

Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting Minutes For the February 8, 2006 Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Linda Jones, Rick Lowe, Sue Francis, Chuck Shaheen, Doug McDowell, Jim Boswell, Billy Edenfield, Art Christie, Bill Douglas, Jack Steed, Bob Hubbard, Chuck Ramsdale,

Staff Present:

Steve Engle, Jacob Cox, Jessica Swecker, Michael Whipple, Mike Beecham, Patrick Eidson,

Michael Whipple of the Regional Development Center in Macon opened the seventh meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and a motion made to approve. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Mr. Whipple discussed the need to vote on a Steering Committee Chairman. Those who were nominated included Rick Lowe, Chuck Shaheen and Bill Douglas. Mr. Shaheen, citing time constraints, removed himself from consideration. Mr. Whipple then asked Rick and Bill to leave the room while the committee voted. In a majority vote, the Committee voted to install Rick Lowe as Committee Chairman.

Mr. Whipple brought to the group results of a questionnaire about the name for the Committee. The name chosen was the Joint Comprehensive Plan for Houston County and the Cities of Centerville, Perry and Warner Robins. Mr. Whipple suggested an addendum to the plan name of; Growing Forward: the Joint Comprehensive Plan for Houston County and the Cities of Centerville, Perry and Warner Robins. Group discussion about the name ensued and Bill Douglas moved that the group go with the plan name of the Joint Comprehensive Plan for Houston County and the Cities of Centerville, Perry and Warner Robins and allow for future changes as needed. The motion was second and approved by the Committee.

Steve Engle presented a final working draft of the stakeholder list to the group. The committee reviewed the list and provided input for some additions to be made. Several Committee members mentioned they would provide Mr. Whipple with the needed information so he could develop the final and complete list to be used by the Committee. The stakeholder list will be used as an element in the implementation of the public participation process.

Mr. Whipple discussed the need for Committee members to speak to their particular governing bodies. The local governing bodies, including the Centerville, Warner Robins, and Perry City Councils and the Houston County the Commissioners are all scheduled to meet next on February 21st. Members from each of the localities committed to attend their respective meeting and provide an update as to the status and accomplishments to date of the Committee. Steve Engle said he would author a one-page summary for Mr.

Whipple to email out to the Committee as a source of talking points and information for Committee members to use in briefing their governing bodies on these February 21st meetings. Mr. Engle mentioned the Committee members should take this information and tailor it to the specific jurisdiction they will address.

Mr. Whipple reviewed the population and economic sections of the comprehensive plan. Discussions in the Committee then centered on items to include or clarify. Mr. Whipple will take the suggestions and input from the committee and include them in these sections and will also incorporate page numbers in the document. While on the economic section, talk centered on bringing industry to Houston County and the need for an industrial park in Houston County to attract more industry. Mr. Engle mentioned several industries already in Houston County and the fact that the Industrial Authority was looking at two parcels of land just for this purpose. Diversification of the economic base as a prudent strategy was also discussed. Members were referred to the recently completed Economic Diversification Strategy report for more in depth analysis.

Mr. Whipple mentioned the need to put Wednesday, March 29th on everyone's calendar as that is the date for the next Vision 20/20 meeting. The committee will be using this venue in order to begin the public involvement portion of the Comprehensive Plan. The meeting will serve as the kick-off meeting for the Comprehensive Plan process announcing the plan and its' components to the public, elected officials and media.

Mr. Whipple announced that the next Committee meeting would be scheduled for Wednesday, February 22nd at 8:30 AM at Warner Robins City Hall.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Jacob Cox, Community Planner – 542-2117

The Comprehensive Plan website can be accessed and previewed at:
<http://www.mgrdc.org/jointplan>