

## **Comprehensive Planning Committee Meeting Minutes For the January 18, 2006 Meeting**

### **Committee Members Present:**

Bob Hubbard, Linda Jones, Rick Lowe, Sue Francis, Chuck Shaheen, Brad Fink, Doug McDowell, Jim Boswell, Billy Edenfield, Art Christie,

### **Staff Present:**

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

Michael Whipple of the Regional Development Center in Macon opened the sixth 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 names that had been nominated previously for the position of Chairman and asked for nominations from the floor. Nominations included Jack Steed, Jim Boswell, Bill Douglas, Chuck Shaheen, and Brad Fink. Mr Fink declined due to Chamber of Commerce obligations and Jim Boswell declined as well citing school board obligations. Bill Douglas volunteered to serve but was unable to attend the meeting and therefore the discussion and vote on a chairman was tabled to the next meeting as an old business item.

Steve Engle presented the stakeholder list to the group and said it was about 95% complete with a few additions still needed. He said the final draft would be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Engle said that Jacob Cox would email the list to Mr. Whipple who would distribute the list to committee members in digital format. Committee members were instructed to send additions or updates to Jacob Cox by email.

Michael Whipple distributed the template for the public participation program and associated timeline with the group. A discussion of the proposed program ensued. Mr. Whipple pointed out that the CPC is fully engaged in incorporating public participation in the planning process and, in fact, items 1-12 program chart had been implemented already. Mr. Engle stated that the planned kickoff meeting for the public participation program was scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Vision 20-20 meeting. This date was chosen so as not to cause interfere with the March 21<sup>st</sup> SPLOST vote. Perry will be holding a meeting announcing the comprehensive planning process on Monday, January 30, 2006.

Mr. Whipple announced the appointment of two new committee members, Mr. Bob Hubbard (in attendance) and Mr. Chuck Ramsdale (not present), to the planning group. Responding to a request from the floor, Mr. Whipple said he would email out an updated committee member contact list.

Jesse Fountain introduced Matt Barnwell to the group. Mr. Barnwell is a reporter for the Houston County branch of the Telegraph newspaper.

Mr. Boswell discussed that he had approached members of the medical committee to solicit their input and technical assistance in the planning process. He said he would continue his efforts along these lines. Mr. Whipple reiterated that the committee can and would continue to create issue specific technical advisory committees as various issues presented themselves. In addition, the usefulness of stakeholder interviews was emphasized.

Mr. Art Christie, hospital administrator for the Houston Medical Center, was introduced by Mr. Boswell.

The committee discussed various ways and avenues to present the planning process to the community and incorporate meaningful public participation in the planning process. Some ideas mentioned included public meetings, workshops, kiosks and storyboards, website development, and presentations at different venues such as Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours and Eggs and Issues meetings and school board meetings. It was decided that all of these ideas would be incorporated into the Public Participation plan.

In open committee discussion, government staff representatives mentioned they would provide an immediate link to the CPC webpage from their respective government (cities and county) webpage. Site content will continue to be updated and reflect the ongoing work of the committee.

Doug McDonald suggested using the Board of Education's Channel 15 to help promote the comprehensive plan and public involvement.

Discussion then centered around public perception and decisions related to timing and announcements of the planning process to the media and community. Concerns were raised about possible negative effects or confusion regarding the upcoming SPLOST vote and the potential for generating the misconception of additional taxation without proper planning. The connection between previous and ongoing planning efforts and the current SPOST projects agenda was described and the view was put forth that the current planning process is a continuation of these previous activities. Agreement was reached that the current planning process supports the SPOST proceedings and validates the SPLOST agenda. Mr. Whipple received approval from the committee to draft a media press release regarding the current planning for the comprehensive plan. Mr. Whipple stated that he would work with Brad Fink to develop this press release and submit to the committee for review.

The committee decided that there would be one kick-off meeting and two primary public workshop events in addition to the two required public hearings. The first workshop event will consist of two meetings, one held in the north and one in the south sections of the county. The content of the meeting will be twofold, focusing on visioning and also

identification of issues and opportunities. The second workshop event will also include two geographically separated meetings and will focus on the future land use map and the Community Agenda. Other meetings may be scheduled as necessary. It was decided that these meetings would be scheduled in late March or April after the kickoff at the Vision 20-20 meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Future meeting dates for the committee were scheduled. These include:  
Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM at Warner Robins City Hall and  
Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 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>