

ITEM #2

Blueprint 2000 CAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 26, 2010

Blueprint 2000 Office – Koger Center
1311 Executive Center Drive – Suite 109

Lamar Taylor, Chair, called the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

Committee Members present:

Tom O’Steen	Erin Ennis
Lamar Taylor	Ron Pease
Kevin McGorty	Luciano Ramos
David Jones	

Guests/Presenters/Staff:

Jim Davis	Margie Quillman
Phil Maher	Angela Richardson
Dave Bright	George Reynolds
Dave Snyder	Richard “Lee” Howell
Jim Shepherd	Christic Henry
Latesa Turner	Paco de la Fuente
Gary Phillips	Michael Frixen

Agenda Modifications

Mr. Bright noted that there was one agenda modification on the Coal Chute Pond Right of Way Acquisition and Resolutions. It was presented to the CAC as informational only prior to it going to the IA in September. Mr. Davis also briefly explained Blueprint’s Incentive Policy regarding Right of Way acquisitions. Luciano Ramos questioned if a new park would be constructed offsite. Mr. Davis confirmed that Blueprint was investigating a new Park, in conjunction with the FAMU Way extension, and the opportunities that might provide; as well as opportunities for “whole-takes” during ROW acquisition. Blueprint was committed to recreating a park-like amenity somewhere in the vicinity of Coal Chute Park. The CAC had no objections to the item.

Mr. Bright also introduced new members, Luciano Ramos representing the Education Community, and David Jones representing the Disabled Community. He also introduced Blueprint’s newest intern, Michael Frixen, from the FSU Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Information Items

Item #1: Capital Circle Southeast: Woodville Highway to Crawfordville Road – Design/Build Project

This item was informational only.

Item #2: Capital Circle Southwest PD&E Study Update

This item was informational only.

Item #3: Capital Circle NW/SW Update: US 90 to SR 20

This item was informational only.

Erin Ennis questioned how the finances would work if Blueprint abandoned the stormwater/mitigation property to the County. Jim Davis stated that Blueprint was not abandoning anything. Blueprint did not retain ownership of any property. They acquired properties for projects in their name and transferred ownership to the jurisdiction that would have it long-term. Ms. Ennis concurred with that logic. She questioned how Blueprint ensured neither of the Commissions tried to use Blueprint funds to makeup deficit funding on their projects. Mr. Davis stated that Blueprint watched their finances extremely closely. The IA Bylaws and the Interlocal Agreement was exceptionally specific on what the 80% of the sales tax that was Blueprint's could be spent on.

Consent Items

Item #4: CAC Minutes: June 3, 2010

Kevin McGorty noted that what was listed as the Magnolia Heights Historic District should actually be the Park Avenue Historic District. **With that correction he moved approval. It was seconded by Tom O'Steen. The motion passed unanimously.**

Item #5: Proposed 2011 IA, TCC, and CAC Meeting Schedules

Kevin McGorty moved approval; Tom O'Steen seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Davis suggested that the Chairman address attendance; he also noted the irony of discussing attendance with the ones present when the ones that were absent and needed to be reminded of the requirement. Dave Bright read an excerpt from the Bylaws relating to CAC vacancies:

A member's position shall become vacant when:

A member is absent from 33% of the regularly scheduled meetings in a given calendar year, regardless if such absence is excused or unexcused. All absences will be duly recorded in the meeting minutes. Absences from emergency or special called meetings will not be recorded against a member in calculating the percent of absences. However, attendance at emergency or special called meetings may be used to offset absences from regularly scheduled meetings. Special exceptions on the removal of members for absences may be made by the Chairperson of the Committee when the absences are due to health or time-limited extenuating circumstances and the absences do not affect the ability of the Committee to maintain quorum;

Generally speaking, he stated, that meant members could miss two meetings in a calendar year. He listed each members' attendance: having missed no meetings – Lamar Taylor, Kevin McGorty, Ron Pease, Luciano Ramos, David Jones; having missed one meeting – Tom O'Steen,

Erin Ennis; having missed two meetings – Burt Davy, Nancy Miller, Windell Paige; having missed three meetings – Dale Landry.

The CONA Board's previous nomination was for the acting president; Stephen Hogge's term as president of CONA expired in July 2010, therefore that position was now vacant. In attendance, representing CONA and to be approved by the IA at the September meeting, was Christic Henry, the current president of CONA. Blueprint had also requested that the CONA representative be appointed for the duration of the CAC term to reduce turnover in that position.

Tom O'Steen requested clarification on the person having missed three meetings. Mr. Bright stated that it was Dale Landry and that it was unfortunate, because Blueprint had struggled to get an NAACP representative that was willing to attend. This would be the third one in as many years. Mr. Davis concurred, and noted that it was a recurring problem. Mr. O'Steen questioned if Mr. Landry would be automatically removed or did the CAC need to take action. Mr. Davis stated that the Bylaws provided the CAC with the opportunity to release him from the group. They did not provide the CAC with... Mr. O'Steen interjected that he felt that contact from the Chairman would be appropriate prior to his removal. Lamar Taylor agreed and noted that in the event that someone could not physically attend there was the option to participate telephonically. It would count toward their attendance and they could vote, but telephonic participation did not count toward a quorum. Mr. Bright stated that Mr. Landry was currently in violation of the Bylaws; if he missed one more meeting it would present a major issue.

Erin Ennis questioned the rules on elected officials given that two members were running for office and one would clearly become elected. Mr. Bright stated that Mr. Hogge was now off the CAC. Ms. Henry would (hopefully) be approved as the CONA representative on September 20 by the IA. Obviously an elected official would be a member of the IA and no longer serve on the CAC. Ms Miller was appointed by the Big Bend Environmental Forum; they would have to nominate another representative if she wins the City Commission seat.

Presentations/Discussion

Item #6: Capital Cascade Trail – Segment 1 Update (Franklin Boulevard)

Gary Phillips stated that in January 2010 the County was successful in obtaining \$10M in HUD for impacts caused by Tropical Storm Faye. Blueprint was to receive \$1.7M of that money for flood improvements to Franklin Boulevard. Subsequent to that, the City's Southside project was unable to meet the schedule requirements for the HUD money, which was fortunate for Blueprint. The \$2.5M that they would have used had been transferred to the Franklin Boulevard project, which now totaled \$4.2M. The City Commission approved the use of that additional funding on August 18, 2010. The Southside project will now be funded with City stormwater dollars, allowing both projects to move forward.

Blueprint would replace the open ditch channel on Franklin Boulevard that had been a problem for the past 30+ years with an enclosed boxed culvert up to East Tennessee Street. Blueprint needed DCA approval; however, they would also provide a hydrologic connection underneath East Tennessee Street to the Leon High School parking lot. Blueprint had to have the project

completed by June 30, 2012 or risk losing some of the funding.

Mr. Davis stated that due to the bureaucracy involved, he held great concerns about meeting the project time schedule and the administrative requirements. Blueprint would begin at the south end of the project and build as far north as they could. Lamar Taylor questioned if there was risk of, if the project was not completed, someone saying that they wanted their money back. Mr. Davis stated that he did not think there was risk of that. However, there would be a little bit of Blueprint money involved. DCA had disapproved Blueprint using LPA Group for project management because they did not think it was an associated cost. The Consultants were paid by Letters of Authorization and were not "sunk costs" to Blueprint. The good news, however, was that there was some excess funding in the GEC Letter Of Authorization so Blueprint was not requesting additional budget requirements. Furthermore, Blueprint intended to work with DCA further, but could not afford to delay forward progress waiting on the DCA discussions.

Ms. Ennis questioned if the bid qualification process could be expedited; there was no room for a bid protest. Mr. Davis stated that Blueprint would do as many aspects of the project concurrently as possible, as compared to consecutively. Blueprint might be allowed to use the FDOT pre-qualification process even though there were no road improvements associated with the project. Blueprint would, however, tear up two lanes of Franklin Boulevard in the installation of the box culvert; those lanes would need to be repaired. It was a no frills stormwater project; with grass only in the median.

Blueprint was also working with Leon High School to improve flooding in their parking lot, in part by installing a 54-72 inch culvert under East Tennessee Street. The problem associated with that, however, was that if the flood stages on the southern end changed by more than one-foot FEMA would have to approve it. It was a long and complicated process to obtain their approval. Blueprint's option was to install the culvert but to initially block it off so that it was not operational. They could then obtain the FEMA approval on the flood level changes and open the culvert at a later date. Mr. Davis stated that Blueprint was trying to be clever and maximize the work able to be funded by HUD dollars. The Segment 1 amenities such as bike lanes, sidewalks, etc., were still on the future project list when Blueprint funding became available.

Mr. Davis emphasized that **the improvements would not eliminate the flooding on Franklin Boulevard or at Leon High School**. It would, however, significantly reduce the frequency of the flooding. Presently, the worst case scenario of flooding at LHS was 4+ feet; with the proposed improvements it could be reduced to less than 12-inches. Also, the bypass culvert in Segment 2 would accommodate the water.

Item #7: Capital Cascade Connector Bridge Design Consultant

Dave Bright stated that Blueprint would be posting the Consultant rankings from the RFP oral presentations by Monday, August 30. It would be designed to be a classic signature bridge. Construction would be partially funded by a Transportation Enhancement Grant that was included in the FDOT work program for FY 2014. Blueprint would provide matching funds.

Blueprint requested that two or three members of the CAC be selected to serve on a working

group that would help bring the bridge through the design process. Kevin McGorty and Luciano Ramos both offered to assist. Mr. Taylor reminded the gentlemen that, because the CAC was subject to public meeting requirements, the working group meetings would be as well. The meetings would need to be publicly noticed and minutes kept. Mr. Davis agreed and noted that the meetings would be run by the Consultant and they would handle those details.

Item #8: Citizens Advisory Committee Appointment

Dave Bright stated that the item was to approve Richard Drew to the EECC-Natural Scientist/Biologist position that was vacated by Jess Van Dyke. The appointment term would be through November 2012. **Several members of the committee simultaneously stated, "so moved." There being no objections, Mr. Taylor counted that as a unanimous vote.** Also, Christic Henry, President of CONA was in attendance, and was the nominee to replace Stephen Hogge.

Item #9: Fiscal Year 2009 Performance Evaluation

Phil Maher stated that the 2009 Performance Audit was conducted by FSU and introduced Lee Howell to the committee. Mr. Howell stated that he and Dr. Scott Helzer conducted the performance evaluation over several months. Their intention was to ensure that Blueprint continued to follow its enabling ballot language. They conducted 12 interviews with City and County officials and others, with a set of 25 questions they asked each. They condensed the information into a report (which was included in the agendas). The outcome was positive; essentially everyone interviewed was exceedingly pleased with how Blueprint was operating.

Kevin McGorty quoted a statement from the report, "Blueprint stands out as a bright and shining star of success vested in the people, by the people, and for the people of Tallahassee." He congratulated staff and noted that it was an excellent report as well.

Ron Pease also congratulated staff on a job well done and the efficiency with which they operate. He also noted one concern, that of "providing more public outreach and education about the Blueprint process." In speaking with various members of the community at large, people who he anticipated would be well versed in our community were not even familiar with the name Blueprint 2000. In just the short time he had been involved with the CAC (3-4 meetings) great work had been done on behalf of the people of this community. He wondered if staff could distribute more information on a regular basis so the citizens were more informed.

Mr. Howell agreed that the folks they interviewed recognized what an amazing job Blueprint had done; however, public recognition was somewhat lacking. Tom O'Steen questioned when the next extension of the sales tax would occur? Mr. Davis stated the current tax ended in late 2019, with work potentially beginning on the future program as early as 2012. Mr. O'Steen stated that there was already a rather orchestrated move underway to take that penny (sales tax) and put it elsewhere.

Mr. Davis clarified that it was a portion of the penny, and that it was proposed for the Performing Arts Center. Those were personal preferences, he stated, but that the public would decide. If they were not careful how it worked it could kill the whole thing; clarifying those were his

comments as a private citizen of Leon County. He thought the process the EECC went through, with a definitive list of projects, had worked extremely well. Another defined list of projects and the same or similar safeguards the EECC had the foresight to include in the Interlocal Agreement would need to be incorporated again.

Addressing the public information stand point, Mr. Davis stated that Blueprint had heard that a lot and was unsure how to rectify it. He had personally spoken at approximately 40 civic groups in 2010 alone. Blueprint was more than agreeable to present just about anywhere with a little notice, to anyone who needed a guest speaker. There were mail-outs, press releases, and public meetings. There had been advertisements in the paper, which were expensive; in light of budget cuts Mr. Davis was trying to watch Blueprint's budget. One way to ensure people knew who you were was to have a scandal. Thankfully Blueprint had never had one. It was nice to do the job and finish the projects.

This point generated considerable discussion. There were suggestions of changing the signage at the projects to something more easily seen when driving past. Also, it was noted that the completion of Cascade Park and folks using Cascade Park would draw attention to Blueprint. Other ideas included the possibility of "on-site" CAC meetings that might entice the public to attend, appealing to the civic organizations (rather than presenting only) for assistance in areas like Cascade Park, distributing the Performance Audit in a format that organizations and publication could link to, "and re-thinking" how the audit was marketed (not simply an "official government document").

Kevin McGorty stated that this was not intended as criticism; it was simply to help spread the word for the great work that was being accomplished and to show what an asset the program is for the community, as well as to set the stage for future referendums. He agreed completely with the built-in accountability, diversity of projects, and core representation. Mr. Ramos stated that he appreciated the point of identifying needs. Blueprint was providing updates but asking the question, how can others become involved? Ms. Ennis suggested when Cascade Park was further along, the possibility of hosting a Business-After-Hours there. Mr. Davis stated that staff would take another look at possibilities and bring ideas back to the CAC.

Item #10: Capital Cascade Trail – Segments 3 and 4 Design Update / FAMU Way Update

Gary Phillips stated that there had been extensive public meetings for the FAMU Way extension project, where Capital Cascade Trail - Segment 3 was discussed as well. To keep from confusing the public, those two segments were being considered one project. The City Commission recommended Blueprint/City Public Works proceed to design with the trail but without the brook. The results of the public meetings were that the community did not like the brook either. Therefore, that was what staff would be recommending to the IA at the September 20, 2010 meeting. It would provide more green space for amenities. However, there was the option of a hybrid concept, Mr. Phillips stated, that could include potable water features. He shared examples from other cities, but stated the design was open to the imagination, if that was the way the Board preferred Blueprint to precede.

Jim Davis stated that the City Commission, as one half of the IA, had previously adopted a

concept for Segment 3 near Railroad Square that included no brook with the trail. To overcome that would be virtually impossible. However, Blueprint felt obligated to consider it (briefly). Water is reflective of life in Florida. Blueprint thought that the potential for the hybrid concept was a viable opportunity to include that aspect of our larger community; as compared to nothing at all, which was another viable alternative.

Luciano Ramos stated that he had been in contact with Karen Brown of FAMU Facilities Planning; she expressed a desire to include a multi-purpose water feature as an expansion of the pharmacy school at the old DRS fields near the FAMU Way/MLK intersection. Planning Charrettes at FAMU would begin in two to three weeks.

Item #11: Close-out of Capital Circle Southeast from Connie Drive to Tram Road and the Transfer of Remaining Funds

Phil Maher stated that while Capital Circle Southeast, from Connie Drive to Tram Road, had been completed for several years, Blueprint had been unable to close-out the project due to several parcels being in condemnation or orders of taking. Those had been resolved with the exception of attorney fees and fees for expert witnesses.

Mr. Maher anticipated that there would be approximately \$5.5M remaining in the project budget that would be available to transfer to other projects. Blueprint was recommending that a portion, approximately \$2M, of that be set aside for claims associated with Capital Circle, Woodville to Tram (E2), due to delays mainly for problems associated with karst features, with the remaining balance, \$3.5M, being transferred to Capital Cascade Trail Segment 3 and 4. To the extent that additional funds were not needed on E2, that would be transferred to Capital Cascade Trail Segment 3 and 4 as well.

The CAC concurred.

Item #12: Cascade Park Update

This item was a photographic update of construction progress.

Mr. Davis stated that Blueprint was concerned with a couple of issues related to identification of additional contamination at the park. One issue was jurisdiction and the approval process. Gadsden Street was the dividing line between USEPA and Florida DEP jurisdiction, yet no one could say definitively which side of the street or if it was the center line. The assumption was that USEPA would trump anything FDEP wanted to do. Environmental controls were in place and Blueprint was working well with FDEP. Presently, the agreement with FDEP was that if Blueprint did not disrupt any of the remaining, known contamination there was no reason to remediate it. If, however, it was disrupted, Blueprint would be responsible for cleaning up that which was disrupted.

There was a section of known contamination under Gadsden Street. Furthermore, the City was under a cleanup order from EPA that included certain controls, and the City was paranoid that Blueprint would mess up their controls and cause problems with EPA. From the standpoint of major contamination that had significant expenses with it, there was the potential that EPA could

rule that if one inch of contamination was disrupted, Blueprint would be responsible for cleanup of the entire area. Blueprint estimated that the known contamination began at a depth of approximately 20 feet. The box culverts would be at a depth of 16 feet, leaving a small buffer. There was, however, potential for the issue to become problematic and expensive.

That coupled with the potential for delays and associated claims, if the contractor could not work due to contamination remediation (should things go that way), could be another problem. Mr. Davis was cautiously optimistic, however, that it would be fine. Blueprint had expected, and planned ahead, for such issues. It was hoped that it could be mitigated and dealt with quickly.

Citizens To Be Heard

There were none.

Items From Members Of The Committee

There were none.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 6:51 pm.