

**Washington Shores Vision Task Force
Meeting Minutes, October 15, 2009**

A meeting of the Washington Shores Vision Task Force was held on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at approximately 4:10 p.m. in Conference Room “R” of City Hall.

Members Present

Macene Isom
Mary Maxwell
Arthur Carter
Willie Sherman
Alexander Smith
Ezzie Thomas

Staff Present

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

Guests

Corey Mcknight	Michael Young
Mylika Morton	Melvin Felton
Nancy Paulin	Claude Jones

Introductions

Commissioner Ings thanked everyone for their attendance at the day’s meeting. He then handed the floor to Dr. Willie Sherman to unveil his renovation ideas for the Washington Shores Shopping Plaza. Dr. Sherman presented his concept for a façade renovation and asked for feedback. The first option had colorful awnings whereas the second option had metal accents. The idea of metered parking was mentioned to help with the loitering issue at the Washington Shores Park. Most agreed that the big-eye sore in that area is the park not the shopping center itself. Ms. Isom asked about removing the park all together and what that process would entail. In regards to public restrooms, Dr. Sherman feels that is a responsibility of the City because the park is a city park. Private businesses are not typically required to allow non-patron use of their facilities.

Unauthorized vendors have been using the park and parking lot to sell food, bags and offer car wash service. Commissioner Ings stated that he will contact Police Chief Demmings and Mike Rhodes, Director of Code Enforcement, in regards to this issue. Staff reminded everyone that code violations can be reported anonymously on the Code Enforcement website. Staff will send a link to the e-mail list.

Charrette Debriefing

Staff reviewed the “Group Summaries and Notes” produced from the September 12 Community Planning Day to see if the Vision Task Force had additional comments or questions. This also served to highlight the main points of dialogue for each of the discussion groups since most participants stayed with their initial group on the day of the Community Planning Day.

Group 1- Walkabout

Unauthorized vendors along Columbia Ave demonstrate the need to provide more of a “controlled outdoor market” for vendors and merchants to sell goods to the community on a regular basis that could be sanctioned by the business district and endorsed by the City. This concept of an “al fresco” destination was also mentioned in the walkabout group summary as desirable.

Group 2- Design

Ms. Isom mentioned a preference for commercial and office uses rather than residential to the south of Columbia St (an O-1 office district which allows residential). It makes more sense design-wise and the property owners would get more money for any sale transaction.

Group 3- Security

CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principals were reviewed. Staff also presented two organizations that are available to help coordinate for the community a much needed tree trimming endeavor. It was previously mentioned that overgrown trees were hindering street lights from functioning properly and providing much needed security lighting. The first organization mentioned was GreenUp Orlando. Staff described that the program is designed to stimulate improvements to public places in neighborhoods and is managed by Janice Rahill, in the Families, Parks and Recreation Department. The second organization is Hands on Orlando. They would be able to provide the man power but not supplies. Both organizations would need to work through the resident associations in Washington Shores. Ezzie Thomas stated that he is the Vice-President for one of the resident associations and will be contacting GreenUp. Staff will coordinate a meeting between these organizations and the resident association.

Group 4- Transportation

There were no additional issues to address.

Group 5- Housing

The housing demographic is 20 yrs older in Washington Shores than the City overall. This demonstrated the great need for senior housing options. One of the main solutions mentioned was ECHO (Elderly Cottage Housing Opportunities) housing, which is a small housing unit in which an elderly person typically resides accessory to a principal structure. The housing unit is

placed near the home of a host, generally a relative of the elderly person. Another point explored with the housing group was the Lake Mann Hope VI proposal. Staff revealed the Orlando Housing Authority proposal and showed what was done at Carver Park.

Transect Theory

Staff reviewed the Transect theory, which can be utilized to create mixed-use corridors and neighborhood centers that “fit” into the character of the surrounding neighborhood. Ms. Isom raised concerns about eminent domain and any taking of property. Staff clarified that visioning development scenarios are to plan and do not involve the City taking property, but rather allow for the planning of the future. Visions typically imagine impacts and possibilities 20-40 yrs into the future resulting in aspirations for the City, neighborhood and potential developers.

Other Issues

Commissioner Ings asked Alexander Smith to clarify the happenings on the Most Worshipful Prince site on the corner of Bruton Blvd and Columbia St. Mr. Smith stated that the cricket team, which has been the subject of many noise complaints, had permission to play on the site until development started. They have been asked to vacate the property by October 31 and take all their belongings with them. Mr. Smith stated that he was unaware of any alcohol consumption on site and that from this point on there will be better securing of the field to prevent future problems. Lastly, staff reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and tentative topics for each date.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 19, at Carver Park senior center, so the group can tour the area after the meeting. Staff will confirm location and dates with the Task Force.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm