

Blueprint 2000 CAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 2, 2010

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

Lamar Taylor, Chair, called the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Committee Members present:

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|---------------|----------------|
| Tom O’Steen | Ron Pease |
| Lamar Taylor | Luciano Ramos |
| Kevin McGorty | Christic Henry |
| Burt Davy | |

Guests/Presenters/Staff:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Jim Davis | Margie Quillman |
| Phil Maher | Angela Richardson |
| Dave Bright | George Reynolds |
| Dave Snyder | Paco de la Fuente |
| Jim Shepherd | John Gibby |
| Latesa Turner | Sid Mathews |
| Gary Phillips | Terrance Hinson |
| Michael Frixen | Jason Buckholz, COT DMA |

Lamar Taylor called the meeting to order without a quorum. (Six members were present, seven members were needed to achieve a quorum.) Dave Bright noted that the October minutes could be tabled until February 10, 2011, the next meeting, if necessary. However, if a quorum were achieved, the CAC needed to elect the next Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

Mr. Bright updated the committee that the next meeting would be in the new location: 2727 Apalachee Parkway, the SunTrust Bank building. The Office would be on the second floor, however the conference room, where all CAC meetings would be held was on the first floor with an entrance from the outside.

Agenda Modifications

There were none.

Information Items

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

This item was informational only.

Dave Bright noted that the design/build contract on Capital Circle Southeast, Woodville to Crawfordville, had begun. Blueprint was forced to cancel the original ground breaking ceremony because of bad weather. It would be rescheduled for January 2011; more information would be forthcoming. He also noted that it was funded with ARRA funds and was slated for completion in late 2012.

Item #2: Capital Circle NW/SW Update: US 90 to SR 20

This item was informational only.

Jim Davis stated that Blueprint had tentatively been notified by FDOT that Blueprint would be receiving \$9.5M for additional Capital Circle construction from north of Blountstown Highway (SR 20) to Orange Avenue, and \$2.7M for design from Orange Avenue to Springhill Road. It had not been confirmed however they were cautiously optimistic. The current construction project terminated just north of SR 20, stated Mr. Davis. The additional funding would allow for Blueprint to construct through the intersection at Blountstown Highway south to Orange Avenue, and along SR 20, consistent with the original project design.

Mr. Davis explained to the committee that the project was under litigation and he would be cautious in what was shared. He stated that, the Gibby Family Trust was challenging Blueprint's Wetlands Permit, issued by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Based upon the advice of counsel, there could not be much discussion on the project.

George Reynolds noted that in response to discovery requests in the litigation petition of the Gibby Family Trust, some of the members of the CAC had been named as 'persons with knowledge regarding fact' in the law suit. Those members were: Lamar Taylor, Burt Davy, Kevin McGorty, Ron Pease, Windell Page, Tom O'Steen, Stephen Hogge, and Erin Ennis. Mr. Reynolds stated that he was not clear if Mr. Mathews, opposing counsel, intended to take their deposition or to interview them in regards to the litigation. However, they had been named by Mr. Mathew and the Gibby Family Trust as individuals they believe have knowledge about facts concerning the litigation.

Presentations/Discussion

Item #5: Capital Cascade Park Update

Jim Davis illustrated the update of progress made at Cascade Park with recent project photos. He stated that Blueprint had made significant progress but had run into contamination issues in the pond area. Terrance Hinson questioned if the contamination found was more than what was anticipated. Mr. Davis stated that the City had a requirement to remediate the site of the old coal gasification plant. They worked with EPA and excavated a significant amount of material, down to 60-feet. A clay liner was installed on top of the remaining contaminated material to protect the ground water. Blueprint compromised the clay liner with the digging in the pond. They were finding contamination beneath it, and at other locations, which was no surprise, however, the rub had been how much of it would Blueprint excavate.

Mr. Davis reminded the committee that Cascade Park was not a remediation project; it was a construction project. Therefore Blueprint was doing the minimum necessary to complete the construction project. Additional problems had been that a sink hole developed during the construction and installation of the box culverts and that had been repaired. There was also a depression in the Boca Chuba pond.

All things considered, Mr. Davis stated that things were going quite well. The contamination complicated things. The City was very involved because of the EPA Consent Order they were under from their earlier remediation project. They could not violate the order and impact the liner, and Blueprint was working diligently to not violate it as well.

Burt Davy requested the addition of construction photos on the Blueprint 2000 and Cascade Park project Webpage.

Consent Items

Item #3: CAC Minutes: October 21, 2010

Christic Henry arrived giving the CAC a quorum. Mr. Taylor returned to Agenda Item 3, the CAC minutes. **Tom O'Steen moved approval. Kevin McGorty seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.**

Presentations/Discussion

Item #4: Election of CAC Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Regarding the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, Lamar Taylor called for volunteers and stated that he was willing to continue as the Chair if he was asked. He stated that the bylaws were written so that the Vice-Chair would ascent to the Chair position the following year. Nancy Miller, the previous Vice-Chair, complicated that by being elected to the City Commission. **Kevin McGorty stated that Mr. Taylor had done an excellent job as Chair, particularly in presenting to the IA. He appreciated Mr. Taylor's service and would like to see it continue. Mr. Taylor again called for volunteers; with none forthcoming they called for a vote; Lamar Taylor was elected Chair unanimously.**

Regarding the Vice-Chair position, Mr. McGorty stated that he thought the CAC should elect a Vice-Chair that was newly appointed to the CAC, one that could 'learn the ropes' and carry the CAC forward. Many of the longtime member's terms would be expiring within the next year. With the many new faces it would be refreshing and allow for a period of orientation. **Mr. Taylor agreed; he apologized for the "on the spot" moment it was creating and nominated Luciano Ramos for Vice-Chair. Mr. McGorty seconded the nomination. Mr. Ramos stated that he would be willing to serve. The vote was unanimous in support of Luciano Ramos for Vice-Chair.**

Terrance Hinson stated that Windell Paige (Capital City Chamber of Commerce representative) would be out on extended medical leave. He questioned how the CAC would like to go about finding a replacement. Mr. Taylor stated he would like to work it out so that Mr. Paige could retain his seat; nominating a second person who could serve as their representative who could also qualify as a quorum and vote. Mr. Davis suggested they not consider an interim person but follow the formal nomination process with the nominee's resume going before the Board. At the point in time when Mr. Paige wished to return, they could repeat the process. The bylaws did not address interim representatives at all.

Citizens To Be Heard

John Gibby stated that Agenda Item #2 addressed actions of the Gibby Family Trust and read a short statement of his concerns. *“Up until today, there has been no confusion about the Capital Circle N2 road project. The Capital Circle road project is described on Blueprint’s website. If you look at it today here’s what you will find. The project limits are described on the Blueprint 2000 website as from south of Orange Avenue to Tennessee Street, which is US 90. The website says, the project is fully funded for design, right of way acquisition, and construction. Fully funded. The website says the cost estimate is to be \$107M. These specific details were published in the notice of intent to issue wetland permit as recently as May 16, 2010. Those project descriptions... May this year... Up until today, for unknown reasons, Blueprint has never told the public the following facts about the project. Never told the public.*

That the project limits have been changed for some unknown reason. Just today Blueprint 2000 Director, Jim Davis, announced that the project limits currently run through from south of Orange Avenue to Blountstown Highway. This was the earlier meeting. This evening he says, ‘now, we might be able to get the whole project done.’ So that’s good.

You can see, from a citizen... I don’t know what’s going on. I’m here trying to get some questions. And I’m wondering have you all asked these questions of the Blueprint staff. Just this past week Jim Davis issued a sworn affidavit stating that Blueprints ability to construct this project in a timely manner depends upon \$8M in federal earmarked funding for the construction of the project. Just this past week, in the same affidavit, Jim Davis also stated under oath that the loss of this \$8M federal earmarked funding for this project would result in the cancellation of the project pending successful actions to secure replacement funds. Sworn affidavit. He says this thing may be cancelled. Just last week DOT District 3 issued a sworn statement that DOT had not filed the papers necessary to obligate the federal earmarked funds for construction. The reason that they have not done this is that Blueprint has not yet submitted to DOT the final plans and specifications for the project and Blueprint 2000 has not signed the required Local Agency Program agreement. District 3 DOT staff also confirmed that the failure of Blueprint 2000 to submit the required plans, specifications, and agreements to DOT was not the cause in the delaying of the federal earmarked funds for construction. DOT said this had nothing to do with the issuance of the DEP wetland permit which is in litigation with my family who owns the property adversely impacted by the construction project. It is solely the fault of Blueprint for losing, for the possibility of losing that federal money. Not my family’s litigation on the wetland permit.

The following questions have not yet...have yet to be asked and answered: Why, why has Blueprint 2000 not be more forthcoming with the facts about this project? Why have they not been forthcoming about the facts? Why has Blueprint 2000 changed the project limits, divided the project into phases, rather than do what they advertised? Why, why has Blueprint 2000 now said the project is not fully funded? Why, why has Blueprint 2000 now said that the project is in jeopardy if additional federal funds are not secured immediately? Why, why has Blueprint told the Department of Environmental Protection that the project limits are completely different from the project limits that they submitted in their application to Leon County?”

Mr. Taylor informed Mr. Gibby that his time had expired. Mr. Gibby stated he had two more lines. *“Where did the money go? Where is the \$107M that Blueprint 2000 told the public existed to fully fund the project? Why has this group not asked these questions and gotten answers to them? Why? Is that your job? Are you curious about the project? Do you wanna know? What are you going to do about it? Thank you. Do you have any questions? I’ll answer them. Thank you for the extended time, Sir.”*

Items From Members Of The Committee

Luciano Ramos questioned if Mr. Taylor knew what was happening with the NAACP representative Dale Landry. Mr. Taylor stated that Mr. Landry attend the park tour in October after Mr. Taylor phoned him. He was under the impression that Mr. Landry would be at the December meeting. He would contact Mr. Landry again to find out what was going on. It could be, Mr. Taylor stated, that he would need to speak to the NAACP to see if they had someone who could attend the CAC on a regular basis.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 5:20 pm.