

Blueprint 2000 CAC Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 3, 2009
Blueprint 2000 Office – Koger Center
1311 Executive Center Drive – Suite 109

Tom O’Steen, Chair, called the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order at 4:39 pm.

Committee Members present:

Tom O’Steen	Erin Ennis
Lamar Taylor	Ron Pease
Kevin McGorty	Stephen Hogge
Nancy Miller	Dale Landry
Burt Davy	

Guests/Presenters/Staff:

Jim Davis	Gary Phillips
Phil Maher	Margie Quillman
Dave Bright	Angela Richardson
Dave Snyder	Claire Forbes
Jim Shepherd	Alicia Wetherell
Latesa Turner	Paco de la Fuente
Ray Youmans	

Agenda Modifications

There were no modifications to the agenda, however, several changes were made to the order items would be presented and discussed.

Presentations/Discussion

Item #9: Blueprint 2000 Stormwater Design Issues

Nancy Miller gave a brief presentation on bio-retention facilities (rain gardens in commercial settings), their construction and benefits. She discussed the geology of Leon County and the four large lakes, in all of north Florida, which it is blessed with: Iamonia, Miccosukee, Lafayette, and Jackson. She stated that she would like to see more bio-retention in Cascade Park and other stormwater parks, or in depressed, planted medians on future roadway corridors.

Jim Davis stated that Blueprint was incorporating some of the concepts presented into our projects. The E2 and N2 projects made use of inverted medians in the locations where they could do so. Furthermore, on the E2 project they were also including swales for drainage purposes. Burt Davy questioned what the maintenance costs would be associated with rain gardens. Ms. Miller stated that most rain gardens were passive.

Item #6: Election of CAC Chairman and Vice Chairman

Nancy Miller nominated Lamar Taylor as Chairman. Mr. Taylor nominated Nancy Miller as

Vice-Chairman. Both nominations were seconded by Burt Davy; the motion passed unanimously.

Item #7: Revised Citizens Advisory Committee Bylaws

Dave Bright stated that the revision of the bylaws came about after Blueprint had experienced great difficulty in replacing certain members on the CAC because they required specific Agencies that no longer existed or did not follow through with the nomination request. Under the revision the bylaws had been relaxed to incorporate those same Agencies, if they still existed, and to include new language for similar type agencies. He also mentioned the incorporation of an ascension policy, for the Vice-Chairman to Chairman position. Therefore beginning with the December 2010 elections, the member elected as Vice-Chair would ascend to Chair in (December) 2011. Jim Davis noted that the advantage was in that that CAC would only need to elect a Vice-Chair.

Stephen Hogge questioned if the CAC had given any thought to using a nominating committee for the process. Lamar Taylor noted that with a nominating committee, they would be required to operate in the "sunshine" (referencing the Sunshine Law, [FS Chapter 286](#)). It would become an extensive process. He suggested secret ballots instead. The group dynamic was important, he acknowledged, but not everyone would feel comfortable expressing their opinions openly.

Jim Davis stated that elections had not been problems in the past. There had been phone calls to learn who would be interested to serve. That way no one was nominated that did not want to serve.

Burt Davy stated that while he was open to the inclusionary processes suggested, the CAC was a small functioning group. The Chairman did not have extraordinary powers like the Mayor, for example. It was more of a meeting agenda, a contact point, and reporting to the Board. Mr. Hogge stated that the only reason he suggested it was in context of the change. However Mr. Davy's point about the role of the committee lessened his concerns. Mr. Davy was comfortable with the process and the ascension policy however he suggested the inclusion of an "opt out" provision for the Vice-Chair.

Dave Bright also noted the inclusion of an abbreviated version of the IA's Telephonic Participation Policy. Members could participate in CAC meetings telephonically but would not count in the determination of a quorum; the member could vote in accordance with the bylaws; a maximum of two members only could participate telephonically. Mr. Davy moved the revised bylaws with the inclusion of the ascension policy and opt-out provision.

Dale Landry questioned who would determine the "similar" organizations in addition to the Agencies listed in the bylaws. Mr. Bright replied that it would be Blueprint staff. Regarding the Civil Rights Community position, staff had been told that two of the three listed Agencies (TIMA and SCLC) were no longer existent. Mr. Landry refuted that statement but acknowledged that they may not have responded to requests from Blueprint. His concern was that "similar" organizations might claim one thing but in actuality be something entirely different. He stated that he would be happy to assist staff regarding the Civil Rights community

to facilitate cooperation and obtain nominations. Mr. Hogge suggested leaving that portion of the bylaws as it was written as an amendment to Mr. Davy's earlier motion. Dale Landry seconded the motion. The revisions to the Bylaws passed unanimously.

Information Items

Item #1: Capital Circle SE Update (Woodville Highway to Crawfordville Road)

This item was informational only.

Jim Davis briefly discussed his efforts to obtain additional funding from FDOT for the project. He remained cautiously optimistic. Lamar Taylor expressed concern over timelines and possibly losing the funds Blueprint had already received. Mr. Davis concurred. From a management perspective, he stated, Blueprint did not build roads, etc. without contingency money because, simply put, unforeseen things happen. Federal stimulus money absolutely could not be used for contingency. Blueprint was 85% sure that between the CRTPA and SouthWood Exaction funds (from the development requirements) the City of Tallahassee would reserve \$1M to be available to Blueprint for contingencies on E3. Mr. Davis clarified the MBE goals and processes Blueprint 2000 and the City of Tallahassee uses. For a contractor to be competitive in the bid process he was required to meet those goals. Dale Landry stated that he had participated in several meetings at the Capitol and there was something out there, Federally, that was tied to MBE and stimulus money. Mr. Davis stated that staff would investigate it. Furthermore, time was not an issue for Blueprint, who had been ready to award a contract since January 2009 but was waiting for the additional funding.

Item #2: West Ditch, Grassy Lake, and Black Swamp Analysis

This item was informational only.

Tom O'Steen stated that he hoped that Jess Van Dyke, who had expressed interest in continued partnering, would be incorporated as a peer reviewer or contracted. Jim Shepherd stated that staff had met with him regarding that. Also there had been discussion about partnering with the NFWFMD. Mr. Van Dyke's position was to focus on the small area of Lake Bradford. Staff was hoping to utilize the area in that portion of Capital Cascade Trail and determine what was best for all the drainage in that area. Jim Davis stated that the previously, research had been completed by several different players. The first task was to analyze all the previously developed information and data.

Furthermore, Mr. Davis stated, there were some City personnel that did not support Blueprint following through on the West Ditch project at this time. Blueprint however, would do it because the CAC had requested it. It was not the highest priority, however, we were working on it. Mr. O'Steen questioned what the next steps would be for that portion of Capital Circle SW. Mr. Davis stated that other than the final public hearing mid-summer 2010, there would be virtually no activity. Was it likely that the West Ditch study would be funded and information presented at the public hearing, asked Mr. O'Steen. Probably not, stated Mr. Davis; that particular portion of the recommendation and approval by the Board was not germane to the requirements Blueprint had to meet for Federal Highway Administration approval.

Burt Davy requested clarification on why the City personnel disagreed with the study. Was it that they disagreed to the value of the property or that it wasn't a high priority? Mr. Davis stated that the City's position was that the West Ditch was not a designated Blueprint project and that part of the St. Augustine Branch and Central Drainage Ditch had not yet been completed. Therefore, any remaining funds from the PD&E should not be spent on a project that was not chosen as a Blueprint project. In the big picture, however, there was not much money remaining. Besides the guidance from the CAC and the IA were very clear. That is what they would do.

Item #3: Capital Cascade Trail – Segment 2 Update

This item was informational only.

Mr. Bright noted there had been minor date changes to the published schedule and listed those for the committee. Also the Capital Cascade connector pedestrian bridge, over South Monroe, had been included in the FDOT work program; meaning that construction funding would be provided by FDOT in FY 2014.

Gary Phillips reminded the CAC that they requested a follow up on the cost estimated of the three options for the ditch lining between Monroe and Adams streets. From a comparison perspective the least costly was the concrete ditch lined option. However, the open ditch would limit what could be done at grade with the bridge crossing, etc. The other two options, the gabions and box culvert, were very similar in cost when the 50-year life cycle was factored in. The general consensus of the CAC at the last meeting was that the boxed culvert was the preferred option as it provided more options for future park amenities. Mr. Davis stated that they would be looking at approximately \$1.3M for the boxed culvert.

Consent Items

Item #4: CAC Minutes: August 27, 2009

Item #5: CAC Minutes: October 29, 2009

Kevin McGorty moved the consent agenda. Burt Davy seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Presentations/Discussion

Item #8: Blueprint 2000 Right-of-Way Audit

Jim Davis stated that after several presentations to the IA by local eminent domain attorneys stating that Blueprint was not compliant with the Incentive Policy, although there was no evidence to support the claims, the Board requested the City Auditor, Sam McCall, assess the Blueprint ROW Policy. Mr. McCall selected 20 parcels that the eminent domain attorneys had identified to perform detailed analyzes on. Sixteen of the twenty were perfect. Of the four others, two included a legitimate error. The base number, used in the equation, did not include damages. Subsequently it had been corrected. Ironically, in both cases the property owners were represented by the same attorneys who lodged the complaint with the Board.

The two remaining parcels in question were conscious decisions made by Mr. Davis. Emory Mayfield was the contractor on E1 who owned two parcels Blueprint needed to acquire. Mr. Davis stated that in good conscience he could not justify paying Mr. Mayfield the same incentives while paying him \$31M for the construction job to begin with. Mr. Davis stated that he capriciously reduced the incentive by 50 percent. It was a management decision, he stated, and would do it again.

The City Auditor, City Manager, County Administrator, and the Board were quite comfortable with the outcome. There was no need for any further action.

Citizens To Be Heard

There were none.

Items From Members Of The Committee

There were none.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 6:13 pm.