

Coastal Hernando Initiatives Project (CHIP)

Meeting Minutes August 3, 2009

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Linda Pederson Park @ Jenkins Creek Community Center
6400 Shoal Line Boulevard (CR 595)
Spring Hill, Florida 34607

1. Call to order

Commissioner Rose Rocco called to order the regular meeting of the Hernando Coastal Initiatives Project (CHIP) meeting on August 3, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

2. Attendees

Commissioner Rose Rocco; David Hamilton; Charles Mixson; Carlene Riecsc; Jeff Kirk; Roger Davidson; Connie Wonsik; Mike Nickerson; Fran Baird; Chuck Morton; and Mary Barnwell.

3. Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Senior Land Management Specialist Mary Barnwell

Ms. Barnwell provided an overview of the proposed long term plan created by the CHIP members for the construction of a boardwalk through the Weekiwachee Preserve.

Ms. Wonsik clarified that the Shoal Line Boulevard area would be the location to be considered for the boardwalk. Ms. Barnwell indicated that the location would be more feasible for SWFWMD, and that from their perspective the areas of concern would be the wetland impact, impression onto the preserve, and forestry equipment access in the event of a fire to protect the boardwalk. She indicated that prior to submitting a written proposal of the boardwalk plan for SWFWMD's consideration; County staff should discuss the plan with the Department of Environmental Protection and SWFWMD's Regulatory Department.

Mr. Hamilton reiterated direction by indicating that given the significant legal issues with the proposed boardwalk plan that Mr. Kirk from the County Attorney's Office would contact SWFWMD's legal department to discuss consideration of the proposed plans. He also stated that Mr. Mixson would research the proposed plan and true cost estimates.

Mr. Kirk indicated that the determination of the project would not be a legal issue, however, it would be a determination of what permit conditions and compensation SWFWMD would require. He noted that he would assist in anyway that he could.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Ms. Riecsc would contact SWFWMD's Land Use staff to discuss future of plans of proposed project.

Ms. Barnwell indicated that SWFWMD's Land Use, Land Management, and Regulatory staff would review the plans and submit a recommendation to County staff.

5. Department of Public Works Director/County Engineer Charles Mixson, P.E.

Mr. Mixson provided an overview of the Coastal Hernando Initiatives Project proposed revitalization and infrastructure needs. The plan includes a nature coast boardwalk, emergency lanes for Shoal Line Blvd., sidewalks and bike trails, water hydrants for all coastal areas, fire department for Hernando Beach, lighting, black top cofer road, Pine Island drainage, street light at Hernando Beach boat ramp and parking area, roadway widening and repaving of CR 550 from Shoal Line Blvd., to Bayport.

Discussion ensued concerning infrastructure and potential funding mechanisms for the proposed CHIP plan.

6. Hernando County Fire Rescue Chief Mike Nickerson

Chief Nickerson provided an overview of the Hernando County Sheriff's policy relating to the emergency fire response process for the Hernando Beach area and throughout the County. He stated that there is a mutual manual aid agreement in place with all fire emergency response departments in Hernando County. Emergency medical services response is provided for all Hernando County volunteer fire departments. He also stated that approximately 20% of emergency medical service calls have been handled by Spring Hill Fire Rescue. He indicated that Hernando County Fire Rescue does not own a ladder truck; however, the City of Brooksville ladder truck would be available for use through the mutual aid agreement. He advised that Hernando Beach Volunteer Fire Rescue would have to submit a request for the purchase of a ladder truck to the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners and the County Administrator.

Ms. Baird recommended County staff attend the next Home Owners Association meeting held on September 3rd at 7:00 p.m., at the Coast Guard Auxiliary to provide an overview of the Coastal Hernando Initiative Project proposed infrastructure and revitalization plan. Ms. Rocco agreed to attend.

7. Next Meeting Time and Location

Next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at the Linda Pederson Park @ Jenkins Creek Community Center, 6400 Shoal Line Boulevard (CR 595), Spring Hill, Florida 34607

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Rocco announced there was no further discussion to come before the CHIP members and adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.