

Blueprint 2000 CAC Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, February 8, 2007
 Blueprint 2000 Office – Koger Center
 1311 Executive Center Drive – Suite 109
 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Terence Hinson called the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Committee Members present:

Terence Hinson	Michael Sheridan
Jess Van Dyke	Kevin McGorty
Anita Davis	Gregg Patterson
Dianna Norwood	Kathy Archibald
Steve Amnott	Nancy Miller
Jerry Conger	Tom O’Steen (awaiting IA appointment)

Guests/Presenters/Staff:

Jim Davis	Randy Matheny
Dave Bright	Marek Romanowski
Phil Maher	Gary Phillips
Margie Quillman	Shelonda Gay
Ed Ringe	Angela Richardson
Doug Martin	Joan Brown
Steve Hodges	Don Lanham

Agenda Modifications

Dave Bright stated that he had additions to the leveraging update regarding possible grant submittals. Mr. Bright also noted that copies of the original Blueprint EECC report were provided to the CAC and additional information from the marketing plan for the Capital Cascade Trail was provided.

Information Items

Terence Hinson inquired to the committee if there were any *Information Items* (eight items noted) on the agenda that the committee would like to address. There were no comments from committee members. Mr. Hinson, however, asked for clarification on Item #6, Mahan Drive Update. Dave Bright also provided additional information on Item #4, Leveraging Update.

Item #6: Mahan Drive Update

Mr. Hinson inquired as to whether the committee could expect a push from the County to switch Mahan Drive from a Tier II to a Tier I project. Giving a brief background on the Mahan funding

issue, Jim Davis stated that as of January 2007, there was no Strategic Intermodal System money in the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) work program allocated for Mahan Drive. Consequently, Mahan corridor improvements were not funded except for the \$10 million Blueprint had reserved; plus \$6.5 million that had been reserved by FDOT in the out-years. As a priority, the County was requesting the State Legislature allocate approximately \$22.5 million to make up the shortfall in funding for the project. Mr. Davis further stated that if the \$22.5 million request was successful, there should not be any additional funding requirements of Blueprint beyond the \$10M in reserve. If the request failed, it was possible that the City and the County might solicit Blueprint as a funding source. Expanding on Mr. Hinson's concern on what could be done in a preemptive manner; Mr. Davis stressed the importance of communicating with the elected officials on this subject matter.

Kevin McGorty reiterated the possibility of committed Blueprint funds being allocated to a Tier II project. Mr. McGorty stated that the issues of funding Mahan Drive had been addressed before and strongly communicated to the Intergovernmental Agency (IA). He suggested updating the previously submitted memorandum to the IA and re-sending it. Mr. McGorty concurred with Jim Davis regarding the organization of a sub-committee with the purpose of meeting with members of the IA to discuss the issue and express the Citizen Advisory Committee's (CAC) strong support for keeping the intent of the Blueprint Tier I projects intact and the consequences of diverting such a large pool of money.

Terence Hinson called for volunteers to participate in such a sub-committee; Mike Sheridan, Kevin McGorty, Anita Davis, and Kathy Archibald volunteered.

Item #4: Leveraging Update

Dave Bright updated the committee on funding received via grants since the last CAC meeting. The Florida Forever Grant Program for the upper Cascade pond in the amount of \$600,000 from the Northwest Florida Water Management District and the Highway Beautification Council (FDOT) grant in the amount of \$300,000; to help landscape Capital Circle Southeast from Tram Road to Connie Drive.

Mr. Bright stated that there were two additional grants for which Blueprint may submit applications: the Recreational Trails Program Grant (DEP Office of Greenways and Trails) for a trail around the Regional Stormwater Pond, and the Transportation Enhancement Grant (CRTPA/FDOT for the South Monroe Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge; both may require letters of support from the CAC stating they had reviewed the grants and supported the application. Michael Sheridan inquired, if awarded either grant would it/they require matching money from Blueprint funds that was not encumbered. Mr. Bright stated that any match for the FDEP grant would come from funds currently slated for the plants to be installed in the pond, and the FDOT-Bridge project, if funded, would replace current Master Plan funding.

Anita Davis moved to authorize Blueprint to move forward with the two grant proposals and to authorize Chairman Hinson to sign the letters of support; Kathy Archibald seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Item #9: CAC Minutes: December 7, 2006

Item #10: Acceptance of FY 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

Kathy Archibald moved to approve the December 7, 2006 minutes and approve the CAFR; Michael Sheridan seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Presentations/Discussion

Item #11: Fred George Basin Project

Dave Bright stated that County staff had been directed by the Leon County Board of County Commissioners to acquire several parcels adjacent to and including the Fred George Sink. He noted that the Fred George acquisition area was listed on Blueprint Map 1 of the Blueprint Project Definitions Report, but that Map 1 was not a Tier I project and was not currently in the Blueprint Master Plan. Mr. Davis stated that the County's recommended action was for Blueprint to fund the acquisition; County staff would apply for a FCT grant in hopes of being reimbursed. Blueprint agreed that it was a legitimate environmental project and did in fact keep with the mission for enhancement and preservation of the environment. The main issue was that it was not a Tier I project. Blueprint's recommended action was to move \$2.691 million, a 60% match to the grant, from the Lake Jackson funding source with the County supplying the remaining 40%. Kathy Archibald noted that in considering funding "sources" she disagreed with the option of using Mahan Drive funds as noted in the agenda item. She stated that it had always been the understanding that money would not be taken from transportation projects to fund environmental projects and vice versa. She felt that Mahan Drive funds should not be considered as a funding option.

Additionally, as an aside, Kathy Archibald asked the committee to bear in mind when referencing the City and County water quality money versus Blueprint's money that it was ALL Blueprint money.

Kevin McGorty inquired to Jess Van Dyke the significance between what Blueprint was trying to accomplish with the protection of the sinks associated with the Headwaters of the St. Marks River to which this project was competing. Mr. Van Dyke stated that his information was dated; however he had recently walked the site and documented one of the largest groves of large live oaks in the county but does not know if they are still there. Mr. Van Dyke deferred to the County staff for updated information. Kathy Archibald touched on Mr. McGorty's St. Marks River comment and stated that she did not think the project should be judged along with the St. Marks River because St. Marks has less development pressures than the Fred George Basin which was an urbanized closed basin.

Don Lanham, Leon County Housing & Grant Coordinator, stated that County staff was directed to begin the fee simple acquisition process of three properties and conservation easements on two more including the property surrounding Fred George Sink. As well as pursue Blueprint funding in support of the project. The three large parcels consisted of the Maples property, Ghazvini property, and the Cavanaugh property. The acquisition of a conservation easement over a portion of the Schwartz property, on which the sink was located, was also proposed for

protection of the sink and adjacent hillside.

Steve Hodges, of the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department, stated that County staff was preparing the application for a Florida Communities Trust (FCT) grant to fund a portion of the purchase. Mr. Hodges stated that he had attempted to structure the agenda item and acquisition strategy, such as pre acquisition, in such a way to bring in extra points on the FCT application. He felt that it was a significant acquisition and would make a significant addition to the greenway system.

Tom O'Steen inquired if there was an exhibit that showed how the acquisition, regardless of the sinkhole protection, fit into the Greenway Master Plan. Mr. Hodges stated that there would be an exhibit in the grant application that reflected it. **Kevin McGorty moved to approve staff recommendation, Option 1: Reallocate \$2.691 million from the Lake Jackson Basin that would be used for the FCT match for the acquisition of the subject properties. If the County was unsuccessful with the FCT grant, the balance would be funded from the County's water quality funds, without review by the consultant, or from other County resources.** Jerry Conger asked that the motion include a provision that Lake Jackson remain a Tier I project. Kathy Archibald also asked that the motion be revised to delete the statement "...the County's water quality funds, without review by the consultant..." The committee concurred and the **final motion read as follows: Reallocate \$2.691 million from the Lake Jackson Basin that would be used for the FCT match for the acquisition of the subject properties. If the County was unsuccessful with the FCT grant, the balance would be funded from other County resources; Lake Jackson should remain a Tier 1 project.** Nancy Miller seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Item #12: Status of the Cascade Park Marketing Plan

Jim Davis stated that a very successful follow-up meeting to the December 7, 2006 marketing workshop was held January 17, 2007. The Ziffer-Stansberry Advertising/Public Relations Agency submitted a fund raising proposal which appeared to be quite promising. (Proposal distributed to the CAC at this meeting.) Mr. Davis stated that he forwarded the proposal to Mike Pate of the Knight Foundation and Mr. Pate was very receptive to the proposal and the possibility of the Knight Foundation being a funding partner. Loranne Ausley has also been very supportive of becoming involved in assisting in the fund-raising effort. Mr. Davis stated that although it's early in the process, from a marketing standpoint we're in good shape. Kevin McGorty concurred.

Item #13: Capital Cascade Trail – Segment 2 Update

Gary Phillips began with the FDOT parking lot reconfiguration status. Since the September 18, 2006 IA meeting, staff had been working with FDOT and the Florida Department of Management Services (FDMS) to reconfigure the parking lot so it was not intrusive to the park. The reconfiguration involved 138 parking spaces; five options had evolved from the numerous meetings on how to accomplish an amicable reconfiguration: 1) Do nothing; 2) relocate all 138 spaces east of Burns Building (back of building); 3) relocate approximately 50% of the parking spaces behind the Burns Building and reconfigure the remaining 50% on the west side of Suwannee Street; 4) reconfigure the parking lot on the west side of Suwannee Street and add new parking spaces in front of the FDOT building (circle driveway) and south of Gaines Street; and 5) reconfigure the parking lot on west side of Suwannee Street and add new parking spaces south

of Gaines Street. Option 5 was the preferred option recommended by staff.

Mr. Phillips continued with an overview of the upper, middle, and lower sections of the park and showcased the trails and sidewalks. Mr. Phillips also gave a brief overview on the final design for the following park features: Meridian Marker Plaza, Cascade Waterfall, Interactive Water Play Plaza, Boca Chuba Sculpture, Historical Timeline Fence, and the Doggy Park. Other park amenities discussed were the Misting Fountain/Smokey Hollow and the Centennial Field Plaza. Kevin McGorty inquired if there have been any discussion in terms of signature trees being in appropriate locations when thinking about shading. Mr. Phillips stated that discussions had just begun in that area and landscape plans were beginning to come together. Nancy Miller inquired as to the status of the projected completion of the overall design. Jim Davis stated that staff was in the process of designing the plaza, the interactive park, the cascade and the timeline fence to 100%. The grading for the entire park was at 50%. It was projected that the design would be complete in 2008 and construction beginning in late 2008 with an opening of the park tentatively scheduled for 2010.

Item #14: Florida Forever Resolution

Michael Sheridan moved to approve the Resolution of the Leon County-City of Tallahassee Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency Supporting Florida Forever and a Successor Program for the Future for consideration by the Intergovernmental; Kevin McGorty seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Item #15: Future Bond Sale

Phil Maher stated that Blueprint's Finance Committee met to review Blueprint's cash flow performance. From that meeting it was determined that by late 2007 the sale of bonds would be necessary in the amount of approximately \$75 million.

Citizens To Be Heard

There were no public speakers present.

Items From Members Of The Committee

In reference to the CAFR, Michael Sheridan noted to the committee that the auditors had entered a fairness opinion and reported no material weakness and no instances of non-compliance or other matters. Mr. Sheridan commented that the CAC admired and respected that position and it was reflective of what the CAC was suppose to do in its oversight. Kathy Archibald also mentioned that it was also reflective of such a great staff.

Adjourn

Michael Sheridan moved to adjourn the meeting; Kathy Archibald seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.