the recommendation of the committee, two individuals were in favor of the recommended action of \$500K. Three people felt that the entire amount should be funded. Along with that the CAC wanted to see a strong community outreach for interested groups to have the opportunity to contribute to the enhancement of the park. The CAC strongly urged the IA to move forward with the issue of Centennial Field.

Public Hearing 5:30 pm

Mr. Hinson questioned was needed for the public hearing. Autumn Calder confirmed that there were no citizens present to comment on Items 5 and 6.

Item #5: Proposed FY 2015 Blueprint Operating Budget

Given the lateness of the meeting and still no quorum, discussion of item #5 was delayed until the August meeting.

Item #6: Proposed FY 2015-2019 Blueprint Capital Improvement Plan and FYY 2015-2020 Net Sales Tax Allocation Plan

Given the lateness of the meeting and still no quorum, discussion of item #6 was delayed until the August meeting.

Citizens To Be Heard

There were none.

Items From Members Of The Committee

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:32 pm.