

## ITEM # 9

### Blueprint 2000 CAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Blueprint 2000 Office – Koger Center  
1311 Executive Center Drive – Suite 109  
4:30 – 6:30 pm

Michael Sheridan called the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

#### Committee Members present:

Terence Hinson	Michael Sheridan
Jess Van Dyke	Kevin McGorty
Anita Davis	Gregg Patterson
Dianna Norwood	Kathy Archibald
Jerry Conger	Tom O'Steen (awaiting IA appointment)

#### Guests/Presenters/Staff:

Jim Davis	Randy Matheny
Dave Bright	Bill Little
Phil Maher	Angela Richardson
Margie Pelkey	Shelonda Gay
Ed Ringe	Joan Brown
Doug Martin	Paco de la Fuente

#### Agenda Modifications

There were no agenda modifications.

Michael Sheridan brought to the attention of the committee reference documents before them and deemed them as a whole, the Blueprint “Bible”. The documents are provided as reference materials consisting of various Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)/Blueprint background information: one cent sales tax extension; CAC bylaws; interlocal agreement; CAC status report; and the Project Definitions Report.

#### Information Items

##### **Item #1: Property Acquisition Update:**

Randy Matheny presented the information on the Headwaters of the St. Marks River - Booth II property. Mr. Matheny stated that the option agreement should be executed today, December 7, or tomorrow, December 8, 2006.

David Bright presented the information on the Headwaters of the St. Marks River – Billingsley Conservation Easement. Mr. Bright stated that this 192 acre property, located south of

McCracken Road and immediately east of the Miccosukee Land Co-op, is a Tier I parcel per the Sensitive Lands working group. The property owner has agreed to submit the application to the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) for the acquisition of a conservation easement. If obtained, Blueprint and NFWFMD will have protected 324 acres within the Headwaters. No appraisals have been done yet; this is basically continuation of Blueprint's 5-year, \$5 million agreement with the NFWFMD. Mr. Bright hopes to update the committee at its February meeting regarding whether the Billingsley family agreed to put an easement on their property or not. The outlook is positive that they will.

Randy Matheny presented the information on the Capital Cascade Trail – Segment 4 – Strauss Property. Mr. Matheny stated there are four parcels in total that Blueprint is trying to acquire in this area. The Strauss parcel's agreement should close within the next 30 days. There is a potential that the remaining three parcels will also be acquired.

Mr. Matheny also provided information on the Delta Industrial Park. He stated that Blueprint is under contract with Bartow Rainey for the acquisition of this parcel. The contract calls for closing by the end of December. In regards to Capital Circle SE (Tram to Woodville), Mr. Matheny stated that a donation has been obtained from St. Joe for a large portion of what Blueprint needs for the project. He stated that two other parcels have been acquired, one of which has closed and the other is scheduled to close by the end of December.

#### **Item #2: Capital Circle Southeast (Tram to Woodville) Design-Build Status**

Doug Martin presented Item #2 and stated that the design-build procurement process is moving along very well. There were 37 questions posed by the bidders which staff will respond to and three RFP addendums have been distributed. Mr. Martin noted that the technical proposals are due on December 21, 2006.

#### **Consent Items**

#### **Item #3: CAC Minutes: October 26, 2006**

Dianna Norwood asked that within Item #1 of the October 26, 2006 minutes, the addition of "*at this particular meeting*" be added to her statement, "CAC's recommendations were being discussed and integrated into motions posed by the Board."

**Gregg Patterson moved to approve the October 26, 2006 minutes with the noted change; Terence Hinson seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Presentations/Discussion**

#### **Item #4: Leveraging Update**

Jim Davis presented Item #4 and stated that Blueprint has been awarded an additional \$2.5 million in Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) dollars for the segment of Capital Circle from Tram Road to Woodville Highway. Mr. Davis pointed out that District III only received \$10 million in TRIP this year. Of the \$10 million, Blueprint is receiving \$9,569,477, which is 95% of the TRIP funding received by District III.

Mr. Davis also stated that \$10 million was awarded to Blueprint in a State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan. The loan is for the construction of the segment of Capital Circle SE from Tram Road to Woodville Highway. The loan consists of a 2% interest rate to be paid back within 8 years, saving Blueprint approximately \$1.5 million in interest.

Mr. Davis noted that an interesting fact is that Blueprint is borrowing dollars from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) via the SIB loan to provide Blueprint's match for the TRIP award.

**Item #5: Election of CAC Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Michael Sheridan noted that this meeting is his last as Chairman of the CAC and requested nominations for the next Chair. **Anita Davis moved to elect Terence Hinson as the next CAC Chairman; Kathy Archibald seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.** Kevin McGorty commended Mr. Sheridan for serving a remarkable and diligent term along with the Vice-Chair, Jerry Conger. Mr. McGorty congratulated them both for representing the CAC very well. **Kevin McGorty moved to elect Jerry Conger to serve another term as Vice-Chair; Kathy Archibald seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.**

Terence Hinson also thanked Mr. Sheridan for the leadership he has given to the CAC and stated he would strive to continue Mr. Sheridan's level of commitment to the task. Mr. Sheridan stated that although Mr. Hinson's term as Chairman would not begin until the next CAC meeting, February 8, 2007, he would like for them to co-chair the remainder of the meeting today. Mr. Sheridan also stated that he would like to close out his 2006 term by giving the Chairman's Report at the February 26, 2007 IA meeting and to introduce Mr. Hinson as the new Chairman of the CAC.

**Item #6: Status of the Cascade Park Marketing Plan**

Jim Davis and Kevin McGorty presented Item #6. Mr. Davis stated that a group met today, December 7, 2006, to discuss fundraising options for fully funding the amenities proposed for Cascade Park. Out of the discussion five priority amenities for the park evolved: the trail system, Meridian Plaza, the interactive fountain, Boca Chuba, and the dog park. The priority list would allow the group to start looking at the amenities which would be the most "sell-able". There was not a consensus by the group on when the fundraising should begin. Some of the group felt that the park should actually be under construction before trying to raise money so people could see some progress. Others felt that the sooner the better in getting fundraising efforts started. Mr. Davis stated that the Capital Cascade Council was the unanimous choice by the group of who should take on the leadership role for the fundraising. Jack Diestelhorst, Council Chair, was hesitant about accepting this duty without consulting the other Council members first. Mr. Diestelhorst stated he would call a meeting in January with the Council to discuss if they would be amenable in taking on the leadership role.

Mr. McGorty commended Blueprint staff on getting the fundraising discussions started and doing so in an informative, well-organized manner. Mr. McGorty asked the committee to keep in mind that nearly 1/3 of the amenities are historic preservation related and the City of Tallahassee/Leon County has a tremendous track record of getting historic preservation dollars; he feels this is an encouraging factor. Mr. McGorty stated that it's not so much the case that private entities have to raise \$10-\$15 million dollars but more so a critical need of coming up

with private support and involvement; corporate as well.

Jerry Conger inquired as to what the next step would be in this process. Jim Davis stated the next step would be having a Council meeting in January to determine if the Council would take the fundraising leadership role.

Terence Hinson inquired as to whether Leon County would play a major "partner" role in the Capital Cascade Park. Mr. Davis stated that the County was represented at the meeting but for all intent and purposes, this park will belong to the City of Tallahassee. It will be managed by the City, programmed by the City, and maintained by the City. The County's involvement in the park is not as extensive as the City's; however, from the fundraising standpoint, the County's involvement is encouraged.

#### **Item #7: Florida Forever Resolution**

Dave Bright presented Item #7. Mr. Bright stated that the Florida Forever Program is set to sunset in 2010. Efforts have begun to inform people of this issue with the hope of getting some momentum started to get the Program extended and expanded. Mr. Bright stated that one key issue that has been talked about in a couple of environmental meetings recently is that many of the legislators that were around during the formation of Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever will be out by 2010 due to term limits. An extension is being sought now prior to the induction of new legislators who have no clue as to the superb things this program has done. Currently the program provides \$300 million a year of which some of that money goes to the FCT program, the Office of Greenways and Trails, and NFWFMD, to name a few. Blueprint and the County in general has benefited greatly from this program and supports the extension wholeheartedly.

Kevin McGorty mentioned that it would be a good idea to summarize in the resolution the projects we have received in our community and also to gage the economic development impacts of those projects. Legislators will be more apt to respond.

A boilerplate resolution was distributed pointing out the milestones of the program and describing several reasons for the sunset extension. Mr. Bright stated that he is working on revising the resolution and solicited the committee's support of the extension of the program and any substantial input to the resolution. He suggested Jess Van Dyke work with hi in developing the revised resolution. A final version of the resolution will be brought back to the CAC at its February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The resolution will also be considered by the Intergovernmental Agency at its February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Item #8: CAC Discussion Issues**

Jim Davis presented Item #8. Mr. Davis presented to the committee a draft "My View" editorial he intends to send to the Tallahassee Democrat. The editorial addresses recent implications that Blueprint was a road building organization and not accomplishing its environmental mission. The intent of the editorial is to reaffirm to the public that Blueprint has not lost track of its environmental mission. Mr. Davis briefly noted key issues addressed in the draft as follows:

- Headwaters of the St. Marks River – an anticipation of 1,078 protected acres within the Headwaters.

- Stormwater retrofit projects – approximately 15 acre stormwater pond on West Tennessee Street west of Capital Circle.
- Floodplain restoration – 114 acres within Capital Circle (Delta Industrial Park) that will be used for a stormwater treatment facility; plus \$7 million in floodplain restoration properties.
- Ecopassages – worked with Dr. Matthew Aresco in designing ecopassages near Gum Swamp.
- Joint use and oversized ponds – negotiated with the State and SouthWood for oversized ponds and donated right-of way.
- Trees and Canopy Roads – Blueprint is positive on tree credits (planted more trees than those taken out).
- Water Quality - \$20 million of the \$50 million allocated for the City and County have been committed and ready to spend.
- Capital Cascade Trail – approximately a \$180 million environmental stormwater recreation park project with virtually no road impacts.
- Office of Greenways and Trail, Landscaping, Northwest Environmental Projects, I-10 to Orange Ave. – two grants were awarded to Blueprint. The IA reallocated the Northwest environmental funds. Subsequently, Blueprint was able to reconstitute the funds in the “out years” specifically for greenways and environmental issues.

Mr. Davis wrapped up a previous committee discussion on grant monies and matches and stated that at some point in time Blueprint may get to the point where there is not any match money in the current year that would be needed to apply for grants causing Blueprint to slow down in its grant requests. Mr. Davis stated that this is in part due to how successful Blueprint has been in obtaining grant monies. Blueprint has not reached that point yet but the possibility is there.

Mr. Davis briefly spoke on Capital Cascade Trail/Lake Hall School House and stated that although the school house was not very high on the priority list developed at the Cascade Park Marketing Plan meeting, approximately \$400,000 has been earmarked by others for its renovation.

Mr. Davis also gave the committee an update on Capital Circle Southwest stating that Kimley-Horn is under contract to conduct the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for this project. Mr. Davis stated that Blueprint is very pleased with Kimley-Horn's performance thus far and the project is on schedule. A citizen representative group has been appointed to assist in the analysis, develop and review options, and provide a link back into the community.

#### Citizens To Be Heard

There were no public speakers present.

#### Items From Members Of The Committee

Michael Sheridan noted to the committee that County Commissioner John Daley was designated as the County's representative on environmental issues with specific regard to the Blueprint CAC. Mr. Sheridan recommended to staff that Commissioner Daley receive notification of CAC

meeting dates, meeting minutes and agendas. Kathy Archibald inquired as to Commissioner Daley's specific role in regard to the CAC as she finds it an inappropriate request. Mr. Sheridan stated that his role would be strictly one of an observer and not intrusive in the CAC's deliberations. Jim Davis added that Commissioner Daley's role would be along the lines of a liaison with the County and more of a fact finding mission on environmental and transportation issues.

Adjourn

**Kathy Archibald moved to adjourn the meeting; Jerry Conger seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.**