

**Washington Shores Vision Task Force
Meeting Minutes, May 1, 2009**

A meeting of the Washington Shores Vision Task Force was held on Friday, May 1, 2009 at approximately 2:00 p.m. at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

Members Present

Toni Hardaway
Lyvonne Thompson
Epsie McCleese
Thelma Montgomery
Ezzie Thomas
Michael Arrington
Willie Sherman

Staff Present

Jason Burton, Chief Planner, City of Orlando
Michaëlle Petion, Planner, City of Orlando
Colandra Jones, Planner, City of Orlando
Charles Ramdatt, Transportation Engineer Division Manager
Timothy Johnson, Permitting Services Division Manager, City of Orlando
Cynthia Wilson, Aide to Commissioner Samuel B. Ings
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings

Guests

Nolan Wells	Corey Mcknight
Randy Sessler	Nancy – Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
Bishop Wiggins	

Opening

Opening prayer by Bishop Wiggins.

New Access Possibilities

Staff reviewed the Agenda for today's meeting and explained that we would be going out in two groups to view the areas surrounding the Washington Shores Shopping Center block. Part of today's purpose is to begin the discussion on several possible new access point behind the shopping plaza for freight deliveries, consolidated parking with the churches and circulation. The group should explore the positive and negative aspects of each possible design, as well as the current design.

As the group focused on the Shopping Center itself, we listed several positives and negatives currently being experienced in the general area:

Positives	Negatives
Gathering people, especially the elderly	Noise (boom boxes and such)
Current zero tolerance of police	Lack of public restroom facilities
Location(centralized)	Lack of Mini-park support (lighting, maintenance)
Potential for Retail Stores	Parking (large extent and design)
	Trash (need more cans)
	Need capacity for major events

Charles Ramdatt, Manager of Transportation Engineer Division, stated that the parking and circulation issues don't usually arise on Sunday morning for church, but become more exacerbated during weddings and funerals. Staff would be supportive of the churches and shopping center exploring a new access, parking and circulation scheme. However, a partnership is needed and come up with some of the funds for construction while the City could provide in-kind donations for the engineering and design of the new infrastructure (which would be a significant cost to the parties), as well as the permitting for the various regulatory agencies.

Staff is receptive to suggestions on the route of new lane – there is an option of extending Wooden Blvd and/or Bunche Street to complete the circulation pattern. As everyone prepares to go out in groups for the site tour, they are reminded to keep in mind possibilities for a new access road and keep a record of observations and comments.

Group 1 was led by Michaëlle Petion and Colandra Jones while Group 2 was led by Jason Burton and Timothy Johnson.

Shopping Center Site Tour

The groups returned from their tour so everyone can discuss their observations together.

Group 1 observations:

Sanitation concerns in the plaza area	Improper grading and drainage for possible access circulation
Outdoor eating space would be nice	Connect new access road to Goldwyn ave would open the area up
Parking and bus route is confusing	Shopping Center building needs fixing
Inadequate signage for businesses in the plaza	Organization of building don't make the most of the space
Businesses take the community's money but won't give back to help fix it	Super stop is nice and centrally located but layout needs revision
With a back access circulation, the buildings would have to have nice front and back facades	Have Bunche Street continue behind the plaza

Group 2 observations:

Senior housing to Bunche St. Connection	Park Potential
Possible alley (continuation of Wooden Blvd.)	Needs controlled afterhours access
Need cooperative Cross Access Easements	Drive-thru circulation of Fish Market need reorganization
Organized parking for churches/shopping center (freight access too)	
Major Drainage issues	

Staff presented a mini PowerPoint of similar vision plans done elsewhere, including Edgewater Drive. The main element of a town center is having connectivity. Work, school, and shopping should not each be segregated into separate areas. The Transect theory helps resolves transition issues to make the architecture more compatible with the surroundings. The T3 and T4 zones are what would fit best in this area; T6 is too dense and would be out of place. In an upcoming meeting staff will demonstrate development possibilities through transformation images. It would be beneficial if the Task Force could reference other cities or areas they like or dislike to use as a design template for Washington Shores.

Toni Hardaway commented on the positive re-design on the Eatonville area. Also staff mentioned working on traffic counts to pinpoint traffic capacity issues. The overall process is for the Task Force to come long term design goals for Washington Shores, so that individual incremental changes over time can fit into the larger vision.

Commissioner Ings ended the meeting by thanking Nancy and the Friendship Missionary and wants everyone to put their minds together and think about the end result we could accomplish together with this process. The community needs to continue to grow and get better so that the next generation will come back to work, play and grow. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 2pm. It will consist of a tour of the OPD Communications Center at 100 S. Hughley ave.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Example Pictures from Tour

