



PENSACOLA BEACH
SANTA ROSA ISLAND AUTHORITY

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W. A. "Buck" Lee
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Authority Members

FROM: Executive Director

DATE: April 13, 2011

RE: Minutes of April 12, 2011 Steering Committee Meeting

A Steering Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Fred Gant, Chairman, called the Meeting to order at 11:17 a.m.

Committee Members present were:

- Mr. Fred Gant
- Mr. Jim Cox
- Ms. Rose George
- Ms. J.J. Waters
- Mr. Jeff Elbert
- Mr. John Trawick
- Mr. Mike Foley
- Mr. Tom Almon
- Ms. Marilyn Hess
- Mr. Jim Reeves
- Mr. Julian Mac Queen

Committee Members not Present were:

- Mr. Robert Rinke
- Ms. Phylesia Baldwin

Also Present were; Mr. Mike Langston and Mr. Jim Waite, Baskerville Donovan, Inc. and members of Escambia County Engineering including Project Manager, Mr. Matt Mooneyham.

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Mr. Gant began the meeting and stated this meeting was called to update the Steering Committee on the progress for the Master Plan.

Ms. Hess was very concerned about the information that she had received about the Trolleys and the current status of the core area improvements as established by the Steering Committee.

Mr. Gant stated that Escambia County has done what is feasible to not change the vision of the Steering Committee.

Mr. Elbert explained that as a member of the Trolley Sub – Committee, the core area re development has been in the fore front of the members.

Ms. Hess asked why open air trolleys were not being used as was requested by the Steering Committee.

SPEAKER:

Ms. Lila Cox

Ms. Cox, Co – Chair of the Trolley Sub – Committee addressed Ms. Hess's concerns about the trolleys and stated that ECAT owns the trolleys and it was a two year process to order new open air trolleys.

Mr. Elbert stated that it was frustrating working in the scope of the government and the goal of the Sub – Committee was to identify the problems and improve ridership of the trolleys. Increasing the routes and the times will hopefully be one solution.

Mr. MacQueen stated that he was more concerned with the lack of coordination and preparation of the meeting. He felt it was ill prepared and someone is needed to keep the Steering Committee members on a higher level of importance.

Additional discussion followed.

Upon motion of Mr. Julian MacQueen seconded by Ms. Marilyn Hess, the Committee recommended approval to ask the SRIA to not allow Baskerville Donovan, Inc. to approach Escambia County with any plan before it is passed through the Steering Committee for approval. (10-1) Mr. Jim Reeves voted in the negative.

Mr. Gant stated that the purpose of the motion would be to slow the process down and allow the Steering Committee to have more input.

Mr. Langston and Mr. Waite entered the meeting at this time along with members of Escambia County Planning and Zoning.

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Mr. Langston explained that they had been at the toll plaza meeting with consultants.

Mr. Waite stated that the task order is with Escambia County with a contract schedule of 180 days, of which they were in 45 days. He said they were still collecting data at this time and had no details to offer.

Ms. Hess asked what Escambia County had asked BDI to do.

Mr. Langston stated that they were tasked by Escambia County to evaluate the Master Plan Concepts and identify things in the plan to determine their practicality and feasibility. He said they were also to define the stages and scope of services for the project.

Mr. Langston stated that it is part of their task order and intention to have the approval of the Steering Committee and the SRIA Board.

Ms. Hess asked if the list they were working on was the one that the Steering Committee had asked for; number one being beach to bay.

Mr. Langston reiterated that they were evaluating the concepts that were presented by the Steering Committee and finding out the feasibility from an engineering stand point. He wished to clarify that no design was to be done. The Master Planner presented ideas (conceptual plans) He said there were some difficult engineering challenges and BDI is in the process of trying to make them work.

Mr. Gant asked when it would be feasible for BDI to meet with the Steering Committee again.

Mr. Langston stated that the nothing can be done without the blessing of the Steering Committee and the SRIA Board, it is required that they meet and keep everyone informed. This is a uniform effort.

Mr. Cox stated that there should be a meeting between BDI and the Steering Committee on or about June 1.

Mr. Langston agreed to put together an expected schedule of what will be done and meet with the Steering Committee, SRIA Board and Mr. Mooneyham, Project Manager for Escambia County.

Additional discussion followed including the toll facility improvements and a funding source from BP.

Mr. Gant stated that Mr. Langston had answered the questions of the Committee satisfactorily and asked Ms. Bell to send a copy of the task order for BDI to the Steering Committee.

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Mr. Cox asked that one last item be considered; he asked the SRIA create a theme for the Island as a verbal component for the Master Plan.

Mr. Cox stated that he would like to work with someone from the SRIA, Ms. Hess and Mr. MacQueen on a possible contest to generate interest in the theme for the Island.

Ms. Hess suggested using social media as an avenue for the contest.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


W. A. "Buck" Lee
Executive Director

WAL:mb

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