

Blueprint 2000 CAC Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, October 18, 2007
 Blueprint 2000 Office – Koger Center
 1311 Executive Center Drive – Suite 109

Terence Hinson called the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Committee Members present:

Terence Hinson	Jerry Conger
Jess Van Dyke	Michael Sheridan
Anita Davis	Kevin McGorty
Nancy Miller	Diana Norwood
Tom O’Steen	Gregg Patterson
Lamar Taylor (Appointment Effective Nov. 1)	Hugh Brown (Awaiting Board Confirmation)
Kathy Archibald (via phone)	

Guests/Presenters/Staff:

Dave Bright	Randy Matheny
Phil Maher	Gary Phillips
Margie Quillman	Joan Brown
Andrew Orr	Angela Richardson
Debra Schiro	Paco de la Fuente
Steve Nichols	Jim Davis
Harry Reed	Bryant King
Mark Llewellyn	Lindsey Cole
Jim Shepherd	Ed DePuy, IA Chairman
Latesa Turner	

Agenda Modifications

There were none.

Presentations/Discussion

Item #7: Outgoing CAC Members

Dave Bright requested that current and new CAC members and Staff introduce themselves to help the newly appointed members become acquainted. Following that Commissioner Ed DePuy, Chairman of the Leon County Board of County Commissioners and Chairman of the Intergovernmental Agency, presented certificates of appreciation to Michael Sheridan, Anita Davis, and Terence Hinson for their years of service on the Citizen’s Advisory Committee.

Information Items

Item #1: Leveraging Update

Dave Bright stated that the item was self explanatory but proceeded with brief updates for the committee. He stated that staff would be submitting on October 26, a Water Management District grant in the amount of \$750,000 to help construct the Broadmoor Pond, which was part of the Capital Circle NW/SW project. Additionally, the Transportation Enhancement Grant for the bridge over South Monroe for the Capital Cascade Trail was ranked #1 by the CRTPA, therefore it would be moving forward to FDOT for potential funding. Typically Enhancement grants are funded in the 5th year of the work program (2012) and that fit closely with the proposed construction schedule for Capital Cascade, Segments 2 & 3. Mr. Bright stated that Blueprint could construct it in advance, with FDOT reimbursing Blueprint when the funds were actually put into the work program. He further stated that staff had submitted a Transportation Regional Enhancement Program Application to FDOT; he was unsure if it would be funded however the CRTPA ranked Capital Circle South (Woodville to Crawfordville) as their #1 TRIP application. Staff should know in late 2007, after the preliminary work program became available, if it would be selected for funding.

Kathy Archibald asked about the 9-acre pond that would be used to treat the 326-acre watershed. She questioned if it would treat the entire watershed or only a portion. Mr. Bright clarified that it was the Broadmoor Estates area and that there were four ponds that would be constructed for the project. The Broadmoor Pond would capture about 43% of the watershed. He further stated that the Broadmoor Pond itself only drained about 137-acres of the total watershed but the four ponds combined would treat all 326 acres. Furthermore, it was the second pond within the Lake Munson basin because the Regional Stormwater Pond 1, on West Tennessee Street, retrofitted the entire West Tharpe watershed.

Phil Maher stated that Blueprint received some good news; Jim Davis was contacted by Capital Health Plan (CHP) and they had agreed to fund all of the trails in Capital Cascade Park. This was the first private contribution to the marketing campaign. It would coincide with their 25th Anniversary celebration by contributing to wellness within the community. Jim Davis stated that Blueprint was very excited about it; an official press release would be forthcoming.

Item #2: 2008 CAC, TCC, and IA Meeting Dates

This item was informational only.

Item #3: Capital Circle NW Landscaping and Regional Pond Park Construction Procurement

Dave Bright stated that the agenda item was to continue the information flow on the landscaping on Capital Circle NW from I-10 to south of US 90 and the park improvement proposed around the Regional Stormwater Pond 1. Additionally, the RFQ was out and Blueprint was awaiting

qualification statements. Staff would review them, select two or three, then issue a request for bids for the construction. A handout was provided with examples of potential types of plants to be used. The idea was to have the project under construction by early 2008.

Kathy Archibald asked if it was the same pond with the snails and mentioned that she thought that the prices were already settled for the landscaping, along with the amenities (i.e. sidewalks) during the last meeting. Mr. Bright confirmed that it was the same pond but stated that the previous prices were for the wetland planning that went into the pond on the littoral shelf. As far as the amenities around the pond, those were not initially funded until Blueprint received funding from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for the wetland plantings which released funding to be used for the Park. Ms. Archibald also asked about the planting along the Highway. She wanted clarification regarding where the plants would be located; along the side in the right-of-way or the median. Dave Bright stated that they would be only in the median. Steve Nichols clarified that FDOT would review the issue of the 40 ft space on either side of the Live Oak trees. Mr. Bright added that Plan shows landscaping along a portion of the edge right-of-way on West Tennessee Street, along with Capital Circle NW.

Item #4: Regional Pond Snail Update

Dave Bright gave an update on the removal of the snails from the Regional Stormwater Pond 1. Steve Nichols stated that while harvesting had been completed, some snails remained. FDOT removed some and found that alum did soften their shells enough for a parasite to kill them. As of then, Blueprint did not have a cure.

Jess Van Dyke stated that he was a little pessimistic about the pond and the potential of the plants' survival, and suggested again the use of Bald Cypress. Mr. Van Dyke also stated that the problem was not just in this pond but also in Gum Swamp, the Lake Munson watershed, Lake Lafayette, and Lake Jackson. He reminded the committee that the snails are not edible, and carry a parasite, the rat lung worm. He stated that the University of Florida was currently studying the snails, but had very little success in eliminating them.

Mr. Van Dyke stated that there was no viable option in terms of reducing the snail population except by hand removal. Jim Davis stated that it was not a unique problem for Blueprint that it had become a regional issue. Additionally, FDOT had no specific plans or date for beginning alum injections; they would continue to work with UF for a solution.

Consent Items

Item #5: CAC Minutes: August 23, 2007

Kevin McGorty made a motion to accept the minutes. Jerry Conger seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Presentations/Discussion

Item #6: CAC Appointments

Jim Davis stated that a field tour of the Blueprint projects would be held on October 29, 2007 from 1-5 pm for new members. Terence Hinson moved to approve Hugh Brown and Wilson Barnes as CAC members. Anita Davis seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Item #8: Capital Cascade Trail Segments 3 & 4 Design Services

Dave Bright stated that the design for Segments 3 and 4 would be completed concurrently as recommended by the TCC and CAC; the IA concurred with this recommendation. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Design Services would be out soon and he hoped that Blueprint would be making the final selection at the beginning of 2008. The Scope of Services would be reviewed by a subcommittee from the TCC. Gary Phillips stated that Blueprint wanted input from CAC members regarding the design of Segments 3 and 4.

Mr. Phillips stated that the vision of the EECC had been accomplished in the master plan, and that the concept would be reviewed and refined during design. Staff would develop the design, to 60%, for Segments 3 and 4. The issue would be presented to the IA later for a decision on the next segment to be constructed. Mr. Phillips stated that the advantage in doing segment 3 next was that there were other on-going projects with the City that Blueprint could coordinate with.

Mr. Phillips stated that once 60% designs were completed Blueprint could begin to acquire right-of-way. There was also the possibility of constructing some ponds in Segment 3 ahead of schedule. As far as permitting was concerned, he stated that it would be very similar to Segment 2 and the amenities; there were wetland environments, educational activities, a boardwalk and nature park. The idea was to build on the current concept during the design phase and look at alum injection and the water quality treatment in Segment 3 and 4. However technical details of the Scope would need to be worked out with the TCC subcommittee.

Jim Davis stated that the general trail concept had been approved by the Board. He stated that a few issues had surfaced which might be cause for change; For example, the proposed Myers Commercial Park stormwater pond was one; the owners wanted a significant amount of money for the property. Blueprint had the option to do an Order of Taking, but it would be very expensive. Another issue Blueprint was facing was the construction of FAMU Way. The City of Tallahassee was under pressure to finish that project soon. It has been proposed to coordinate the Capital Cascade project with the FAMU Way project, especially in the area of right-of-way acquisition. Unfortunately that may not happen due to the City's desire to move very quickly on FAMU Way.

Whether Blueprint decided to do Segment 3 or 4, the plan was to have one finished in approximately 2010. The City anticipated the completion of FAMU Way in 2009. If Blueprint was able to clearly identify the requirements and coordinate it with the City they had the

potential to save a considerable amount of money on the right-of-way. There were still many variables with this project, and many unanswered questions. The City was possibly going to use stormwater storage in the ponds that Blueprint would construct. In cooperation with the City it was possible that they would build the necessary stormwater ponds before they could begin construction on FAMU Way.

Ms. Archibald asked if there would be opportunities for people to enjoy the amenities, with a possibility of a canoe/boat landing along the trail near the Myers Industrial Park. She also questioned the possibility of receiving HUD funding to repair dilapidated houses in the Stearns-Mosley area, etc. She stated that it was a part of Tallahassee that had significant history, and she felt it was important to preserve that historic district.

Mr. Davis stated that there would be a very low flow of water in the stream at that point. He was concerned that there would not be enough water to support the canoes. Furthermore there would be amenities included at the Myers Industrial Park.

Jess Van Dyke, mentioned a recent development in the county Stormwater ponds. He stated that clay had been used to stabilize the shorelines and the clay particles were actually harmful to the ponds. Mr. Van Dyke stated that he was very concerned about transporting clay to meet engineering requirements, rather than have the ponds look "perfect." Mr. Davis mentioned the possibility of a problem with ERP and their requirements preventing the water percolating into the aquifer.

Mr. Michael Sheridan reiterated Ms. Archibald's point about the recreational amenities and stated that "the lack of water is irrelevant." He suggested the idea of a "put in" and "take out spot," stating that there would be times when water would be present.

Ms. Archibald stated that she did not want to see Stearns-Mosley become student housing and wanted to ensure that it was preserved as a neighborhood. The flag needed to be raised so that Tallahassee did not lose an old part of the community if nothing was done. Dave Bright stated that he would contact the Planning Department regarding the proposed uses for the area; he was aware that other City Departments had addressed issues related to future land uses and redevelopment in the Stearns-Mosley neighborhood.

Kevin McGorty commented that it was within the scope of Blueprint to partner and to seek partnerships regarding FAMU Way as well as the stabilization of that neighborhood, with Tallahassee Trust and Thomasville Land Mark. Mr. McGorty was shocked by the lack of thinking in regards to renovations in Frenchtown, or other areas that could utilize restoration funds. He further stated that the neighborhood was an amenity to the entire project.

Mr. McGorty stated that Blueprint had control over the design of the trail and suggested they try to make it a more interesting experience. Nancy Miller, asked staff to consider creating a connection to Railroad Square as well as considering Ms. Archibald and Mr. Sheridan's comments on canoeing but applying them in Segment 4, rather than Segment 3 to make it more of an outdoor experience. Ms. Archibald suggested including a trail link towards the heart of

Gaines Street, in an attempt to interface with that plan. Mr. Bright stated that the City had acquired some abandoned railroad right-of-way to extend the St. Marks trail closer to Gaines Street.

Michael Sheridan stated that through his involvement with the Council on Culture and the Arts (COCA), he was aware that the performing arts center had shifted toward gathering public and private sector funds. It was a 3-4 year plan; during that time the Johns Building site would be held. A project that COCA was still running was the "Arts Park on Gaines," and the First Friday event at Railroad Square drew 3,000 people at the previous Friday (10/5/07). He stated that it was happening and was moving very rapidly. The connectivity would be an economic driver for Gaines Street.

Harry Reed, with the CRTPA stated that his Agency would be kicking off a major bicycle/pedestrian plan for the entire region in 2008. One concern was the heavy pedestrian traffic from the colleges, but there were plans to interconnect the area. A major problem with Gaines Street, he stated, was the narrowing of the road and where all traffic/people would go. There were several issues that needed to be resolved, with a regional mobility plan.

Gregg Patterson encouraged the CAC and staff to "dream big." He stated that Blueprint had the opportunity to build something that could define Tallahassee, give it a sense of place, and provide Tallahassee with a place to gather and a place with recreation.

Harry Reed spoke in regards to budgets and the option for tomorrow. He stated that the key was to plan for the future. Michael Sheridan stated an objection that the one percent sales tax would generate the projected amounts. Blueprint has the opportunity to attract people to Tallahassee by providing the amenities, while spending the money. Mr. Sheridan says, "Let's dream a little bit bigger."

Jim Davis stated that the concept plan was shown on the map, and the design phase would include additional public information meetings to gather all the different information, in order to fine tune the plan and make that connection. Ms. Miller asked about the electric distribution station in Segment 3 and what was going on with that. Mr. Davis stated that it would cost roughly \$8,000,000 to relocate that, if the City was even able to find a place to relocate it.

Terence Hinson inquired about FAMU Way being four lanes and Mr. Bright stated that it would be two lanes, along with bike lanes. Mr. Davis stated that one problem about doing Gaines Street early, would be in providing a corridor while it was under renovations.

Dave Bright briefly updated the CAC on Cascade Park Segment 2 stormwater management. He stated that the 50% design plans would be submitted soon with plans to start construction in 2009. There would be a public workshop on October 25, 2007 in the City Commission Chambers at 4pm. Terence Hinson stated that Capital Cascade Trail was a key piece for the city by providing potential revenue in the sense of tourism.

Citizens To Be Heard

There were none.

Items From Members Of The Committee

There were none.

Adjourn

Michael Sheridan moved to adjourn the meeting; Nancy Miller seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.