

Edgewater Drive Vision Task Force
Meeting Minute, March 20, 2008

A meeting of the Edgewater Drive Vision Task Force was held on Thursday, March 20, 2008 at approximately 7:00 p.m. at Edgewater high school, 3100 Edgewater Dr., in the Media center.

Task Force Members Present

James Pruett
Robert Ward
Karen Schimpf
Eric Apen
Phyllis Tuell
Claramargaret Groover
Tom Cook
Eric Houston
Greg Bryla

Task Force Members Absent

Mary Dees
Robert Carr, Jr.

Others Present

Jason Burton, Chief Planner, City of Orlando
Jessica Stead, Aide to Commissioner Robert Stuart
Jon Ippel, Planner, City of Orlando
Malisa McCreedy, Transportation Planner, City of Orlando
Pauline Eaton, Main Streets Coordinator
Commissioner Robert Stuart

Approval of previous meetings minutes

The meeting minutes from the March 6, 2008 meeting were approved. The Chair read a "Preamble" statement on the purpose of the Task Force.

Introduction and Old Business

Ms. Groover gave an overview to public attendees of issues covered at past meetings. Topics covered included how Traffic is impacted by different types of uses. The need to balance design and planning issue with property rights of the owners. Ms. Groover gave an overview of the opportunities and challenges as Special Plan overlay has and the experiences she had in her tenure on the Municipal Planning Board regarding encroachment of height transitions between high-rises and single-family houses. Ms. Eaton then gave an overview of the Main Street program and what benefits the program will have for Edgewater Drive, one of the three streets chosen for the program.

Presentation –

1. Mr. Burton gave a review to the public of the content covered at previous meetings. He gave a brief overview of the transect zoning philosophy and how it relates to a revised vision of massing and zoning along Edgewater Drive.
2. Mr. Burton then gave a recap of the ongoing issues at the Edgewater/Vassar intersection. There are further tweaks that can be done to light timing, but there is limited efficiencies available with the current configuration. Mr. Burton then gave an overview of several options that could lead to better movement through the intersection. Options included limiting left turn movements, closing a portion of Vassar, and removing the light. Several discussions surrounded creating a landscaped boulevard to restrict left turn movements onto Edgewater and/or eliminate the left turn lane to create wider sidewalks along Edgewater.
3. Mr. Burton then presented on parking issues along Edgewater Drive. Staff sampled parking supply and demand at various times of the day and determined that there is still sufficient parking supply throughout the day. The highest parking occupancy rate occurred at Wednesday at noon. On a whole, office parking lots were busier at times when restaurant parking lots were less busy, and vice versa – indicating that there may be more opportunity for shared parking. Different uses have different peak use times.
4. Mr. Burton discussed that there is sufficient parking along Edgewater Drive *on a whole*. However, there are individual businesses that experience parking shortages at key times of the day. There is also a perceived parking problem, where patrons do not know where available parking is located. Scruffy Murphy's was given as an example. The actual business has a shortage of parking, but surrounding businesses have ample unused parking that could be utilized after regular business hours.
5. Mr. Burton then shared the findings of potential development that could occur within the core Edgewater Drive area over the next ten years and the calculated traffic impacts that will result. Indicated that additional development will have an impact on the street. Indicated that Lymmo expansion into College Park is the third stage of the expansion plan and other transit options will impact Edgewater Drive, including the Commuter rail station at Florida Hospital.
6. Public comment centered around ongoing issues surrounding parking in the core Edgewater Drive area. Prime parking spaces are often utilized by employees for long-term parking. These spaces should be available to patrons. Another member of the public expressed encroachment of commercial parking into the residential neighborhoods. A local business owner on Edgewater Drive stated that the largest complaint that he receives is that of parking. Another member of the public stated that there is a natural resistance to parking garages.
7. Mr. Burton indicated that residential neighborhoods could establish a residential parking permit program if they chose to do so. Other cities have decoupled the cost of parking from cost of purchase of condominium – this makes purchasers think twice of wanting two parking spaces and thereby reduces the number of unused spaces in parking garages. Other options applicable to Edgewater Drive owners would be shared / reciprocal parking agreements between businesses to allow different businesses utilize parking that occurs at different peak times throughout the day. Better signage to where parking is located and how much it costs also makes patrons more receptive using parking garages.
8. Other discussion followed concerning pedestrian traffic and bicyclist. Bicycle traffic may be increasing in the neighborhood. And some businesses heavy use of bicycling by both employees and patrons. Need for greater bicycling parking in the areas.
9. More discussion surrounded the issue of onstreet parking. One member suggested that there always constant roll-over of on-street parking spaces. Mr. Burton indicated that reducing length of parking time, would increase availability of spaces. Enforcement is typically based on calls from the public to parking individuals.

10. Lastly, discussion surrounding the transect, and adequate parking. Member of public stated that a more appropriate transition between AC-1 and R-1 would be appropriate to allow for a public parking garage in the area and to transition from higher buildings to single-family houses.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:10 PM, with the ability to further discuss the parking issues at the next meeting.