

Leadership Group Meeting Minutes

5/24/12

Mr. Bob DuMond acted as chair, since Paolo Mastroserio, Clark Yandle, and Jerome Johnson could not attend. Mr. DuMond called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. In attendance were Mr. DuMond, Ira Holmes, Grant McMahon, Summer Gill, Ruth Reed, Ed Plaster, Fred Roberts Jr., Jennifer Blair, Aubrey Hale, Bill Ray, Peter Lee, Mike Daniels, and Lisa Walsh.

I. Comprehensive Plan Schedule:

- a. Vision Based Amendments: Mr. Daniels explained how staff has worked out a schedule for Comprehensive Plan amendments that satisfies both the State of Florida requirements and the City's goals. Staff will be working on amendments which are based on the Ocala 2035 Vision this year. Changes to the Future Land Use, Transportation and Recreation and Parks elements are expected to go to the Planning and Zoning board in July and to City Council in August, 2012.
- b. Zoning Revisions: Staff is currently working on a Zoning scheme that corresponds with the Vision Based Amendments with the same goal of reducing the number of zoning classifications and simplifying the code.
- c. Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR): The EAR will be revised according to the latest changes in Florida Statutes. These changes eliminate many required topics in the document, such as financial feasibility, dense urban land area designation, and transportation concurrency exception area designations. These changes are expected to go to the Planning and Zoning board in January, and to City Council in February, 2012.
- d. EAR Based Amendments: Staff is planning to submit changes to the Comprehensive Plan based on the EAR to the Planning and Zoning Board in July and to City Council in August, 2013.

II. West Ocala Supermarket Feasibility Analysis

Mr. Lee presented the preliminary findings of the Feasibility Study done by the Gibbs Planning Group. The findings revealed there is demand for a grocery store in the West Ocala area. The intersections suggested for a store include SR40 at Martin Luther King Avenue and at SW 27th Avenue, as well as US27 at SW 27th Avenue and at Martine Luther King Avenue. The group was notified that Mr. Gibbs shall be in Ocala on June 5

for the City Council meeting and then on June 6th for meetings with Community Leaders and City staff. The Leadership Group will be invited to those meetings. His visit schedule is not confirmed at this time, but Mr. Daniels said he would contact all the Leadership Group members as soon as possible to let them know when the meeting would be.

III. Osceola Linear Park

Mr. Hale discussed the City's progress on the Linear Park along Osceola Avenue. He explained the purpose was to connect Citizen's Circle with Tuscawilla Park to the north. The first portion of the park, as well as Citizen's Circle, is scheduled to open the first week of July. City staff is in discussions with White-Challis to extend the linear park along the west side of their property for the next phase.

IV. Tuscawilla Park

Mr. Hale presented the status of the City's Master Planning process for Tuscawilla Park. He explained that the ReInvent Tuscawilla competition had been won by Ed Plaster of KP Architects, and asked Mr. Plaster to present his project and explain his thought processes for the proposed improvements in his design. Discussion then ensued regarding the creation of a Gaslight District on the north side of SR40. A park is proposed which would accommodate a Ferris wheel during the Christmas holidays. Some discussion regarding the closing of streets to accommodate the park ensued, with Mr. Plaster expressing concerns about taking downtown streets out of the grid and that action increasing traffic problems on SR40. Changing the one-way streets of Magnolia and NE 1st Avenue to two-way traffic and adding a roundabout at the north end was also discussed.

The next regularly scheduled meeting, barring the Supermarket Feasibility Study meeting, will be June 28.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

