

Blueprint 2000 CAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 18, 2012

Blueprint 2000 Office

2727 Apalachee Parkway, Suite 200

Autumn Calder called the meeting to order with the tour bus departing the Blueprint offices at 3:10 pm.

Committee Members present:

Christic Henry	Kent Wimmer
Richard Drew	David Jones

Guests/Presenters/Staff:

Charles Hargraves	Leigh Davis
Autumn Calder	Bruce Huffmaster
Angela Ivy	Steve Hodges
Jim Shepherd	Terrance Hinson

Agenda Modifications

There were no Agenda Modifications.

Information Items

There were no Information Items.

Consent Items

There were no Consent Items.

Presentations/Discussion

Item #1: Sensitive Lands Tour

As the tour departed Blueprint, Autumn Calder briefly outlined the sites that would be visited and addressed key points from the attachment to the agenda. She also thanked County staff, Leigh Davis and Bruce Huffmaster, as well as Planning staff, Steve Hodges, for their participation in the tour.

Copeland Sink – Bruce Huffmaster stated that the site was planted in long leaf pine and wire grass four years back. The County would begin prescribed burning for maintenance of it in the coming months.

Booth 1 – Mr. Huffmaster spoke at length on the management of the site. To compensate for loss of habitat from clearing of the 9-acre field tract adjacent to the St. Marks tributary prior to acquisition, the County installed fence rows with hedge plantings at three 80-foot intervals and

60-feet in length. Maintenance included a three year rotation of harrowing one of the three 80-foot rows to a depth of six-feet. This disturbed the soil and allowed for new growth between the fence rows and allowed County staff to properly manage all levels of the ecosystem from soil and plantings to insects and up to whitetail deer.. Over the course of three years all strips of field were harrowed with County staff returning to the first row in the fourth year.

Mr. Huffmaster stated that County staff used prescribed burns to manage the wetland area around the tributary. Residential development in the vicinity of the Booth properties created some problems for the staff however due to smoke and fire management.

Mr. Huffmaster explained to members that the property was a 755-acre environmental museum. Future mitigation of the site would involve restoring the swamp to natural flow levels along with mulching and the installation of geo-web material to help with soil stabilization and retention. In addition to that it would provide for people and fire equipment to access the area in the event of an emergency and help prevent sediment pollution downstream from foot and horse traffic in the upstream area.

Kent Wimmer expressed his desire for trails that penetrated the land versus mainly on the perimeter. Mr. Huffmaster agreed that it would be better however the behavior of the public was the most difficult challenge with such trails.

Terrance Hinson questioned how the County advertised access to the public the value of the resource. Mr. Huffmaster stated that it was mainly through educating residents and visitors of hidden gems. Leigh Davis stated that the County also coordinated Greenways Days in November, to promote all such properties and the activities available. Also it was largely word-of-mouth through various trail associations. However the County had purposely kept quiet about the Booth properties because of funding constraints in the management of land. David Jones spoke about funding that allowed for instant gratification to the public versus funding the provided for the bigger picture. He suggested limited access to the area so that people could begin to see the value of such acquisitions and funding the maintenance of them as well as the big picture for the long term community and environmental benefits. Mr. Huffmaster agreed noting that the benefit of the work County staff was investing in the property was truly for future generations; great, great grandchildren.

Steve Hodges stated that it was a balance of preservation and access and reminded members that the Agencies were awarded points in the grant applications for recreational facilities. Mr. Huffmaster stated that currently the County planned to continue using existing avenues for trails to keep from further fragmenting the region.

Fred George - Mr. Huffmaster stated that the County was partnered with Wildwood Preservation Society for the development and management of the Fred George site. Their priority would be securing the property. There were two home sites plus other structures on the property; one of the home sites would be converted into a museum and educational facility that would be managed by the Wildwood Education Center.

David Jones questioned the purpose of the museum. In a collaborative response Leigh Davis and

Autumn Calder stated that it would be similar to the Tall Timbers facility and that there could be a connection made to the Lake Jackson Mounds site as well.

Broadmore – Jim Shepherd distributed site plans for the site (included in the file) and spoke about the acquisition of the property and the mitigation efforts by Blueprint. As well as coordination with the City on final ownership and easement access.

Citizens To Be Heard

There were none.

Items From Members Of The Committee

There were none.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned with the return to Blueprint offices at 6:00 pm.