

## **Washington Shores Vision Task Force Meeting Minutes, December 17, 2009**

A meeting of the Washington Shores Vision Task Force was held on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at approximately 2:40 p.m. in Conference Room “R” of City Hall.

### **Members Present**

Macene Isom  
Michael Arrington  
Alexander Smith  
Ezzie Thomas  
Harry Rucker  
Tess Kassye (via conference call)

### **Staff Present**

Jason Burton, Chief Planner, City of Orlando  
Michaëlle Petion, Planner, City of Orlando  
Holly Stenger, Project Manager, City of Orlando  
John Rhoades, Transportation System Analyst, City of Orlando  
Charles Brown, Transportation Planner, City of Orlando  
Cynthia Wilson, Aide to Commissioner Samuel B. Ings  
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings

### **Guests**

Mylika Morton  
Claude Jones

### **Opening**

Ms. Isom expressed concerns about the direction of the Vision Task Force. She wanted to ensure meeting minutes are kept and made accessible to the public. Ms. Isom stated that when she talks with residents from the community, their biggest concerns are protecting the existing homes and businesses from large scale public redevelopment projects, which many people feel displace residents and permanently alter the historic fabric of the community. Ms. Isom suggested that the Task Force focus on cleaning up the community through Code and Police enforcement and make the present a priority before planning for 30 years in the future. Ms. Isom identified several action items for the Task Force to address:

1. Task Force meetings could be held in Washington Shores (rather than at City Hall) to increase community participation
2. Unnamed street between Urban Trust Bank and former 7/11 should be named, maintained, and parking rules should be enforced
3. Code enforcement action should be taken to correct known Code violations in the community

Staff clarified that meeting minutes are taken at every Task Force meeting and are posted on both the City Council website and the City Planning website. Staff suggested that copies of the minutes can be distributed at subsequent task force meetings and can be sent out to the Washington Shores Neighborhood Resident Association.

Staff briefly addressed Ms. Isom's concerns and updated the Task Force on the progress already being made on some of the issues, such as the coordination of a tree-trimming event and the involvement of OPD with the Task Force. Staff suggested that the Task Force can continue to identify issues that can be resolved in the short-term, but long-term planning is also an essential part of the process. Staff has already scheduled to have the current Historic Preservation Officer meet with the Task Force to discuss the different options for preserving history and significant sites in the neighborhood. Staff stated that Code Enforcement would be contacted regarding the issues identified and an update would be given at the next Task Force meeting.

Staff explained that the Town Center plan previously presented to the Task Force is not a public redevelopment project, but rather offers a conceptual look at how the area could change over time through private development, public-private partnerships, and infrastructure improvements. The role of the Task Force in the coming months will be to fine-tune these plans so that they represent what the community wants to see.

Ms. Morton suggested that a partnership between OPD and Code Enforcement, similar to the one in District 2, could be implemented in Washington Shores. Staff will contact the code enforcement division and report back at the next meeting.

### **Transportation Presentation**

John Rhoades presented a training powerpoint, which summarized some general transportation planning techniques relevant to the issues the Task Force is exploring in Washington Shores. Both pros and cons of individual techniques were addressed. Topics discussed included protection for pedestrians, mobility within the neighborhood, crosswalks, and road diets. Two Washington Shores' streets were identified as potential road diet candidates: Orange Center Blvd and Goldwyn Ave. In these locations, reduction in number of lanes can allow the installation of on-street parking, center left turn lanes, and/or medians with or without turn lanes.

As a suggestion for traffic calming, Mr. Arrington asked about making some interior streets one-way. Mr. Rhoades responded that while one-streets can seem like a great solution, they can actually cause more speeding and can create an obstacle for OPD and fire rescue in the event of an emergency.

### **Other Issues**

For the next meeting we will continue the discussion on Transportation and see which options are preferred by the Task Force. The Historic Preservation officer will also be present to discuss the different requirements and options available to Washington Shores.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm**