

Washington Shores Vision Task Force Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2010

A meeting of the Washington Shores Vision Task Force was held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at approximately 2:15 p.m. at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

Members Present

Arthur Carter
Mary Maxwell
Alexander Smith
Ezzie Thomas
Epsie McCleese
Thelma Montgomery
Allen Wiggins
Tess Kassye

Staff Present

Jason Burton, Chief Planner, City of Orlando
Michaëlle Petion, Planner, City of Orlando
Holly Stenger, Project Manager, City of Orlando
Richard Forbes, Historic Preservation Officer, City of Orlando
Colandra Jones, Planner, City of Orlando
Charles Brown, Transportation Planner, City of Orlando
Cynthia Wilson, Aide to Commissioner Samuel B. Ings
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings

Guests

Claude Jones

Historic Preservation Presentation

Richard Forbes, at the request of the task force, presented an informational powerpoint on historic designation options available to Washington Shores. Designation options discussed included local districts, local landmarks, national register districts, individual national registers and historic markers. Pros and cons as well as requirements for these individual designations were addressed.

Local districts require minimum 15% of the neighborhood homeowners to sign a petition to the Historic Preservation Board. The neighborhood is protected by a Historic Preservation Board ordinance and therefore restrictive on homeowners. Local Landmarks can be any site, building, structure or object that possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and meets other requirements on significant contribution to history. It is also restrictive and offers protection against inappropriate changes and demolitions. National register districts are a great honor but offer very limited protection. However, it does allow for a 10-20% federal tax credit for the rehabilitation of registered commercial properties. Individual National Registers have a fairly

long process, requiring research on buildings and sites and is reviewed by the Florida Department of Historic Resources and the Federal National Register. Historic Markers and Plaques identify historic structures and recognize people and events and would not restrict the property. They must be approved by the State Historical Marker Council.

Task Force members asked about the availability of grants to help with some of the cost for installing a local or state historic markers or completing a survey of local historic resources.

Transportation Discussion

Staff briefly summarized the transportation presentation from the December Task Force meeting and asked for everyone's thought on streetscape and road diets options.

Bishop Wiggins stated that he loved the road diet ideas but was worried that the streetscape plan may work against the goal of reducing crime as trees may provide hiding spots. Staff clarified that through redevelopment, buildings located closer to the street will add "eyes on the street". Additionally, the streetscape trees would be selected and spaced to protect business visibility and to ensure no blind spots are created. Trees could be alternated with light poles if the community desires. Also, improvements and investment in the area creates an uncomfortable situation for the criminal element. Commissioner Ings has worked diligently to address identified criminal activities in the area; it was suggested everyone work with his office to identify challenges to overcome.

Growth Management Plan changes

Staff presented conceptual changes to the Growth Management Plan (GMP). Staff will formally apply to the City Council in order to begin the process of writing a support document that documents the role of the Task Force, analyze the few proposed GMP amendments, and begin holding the appropriated community meetings in conjunction with the work of the Task Force. Staff would still bring specifics to the Task Force in the form of the community meetings before action by the Municipal Planning Board and City Council.

Mr. Thomas asked the Commissioner to make a motion granting city staff permission to go forward with their preliminary GMP items. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm