

Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting Minutes For the January 4, 2006 Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Linda Jones, Rick Lowe, Jack Steed, Bill Douglas, Jim Boswell, Sue Francis,

Staff Present:

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

Michael Whipple of the Regional Development Center in Macon opened the fifth 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 for a chairperson/Steering Committee. All agreed this was a good idea. Jack Steed suggested it be a discussion item on the agenda for the next meeting. Members are requested to submit chairperson nominations to Mr. Whipple for consideration at the next meeting. Mr. Lowe requested clarification as to the responsibilities of the chairperson. Mr. Whipple described the role of the chairperson as someone who would provide guidance and focus formulating and accomplishing meeting agendas. A consensus was reached that the steering committee would be made up of the designated chairperson and also include staff members including Mr. Whipple, Mr. Engle, Mr. Fountain, Mr. Edison, and Mr. Gilmore. The steering committee would be available to meet in the interim between scheduled meetings of the full body to define meeting agendas and accomplish specific tasks for the committee.

Jack Steed distributed the updated stakeholder list. Jack requested members review the list and offer additions and corrections to the list. Steve Engle volunteered his and his staff time to complete the updating of the list.

A review of the availability of planning documents on the web was presented by Mr. Whipple. Steve Engle distributed and discussed the Short Term Work Program Document. This document will be similar to the Agenda document the committee will be developing as part of the Comprehensive Plan process.

Mr. Boswell asked if there would be a medical services component to the plan. Mr. Engle offered that this issue has been somewhat addressed in the community facilities portion of the plan. Mr. Whipple concurred. Mr. Fountain expressed that representatives in the medical community had been approached and offered a chance to participate in the past but had declined. Several general comments were made that this would be a helpful and welcome addition to the plan. Mr. Whipple suggested that this would be an ideal item to be addressed by a designated, subject specific, technical advisory subcommittee Mr. Boswell sought and received the support of the committee to pursue this idea further.

Mr. Whipple next discussed the need for the committee to develop a public participation program. The Committee discussed the methods and means available to insure public participation. It was noted that some of these items had already been put into affect. These include the appointment and actions of the committee, the publication of a comprehensive plan website, discussions with the press, and intergovernmental partnership meetings.

At the committees' next meeting, members will formulate the plans and methods to be used and develop a calendar for the implementation of the public participation program plan. Mr. Whipple also said that a draft copy of the data collection and analysis portion of the Assessment should be available for review prior to this meeting and will be discussed at that time. It was also suggested that a planning kick-off meeting should be considered for sometime in February and that it would be good to have both the public participation plan and draft portions of the community assessment available at this time.

It was decided by the group that the next CPC meeting would be held on January 18th and the following meeting would be February 8th, 2006 at 8:30 AM at Warner Robins City Hall in the 2nd floor conference room.

The Technical Advisory Committee will meet on January 10th at 8:30 AM in the Commissioners Office small conference room in the County Annex to develop a public participation plan template for use by the committee at the next meeting.

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>