

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

Committee Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Chairman Rick Lowe opened the ninth 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. Minutes and agendas continue to be posted on the planning website to facilitate public access.

Chairman Lowe turned the meeting over to Michael Whipple of the Middle Georgia RDC for a discussion of the agenda topics. Mr. Whipple thanked members for the input received thus far regarding areas where they perceived parking is a problem. Additional areas noted by committee members included Commercial Circle in Warner Robins and at the Houston Medical Center. The Municipal Court in Centerville was also mentioned as an area suffering from a lack of adequate parking. Michael requested that those be described and sent to him in an email so that he could incorporate these into the plan.

Mr. Whipple addressed the Population and Economic Elements of the plan with the Committee. Members provided Mr. Whipple with final input that he will incorporate into both of these sections of the Assessment. Drafts of these documents are available for review via the drafts page of the website.

Mr. Whipple reminded members that the Housing Element is now available for review. Comments can be forwarded to Mr. Whipple. Mr. Lowe expressed his opinion as to the considerable amount of material covered in this section and the importance that this issue holds. Members agreed that this is an important element and anticipated further discussion. The connection of this element with the other elements of the plan was stressed and also the fact that this issue relates closely with character area recognition.

On the topic of maps, Mr. Whipple discussed ways to best use land use maps on the website. It was suggested to use a full map of the county and to break up specific areas of the county using smaller maps. Seeing how Robins Air Force Base does its planning and how maps of the base are broken down was suggested as well. The issue centers on adequate resolution and Mr. Whipple said that he would pursue a remedy. In addition, paper copies will be provided to local government staff for review before printing adjusted versions for the Committee as a whole.

On the topic of character areas, there was a general discussion about character areas in Houston County and community development districts and their impact on Georgia and

Houston County. Character area information is available on the website. Michael Beecham mentioned that Perry has been looking at its own character areas within the city and Mr. Whipple asked Mr. Beecham if he would make a presentation to the committee at the next meeting about what Perry has done in this area and what measures have been implemented.

A discussion ensued related to the legislation recently adopted by the State legislature and pending before the Senate regarding 'privatized cities.' A lot of questions surround this issue and Mr. Engle said he would forward a copy of the legislation to the group via the distribution list. One concern was that if this legislation applies to the development in the vicinity of Oakey Woods it would have a major impact on the community and there is confusion as to how this relates to the current planning process. The Committee signified their desire to address this subject further.

Chuck Shaheen showed a presentation to the committee about the comprehensive planning process that he had developed as a public information and education tool. He requested input from the group. This presentation will be sent out for review.

Discussion then centered on the public outreach and involvement kickoff at the March 29th Vision 20/20 meeting. It was agreed that simplicity in presentations, explanation and answers would be best and make the most sense. It was suggested that Mr. Shaheen's presentation could be the basis for the presentation about the CPC and the planning process for the elected officials and attendees at the Vision 20/20 Meeting. Further discussion about the kickoff mentioned the fact that the presentation would need to be generic and last no greater than 20 minutes with questions.

The tentative working agenda for the presentation to the Vision 20/20 group consists of:

Introduction

Host Jim Worrall introduces the CPC committee.

Presentation of Agenda

Chairman Rick Lowe introduces members and describes the program.

Plan Description

Director Steve Engle (tentative) provides Planning Process presentation.

Questions and Answers Session

Regional Planner Michael Whipple and Steve Engle field Q and A.

Closing

Rick Lowe thanks and closes.

The need for a meeting to coordinate the March 29th presentation was discussed. Mr. Whipple and Mr. Engle agreed to work together on the presentation and coordinate with Mr. Lowe in order to be prepared to discuss at the next CPC meeting.

The next meeting of the CPC will be March 22, 2006 at 8:30 am at the Warner Robins City Hall. The agenda topics will include a discussion of the March 29th kick-off meeting presentation and a discussion by Jim Elliott regarding the 'private cities' initiative.

A following meeting was scheduled for April 05, 2006 at 8:30 am at the Warner Robins City Hall, when the group will discuss housing.

Character Area delineation will be addressed in subsequent meetings.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lowe.

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

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