

Washington Shores Vision Task Force Meeting Overview, February 19, 2009

A meeting of the Washington Shores Vision Task Force was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2009 at approximately 2:00 p.m. in the Veterans Conference of City Hall.

Members Present

Toni Hardaway
Tess Kassye
Mary Maxwell
Epsie McCleese
Lee McElroy (for Rev. Ralston Nembhard)
Thelma Montgomery
Alexander Smith
Dr. Willie B. Sherman, Jr.
Ezzie Thomas
Mylika Morton (for Lady Debra Wiggins)
Michael Arrington
Hilda Johnson

Staff Present

Jason Burton, Chief Planner, City of Orlando
Michaëlle Pierrette, Planner, City of Orlando
Colandra Jones, Planner, City of Orlando
Cynthia Wilson, Aide to Commissioner Samuel B. Ings
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings

Introductions

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves to the group, including their background.

Opening Words from Commissioner Samuel B. Ings

Commissioner Ings expressed his pleasure in seeing this meeting take place. This is Washington Shores' chance to work with city staff and have their voices heard about the future direction of the neighborhood. The selection of Co-chairs was announced by Commissioner Ings, with the positions going to Chairman Rev. Harry Rucker and Co-Chairman Mr. Ezzie Thomas.

Plan Process

Staff went over the visioning process and its proposed structure. Following meetings with the co-chairs to finalize the process, the Task Force members will go through an initial training session so that when faced with decisions concerning planning, transportation and economic development principles they will be better equipped to make decisions. Case studies and examples from around the country will be used to orient the group.

Staff also desires to have a community function/activity that will engage the entire Neighborhood population. A walkabout, charette or community plan day, depending on what the Task Force decides, will also be held to better identify the neighborhoods desires, concerns and ideas for solutions. The activity may be broken up geographically to better focus on issues at specific locations within the area.

Task Force members commented that they are pleased to see the city show an interest in helping to revitalize their community while seeking their input in the process. Staff discussed how the Vision process is not a vehicle for money from the City to flow into the neighborhood, but rather a technique to focus potential future city resources and policies to create incremental change over the long term. A discussion ensued on issues that the Task Force felt needed to be looked into.

Issues to be Studied

Staff facilitated a brainstorming discussion regarding the issues that the Task Force believes are necessary to be addressed as the study moves forward. The Task Force was able to divide the issues they felt most relevant to the community into four general categories: transportation, security/police, design, and future aspirations. Security/ police involvement was unanimously selected as most significant. These categories, as well as solutions, will be further explored by the Task Force and city staff as the process proceeds.

<u>Transportation</u> Rogers Drive Cut through Informal Pedestrian Paths ("Ant" tracks) Pedestrian access Mable Butler Blvd. ingress for Buses Bus circulation Large Vehicle Parking at residences Safety crossing for children and adults	<u>Security/ Police</u> Creation of PD Substation on old fire station site off of Goldwyn IRIS security camera system Crime bleed/displacement from Parramore, Sanford, Mercy Drive "50 guys" gang CPTED Hold a Security meeting Noise created from cricket team using Prince Hall property "Car Show" issues at Harding Park - lack of parking and permits
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<u>Future Aspirations</u>	<u>Design Details</u>
Creation of a town center	Unified overall design
Youth involvement with Business/career training	Historic Theme for Washington Shores
Beautification of shopping center building	Car Wash site configuration
Park Facilities	Park Field orientation
More Retail options	LEED compliant, Green
New Housing opportunities	Better lighting- streets, park and parking lots
Hankins Park supervision	Building structures
Modern, "A" rated education options	Streetscape
Housing succession (attracting families)	Outdoor dining availability
Mentoring kids at surrounding housing projects	Disjointed church properties
	Better landscaping in public/common areas
	Park in front of shopping center

Future meetings

The next meeting will consist of the Co-chairs along with Commissioner Ings and City staff to refine the areas of study. Following that meeting another Task Force meeting will be scheduled where Commissioner Ings has asked that Staff have some preliminary renderings of ideas and possibilities for the neighborhood, as we train the Task Force on planning principles.

Meeting adjourned at 4pm