

INAUGURAL GREEN RIBBON PANEL

Minutes

Training Rooms

June 24, 2008

Greg Stubbs opened the meeting at 6:35pm and gave an overview in how we got here. Smart Growth - develop, adopt it for Volusia County specifically, it's not one size fits all. Ginger is the "queen of green" for Volusia County.

Ginger introduced – Greg Blasé, Alan Watts, Rosemarie Gore, Joel Ivey, Wanda Van Dam, Don Spence, Karyn Hoffman, Tony Abbott, Glen Storch, Kelli McGee, Michelle Leigh, Dave Castagnacci, Greg Stubbs, Steve Kintner and Tom Carey.

Ginger then gave a power point presentation – talking about density increases through the decades. Noted that green areas are areas desirable for preservation. Asked "What do we want?" Many things, but how do we get here? Council action was given in April 2008 commissioning staff to move forward with green initiatives. Explained Sec. 202.4 – establishing the Minimum Standards. The Minimum Standards are 20 years old and need review. Ginger went over each of the 9 standards, with Water Wise being the newest. Wetlands was highlighted because the panel will work on that one first.

Ginger explained how Minimum Environmental Standards are established including city roles, implementing ordinance adoption, what happens if a city does/does not submit an implementing ordinance. County wide ordinances and "hybrid" ordinances where both county and cities can enforce were explained. Steve Kintner explained initially cities submitted, we approved and left them alone.

Ginger – Natural Resource Management Areas(NRMA) – may have special standards in this area. ECO – Environmental Core Overlay – public lands or GIS decision model in connecting public land areas. (soils, vegetation, wildlife habitat)

Kelli McGee – NRMA – this panel may want to do a ratcheted approach to regulation. Create incentives to keep open areas open and to keep wildlife areas connected.

Glen Storch – Smart Growth – what areas do we want to save – NRMA—evolved to Map A with help of Pandion.

Kelli McGee – Highest standard in ECO, bare bones is NRMA.

NRMA does not survive annexation, if in minimum standard, it would.

Steve – these are just 2 maps we have – we have map B and C also. We can look at them as we move forward – soils for instance.

Kelli – The panel can create heightened standards – we received broad guidelines from council.

Steve – Transect oriented planting is what county council wants us to look at.

Ginger – Role of the panel – advise Environmental Management Division on changes to minimum standards. The panel is made up of participants from diverse backgrounds. It is desirous that each panel

member pull from their backgrounds and the knowledge of their cohorts to bring valuable input to the table.

Staff – will moderate, provide logistical support, coordinate scheduling, do research, provide info and bring ordinance changes to council.

Ground rules – stay on time, raise hands so people can be taken in order, be hard on issues but soft on people.

Joel Ivey – Display the ground rules.

Ginger - Falls under sunshine law – public allowed, meetings noticed, panelists cannot talk to each other outside the meeting. Meeting information will be posted on web. Meeting dates and times and format will be discussed later.

Steve – May also do electronic meetings.

Glen – Formality is good. Stakeholders are vital to attend.

Kelli – Agreed – workshops are important too – targeting different interest groups. City and stakeholders buy-in is wanted by council.

Steve – Experts can be brought in. Materials can be distributed electronically.

Alan Watts – I was on the original 202.4 drafting committee – 202.4 has not been used to fullest intent. Intended for county to impose its system to all lands whether or not annexed. Anything that should be done can be done.

Glen – Didn't want land owners running to city due to lower standards.

Joel – The panel needs to know the long term list of staff. Are we serious about sustainability? Two-thirds of Volusia's work force goes across the river – that will not cut it. Rick Michaels may be a good one to speak on sustainability.

Steve – Reminded that our mission is minimum environmental standards.

Joel – Sustainability and minimum environmental standards are intertwined.

Ginger – Standards may need to differ based on where property is located (county, NRMA, ECO, etc).

Kelli – Consensus is best, can use strongly agree, somewhat agree, etc., although voting may be necessary.

Steve – Rafael Montalvo is available to us.

Wanda Van Dam – Is everyone here that is appointed to the panel?

Ginger – We're missing 7 out of 15

Tom Carey – Are the 7 not here because this is a bad night?

Wanda – Everyone agreed to be in the panel?

Steve – Yes.

Joel – Not third Tuesday – Monday/Wednesday good. City board so 2nd & 4th Tuesday is out.

Don Spence – First Monday is good.

Ginger - Tadd Kasbeer said not Monday/Wednesday – ball game NSB Monday conflict, no 3rd Mon

6pm is good, meet monthly

Ginger – homework – wetland ordinance. Most problems exist with this minimum environmental standard. Wetlands are a significant part of our eco lands.

Steve – When minimum environmental standards were first adopted, seventy-five percent of Volusia’s residents were in rural areas, now 75% are in cities – hard to implement current wetland ordinance in this situation.

Don – We should get an overview of county/SJRWMD relationship next meeting concerning wetland permitting.

Alan – May get opposition from agriculture and development community. Get economic input of the changes. Are there winners and losers?

Glen – What are we trying to accomplish overall? Then we can see how we are succeeding.

Ginger – First meeting – what is our vision?

Joel – Vision statement in Smart Growth – circulate that – Ginger will email.

Ginger – did an overview of wetland minimum standards. No net loss. Wetland Alteration Permit needed for any wetland alteration on any single family lot. (unless permitted by SJRWMD or DEP (all commercial). Provides exemptions and enforcement. Allows mitigation. Requires 25’ upland buffer. Limitations – no guidelines for sufficient avoidance and minimization of impacts. Does not consider regional or cumulative impacts. There are lots of exemptions including agriculture & silviculture.

www.volusia.org/environmental is where Green Ribbon Panel information will be posted.

Tony Abbott – Can we bring in experts? How long will we look at the wetland ordinance? It would be good to take our time.

Steve – About a year – but we can look at multiple minimum standards at the same time.

Kelli – An end date is good.

Ginger – Funds are limited for bringing in traveling experts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Carey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Carey" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Carey
Volusia County Environmental Management