

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE
MEETING November 19, 2009
Approved Minutes**

Members Present:

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

Staff and Commissioners Present:

Penni Redford
Suzanne Schluter

Call to Order/Sign In/Changes to Agenda

- Meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by Justice Ira Raab, in the absence of the Chair.

Minutes

- *Arnold Rimm made a motion to approve November 5, minutes as corrected and submitted. Janet Schreiber seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

New Business

- **Transportation –**
 - **Alex Hansen, Senior Planner, City Comprehensive Planning Department and Ellen Ostrowski, City of West Palm Beach Transportation Management Initiative Administrator**
 - Alex Hansen gave a presentation on Transportation Issues for the City, including current and proposed transportation systems and upgrades (attached).
 - Ellen Ostrowski gave a presentation on the City's Transportation Management Initiatives (attached).
 - Discussion:
 - Question: Did the FL House Bill 697 and Senate Bill 360 come with funds? Answer: No, and we still don't know the implications, rules and how these mandates will be fulfilled.
 - Question: In the Mobility versus Concurrency issue, which does the City think will be the best way to reduce CO2 emissions? Answer: Any strategy that seeks to reduce vehicle miles traveled should be good. The details of how either system, or both concurrently, will work are still unknown.
 - Question: Where can the City's comprehensive plan be found? Answer: On the City website at <http://www.cityofwpb.com/plan/index.php?page=compplan>.
 - Interesting correlation between transportation modes and obesity statistics was noted. As we work toward reducing CO2, we will be improving health. Question: Will there be bike paths and amenities coming to the southern end of the City? Answer: We are currently

working on making a plan for bike paths, etc. throughout the City. Initially it will be recommended to improve and fix gaps in current network and then move on to add additional paths. The plan itself will take approximately one year to one year and a half. The Metropolitan Planning Organization is hiring a consultant to prepare a county-wide bicycle plan and we hope to coordinate our plan with theirs and work with them.

- Question: What is the Palm Beach Transportation Management Initiative website address? Answer: wpbtmi.org
- Question: Where is the intermodal station? Answer: Adjacent to the Tri-Rail station.
- The bike lockers at the train station can hold 2 bikes each and equipment. They should be operational within the next month. There will be 6 lockers for the City, which will be placed perhaps in parking garages.
- The issue of cars exiting parking garages without stopping and looking being dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians was brought up, as well as smoking at the train station. The train station is run by the County, but we can see if the City can make a recommendation for it to be a non-smoking area.
- Raphael Clemente, DDA: Social equity must be considered, as well as the fact that the easiest way to reduce one's carbon footprint is to stop driving. East of I95, there are a lot of great opportunities to easily improve access and facilities for mass transit as well as biking and walking. West of I95 it will be much more difficult. He would like to help with the cycling plan if allowed. He also gave the following suggestions to the Task Force: Set goals for mode split along key corridors – for example bus route 1; encourage multimodal roadway level of service analysis on city, county, and state levels; and implement training and education for staff and encouragement programs.
- Question: Is there any legislation in place for buses and trucks to turn off their engines while at a stop or making a delivery? Answer: Yes, the City has passed ordinances to this effect. However, it is difficult to enforce.

Unfinished Business

- **Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens Subcommittee Update – Michelle Parenti, Chair**
 - Fourteen people attended the first meeting of the subcommittee. The meeting mainly consisted of a presentation about St. Mary's Palm Health Care Community Garden Project by Melanie Otero. Linda Mia Franco from Planning and Zoning was also in attendance and there was discussion about current codes and possible discrepancies in the code. For example, there is currently no agriculture allowed but orchards and ornamental horticulture are allowed. Liability, pesticides, and grants and funding were identified as issues. Penni and Linda are gathering info on current codes and will generate

an email with process for changing codes and where we are in that process. At future meetings we will be working on mission and vision and identifying additional issues.

Public Comments

Future Meetings

- Next meeting: December 3, 2009, 4-6 PM, Flagler Gallery – Environmental Groups

Adjourn

- ***Louise Reed made a motion to adjourn. Harvey Hathaway seconded the motion.*** Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.