

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – WORKSHOP MEETING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 14, 2004



A special meeting of the City Council was held in the City Council Chamber, 900 East Strawbridge Avenue, and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor John A. Buckley.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call.

Present:	John A. Buckley	Mayor
	Richard Contreras	Council Member, District 1
	Ed Palmer	Council Member, District 2
	Pat Poole	Council Member, District 3
	Grace Walker	Council Member, District 4
	Cheryl Palmer	Vice-Mayor, District 5 (arrived 6:05 p.m.)
	Loretta Isenberg-Hand	Council Member, District 6
	Jack M. Schluckebier, Ph.D.	City Manager
	Paul R. Gougelman, III	City Attorney
	Cathleen A. Wysor	City Clerk
	Amy W. Elliott	Assistant City Manager
	Cindy Dittmer	Planning & Economic Development Director

3. COUNCIL DISCUSSION RE: Waterfronts Florida Community Vision Plan

Planning & Economic Development Director Cindy Dittmer introduced Gene Davis, member of the Olde Eau Gallie Riverfront Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Advisory Committee and Waterfronts Florida Partnership Committee.

Gene Davis presented an overview of the Vision Plan for the “Eau Gallie Riverfront – A Waterfronts Florida Community.”

As background, the Olde Eau Gallie Riverfront was designated as a Waterfronts Florida Partnership Community for the period July 2003 through June 2005. The designation includes technical assistance over the two-year period and a \$25,000 grant each year. Included in the project objectives and required deliverables for the grant is a community vision plan.

Mr. Davis reported that development of the plan was a community effort. The group received input from Crime Watch, Eau Gallie Library Board, individual citizens and business owners. Additionally, the CRA Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the plan. The Vision Plan focuses on the development of the waterfront and it supplements the efforts of the Redevelopment Plan and the Urban Infill Plan. Mr. Davis stressed that this is a long-range plan rather than an implementing plan. The strategies reflect and require a partnership between the City, community and businesses.

The five elements of the Vision Plan are:

1) history of the area; 2) description of the area; 3) how the vision was developed; 4) community visions/goals; and 5) potential funding. Mr. Davis detailed each element. The goals are highlighted as follows:

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“Goal A: Improve/Increase Public Use of Area and Access to the Water”

1. Improve Pineapple Park/Eau Gallie Pier
2. Construct a riverwalk
3. Improve Eau Gallie Causeway recreation area
4. Improve the park at the end of Houston Street
5. Improve public area at east end of Young Street
6. Improve Ballard Park
7. Improve the causeway entryway into the City of Melbourne

“Goal B: Maintain/Enrich Community Cultural Resources”

1. Expand cultural activities incorporating the sciences, performing arts, environmental education...

“Goal C: Encourage Commercial/Residential Development”

1. Use public/private partnerships to promote opportunities
2. Encourage development of adequate lodging
3. Encourage mixed use projects
4. Establish/maintain architectural standards
5. Develop pedestrian friendly community

“Goal D: Improve/Increase Parking”

1. Purchase lands for creation of public parking lots...
2. Extend on-street parking...

“Goal E: Ensure Adequate Transportation in the Area”

1. Provide traffic control/calming
2. Enhance public transportation

“Goal F: Improve Infrastructure”

1. Employ environmentally sensitive practices to improve infrastructure
2. Manage utility line installation

“Goal G: Retain/Promote Eau Gallie’s Heritage”

1. Encourage preservation/rehabilitation of structures
2. Ensure significant places/events are identified
3. Develop Eau Gallie gateway reflecting area’s history
4. Develop/implement marking plan to integrate area into the trails system and scenic highway program

Mr. Davis outlined potential funding sources, including grants/loans; tax increment funding; preservation funds; FDOT funding; and St. John’s River Water Management funding. He concluded by asking Council to approve the Vision Plan so it can be forwarded to the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

Council Member Loretta Hand stated that she believes the Committee did an excellent job. She recalled seeing information about development of a water park in Ballard Park. Mr. Davis said he believes the City is planning to add an interactive fountain in the park.

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City Manager Jack Schluckebier said that the project is in the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program; however, at this point it is not funded. There is no conceptual plan, but it is not intended to be a recreation feature that would compete with the pools.

Vice Mayor Cheryl Palmer said that she has noticed opportunities for fishing from the riverfront disappearing around Melbourne and being replaced with things that are aesthetically pleasing. She asked Mr. Davis if some of the improvements he has outlined to enhance aesthetics would curtail the fishing activity.

Mr. Davis said no and added that the idea is to enhance fishing as a recreation opportunity. He added that he would like to see “fishing stations” added beneath the causeway.

Council Member Pat Poole asked if the Vision Plan has been incorporated into the Redevelopment Plan. Mr. Schluckebier replied that there is no direct linkage. This group has included water resources in the general area and, at some point, the implication is that the CRA would consider input such as this.

Mrs. Poole discussed the backup material, which references the “Waterfronts/CRA Committee.” She said that the Waterfronts area has different boundaries than the CRA area. The information leads people to believe that this is part of the CRA. Mr. Schluckebier explained that both groups contain many of the same people with the same goals and direction.

Council Member Ed Palmer commended the Committee for doing an outstanding job. He noted that the Indian River is an economic engine that renews itself and is a vital asset to the entire City. He agreed that the Plan needs to be tied in with the CRA.

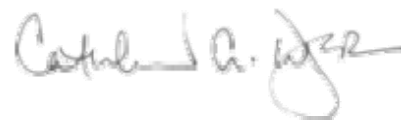
Richard Hester, Waterfronts Florida Liaison Manager, added that the City Council designated the CRA Advisory Committee as the Waterfronts Florida Partnership Committee. That is why there are a lot of similarities.

That concluded comments. Mayor Buckley noted that the Vision Plan will be considered during the regular agenda (Item 11 “j”).

4. Adjournment

Moved by Walker/Poole to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



City Clerk – 9/17/2004

Approved by Council: September 28, 2004