

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE
MEETING November 5, 2009
Approved Minutes**

Members Present:

Harvey Hathaway
Michelle Parenti
Louise Reed
Arnold Rimm
Janet Schreiber
Ira Raab, Vice Chair
Al Vazquez, Chair

Staff and Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Muoio
Commissioner Douglas
Penni Redford
Suzanne Schluter

Call to Order/Sign In/Changes to Agenda

- Meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm.

Minutes

- *Ira Raab made a motion to approve October 15 minutes as corrected and submitted. Michelle Parenti offered a change regarding Will Allen's program name. Harvey Hathaway seconded the motion with additional change. All were in favor.*

New Business

- **Transportation –**
 - **Kim DeLaney, Ph.D., Growth Management Coordinator, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council**
 - Dr. Kim DeLaney gave a presentation (PowerPoint attached) covering the following topics: Transit Oriented Development, Tri-Rail Intermodal Project, South Florida East Coast Corridor Study (SFECC), Amtrak Project, Livable Communities Initiative.
 - Discussion included:
 - Question: Do you think one day there will be one system, or that all the systems will connect easily? Answer: Absolutely.
 - Commissioner Muoio mentioned that the Metropolitan Planning Organization seems to be mostly talking about roads and this is very frustrating, can you comment? Answer: The MPO has done an excellent job of starting to look at land use patterns and is working with the TCRPC. The pieces are getting in place. The MPO is forecasting that 72% of revenue will be going into transit.
 - Commissioner Douglas mentioned the Marine Village project on Broadway expected to tie in with the Mariner Village on the Intracoastal Waterway, which is to be an environmentally responsible project and make good economic development sense. It is expected to help the area be essentially recession proof. Do you concur? Answer: Yes.
 - Question: Is there information on TCRPC website about the CO2 reduction to be had by implementing these mass transit options?

Answer: There should be links to that type of information and Dr. DeLaney will send information or links.

- Question: Are there plans for one type of pass or payment for all types of mass transit? Answer: Discussion is underway for a common type of payment. It is the trend on a national basis to allow passengers to move easily from one type of transit to another.
- Question: Rather than putting parking garages into plans, what about adding more bus routes from the western communities? Answer: This is being looked at, but some parking will be necessary. Building the parking lots and stations in as green a manner as possible is also in the plans.
- Some space will have to be given over to transit stations and corridors. People mentioned staying mindful of using as little space as possible and using nature vegetation in planting in and around stations.
- People mentioned that air quality, health issues, and environmental issues are important and they are glad to hear that these will be taken into consideration.
- Dr. DeLaney mentioned that the SFEECC study has studied transit type, technology, and vehicle capacity to make sure there is enough capacity for the number of riders expected. Multimodal connections are looked into to bring passengers east and west to the North/South transit being planned.
- Chair Al Vazquez asked about older neighborhoods, and how that works into the livable communities planning. Answer: Livable Communities is focused on maintaining current communities. Priority is finding ways to connect existing communities with job areas. Adding passenger transit on the existing rail system in West Palm is an example of how this can be done.
- There are many technologies. One new technology is the electric motorized train. This seems to be the appropriate one for many applications at this time for amount of passengers, noise level, emissions level.
- Question: What can the City and individuals do to help get mass transit projects going? Answer: The City has been a great leader in letting it's priorities be known. The best way to help is to become knowledgeable about the issues and communicate your wishes to those people in positions of power, by letters of support, and in meetings and charettes. The West Palm Beach CSX-FEC Crossover Charette will take place January 9, 2010 and that would be a great place to get a lot of information and be involved.
- Further questions can be emailed to sustainability@wpb.org.
- **Raphael Clemente, Associate Director, West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority**
 - Raphael Clemente gave a presentation (attached) on the myths related to automobile dependency. Raphael invited the Task Force to take a day to

ride the bus, car pool, or bike, and see what is good about the system and where change is needed.

- Discussion included:
 - Commissioner Douglas mentioned that, living in Northwood, riding a bike is easy and many services are very accessible.
 - Ken Koleos: It would be wonderful to see, as Florida grows, everyone moving into the City and the mass transit to support that population. I currently ride a bike 7 miles to the bus stop at Wellington Mall to take the bus into West Palm Beach. There is a group called Critical Mass that meets in over 160 cities. The group in West Palm Beach on the last Friday of the month and they all ride bicycles. I would ask the City to continue to add more bicycle lanes.
 - Raphael Clemente stated that as land use changes and population increases development needs to be done in a less resource consumptive way.
 - Parking Cash Out was explained by Raphael as a potential revenue source for the City and beneficial to the employees also. For example, if an employee were to decide not to drive to work a certain number of days per week, the City could use that space for paying public parking, and reimburse the employee a certain amount that they would have been paying for the parking spot.
 - Bike rental programs in Paris and Amsterdam were mentioned, where it is possible to swipe your credit card and take a bike and leave it at another location. There are some problems with these programs such as vandalism. Raphael does not think that South Florida is ready for this type of program.

Unfinished Business

- **EECBG and Sustainability Update - Penni Redford**
 - The City Commission accepted the grant award from the Department of Energy. Four projects will be done using these funds. Two of them involve the Waterfront Pavilion; adding solar and energy conservations technologies. A performance contract for energy to provide funding to retrofit city owned buildings and facilities is another. And the fourth involved transportation: five electric car charges will be purchased and funding to pay the differential to purchase five electric vehicles in place of conventional vehicles is already budgeted.
- **Green Building Subcommittee Update - Erin Deady, Chair**
 - The subcommittee has met three times. They have identified three major areas where they plan to make recommendations; water, building energy efficiency and rebuilding principles, building materials and landscaping. Plan to focus on retrofitting and renovation since the area is mostly built out. They are mindful of metrics and considering overlays while looking at recommendations to make. They have been meeting with City staff regarding the City's Comprehensive Plan and Codes and will be hearing from Friederike

Mittner at the next meeting regarding green and sustainable historic preservation. Members will be tasked to look into the area they are interested in and bring back information to the subcommittee. They plan to draft a document in January, bring to the Task Force, make revisions and finalize the recommendations by March.

Public Comments

- Susan Stechnij – Would like to see the Task Force make a recommendation to the City Commission to make a resolution to support transit and transit oriented communities. Alex Hansen, City Planning Department, mentioned that the City Commission has recently made several resolutions in support of the projects seeking Federal or State support.
- Al Vazquez will be absent next meeting, as he will be at a brownfields conference in New Orleans.
- Penni Redford mentioned that Sustainability website is under construction and is expected to be up by Thanksgiving and all information regarding the Task Force will be available on the website.
- Al Vazquez has been working on the urban heat island issue and will request that Senator Nelson map roofs to identify and prioritize roofs most in need of mitigation. The Downtown Development Authority is working with Al and Penni Redford to provide grant monies to aid in getting roofs painted white to lower their carbon footprint and mitigate the heat island effect.

Future Meetings

- Next meeting: November 19, 2009, 4-6 PM, Flagler Gallery

Adjourn

- ***Ira Raab made a motion to adjourn. Louise Reed seconded the motion.***
Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.