

Edgewater Drive Vision Task Force
Meeting Minute, June 5, 2008

A meeting of the Edgewater Drive Vision Task Force was held on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at approximately 3:32 p.m. in Conference Room "R" of City Hall.

Task Force Members Present

Claramargaret Groover

Jim Pruett

Mary Dees

Bob Carr

Bob Ward

Eric Houston

Greg Bryla

Task Force Members Absent

Phyllis Tuell

Eric Apen

Tom Cook

Karen Shimpf

Staff Present

Jon Ippel, Planner, City of Orlando

Michaëlle Pierrette, Planner, City of Orlando

Natalie Barnes, Resource Analyst, City of Orlando

Pauline Eaton, Main Street Coordinator

Commission Robert Stuart

Charles Ramdatt, Transportation Engineer Division Manager, City of Orlando

Introductions/Preamble

Staff presentation - by Jon Ippel, Planner II

Planner Jon Ippel started his presentation by clarifying the allowed uses of the AC-1 zoning district. This district is an "activity center", not simply a commercial district, and thus allows both commercial and residential uses by right. A mix of uses is allowed in this zoning district. Chair Groover asked about the criteria for receiving a design bonus for residential and commercial uses, which is what practically allows 6-7 story buildings to be built on Edgewater Drive.

Mr. Ippel explained that there are criteria in the Land Development Code. First, the project has to have a mix of uses (both commercial and residential uses), and have a superior design that would otherwise not be required by the remainder of the Land Development Code.

Mr. Ippel then continued on a presentation regarding the possible priorities and phasing of the implementation of the plan:

- Short-term
 - Staff would need to work with the Task Force and Main Street coordinator to acquire easements from property owners to enlarge sidewalks. This is especially needed in areas where the sidewalk is constrained by tree wells and could be accommodated in landscaped areas adjacent to the sidewalk; and
 - Address the timed-parking restrictions on-street with the business community. 2-hour timed parking restriction are inconsistent on the street, and on-street parking is worth more to businesses than off-street parking in order to make their businesses accessible to customers. Employees of adjacent businesses can block customer access when they park on-street for the majority of the day.
 - Work with property owners to implement some of the urban design vision, such as replacing landscaping in tree wells with appropriate street trees (rather than rose bushes and hedges).
- Mid-term
 - Implement the vision of the original Horizons 2000 plan, which contemplated a system of landscaped medians along Edgewater Drive. Medians could be temporarily installed with flex-sticks and barrels, with traffic studies before and after to see the impacts. Additionally, turn restrictions may be implemented at Vassar St.
 - Staff would need to work with Lynx to consolidate transit stops into a system of stops along Edgewater Drive. Currently, there are stops on every block. These stops could be cut in half to create more prominent stops with shelters along the corridor, at an interval of at least every other block, or concentrating on stops at the strategic locations (such as approaching the core area at the park or at the Methodist Church).
- Long-term
 - Explore financing options, such as a Business Improvement District to fund improvements such as a median system and other contemplated improvements in the area.

Chair Groover suggested having Kyle Sheppard, Assistant City Attorney, be present at the next meeting on the tools available in the implementation of the vision and report to be produced.

Task Force Discussion

Eric Apen suggested that the group may complete a survey of property owners opinions for buy-in on the median concept. Greg Bryla suggested that it is time to start drafting of the Plan. All meetings have been public, everyone has had the opportunity to speak up with their ideas and concepts for the area. Now is the time to draft our product. Would like staff to bring in a laundry list of what they have already embarked on for the next meeting. For example, have sidewalk repair issues from walkabout been reported? (Staff note: damaged areas of sidewalk were reported to Public Works through the Commissioner's office immediately following the walkabout).

Commissioner Start reiterated that the Task Force's primary purpose is to lead staff on developing principals for the form and design of future development – creating a reference point for that formulates the City's position as projects are proposed along the corridor.

Public Comments

A citizen from the Princeton -Smith corridor committee stated that they have collected data on speeding, traffic, signal timing and such issues using sensors on those streets. Truck traffic is horrible on the corridors and leaking onto Westmoreland, a residential collector. Truck restrictions need to be enforced through the neighborhood. Mary Dees like the idea of focusing on speeding rather than forcing all trucks down a single route.

Jim Kersey wants to clarify the fact that alleyways do not equal big buildings. But when you want that type of infrastructure, the ability for developers to pay for such an improvement as a requirement of development will result in the need for larger buildings to justify the expense. Alleyways are excellent for buffering the neighborhood, providing routes to reducing cars from venturing into the adjacent neighborhood. This can be further enhanced by not lining up the alleys to prevent the side streets and alleys from becoming alternative routes to the main corridor.

Eric Houston feels that the same design effort should be put forth in the back of buildings as in the front of buildings as part of the buffering solution. The rear of buildings can be softened by mural and other appropriate treatments to give the same interest as the front facades of buildings.

Chair Groover asked that Task Force members email Jason with more ideas, suggestions that need to be included in the drafting of the Plan.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:20pm