Citizen Comments

May 26, 2020 Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board Meeting

(Received as of 8:00 p.m. May 25, 2020)
Your decision is requested.

Judye McCalman (judyegayle76@gmail.com) has asked you to approve the attached message for delivery to:

IA Comments

A preview of the message is below. To view the complete message, open the attachment.

From: Judye McCalman (judyegayle76@gmail.com)
To: Comments@blueprintia.org
Subject: Comments for Blueprint Meeting of May 26, 2019

I am extremely disappointed that the Commissioners voted to restrict public input on the important decisions regarding the Welaunee Arch Comprehensive Plan Amendments by refusing to wait until comments could be made in a face-to-face, public setting. Although Zooming may be acceptable for some, what about citizens who are either technologically challenged (many seniors, for example) or do not have computers or other electronic devices for Zooming (i.e., the poor, disabled, etc.)? What is the big rush to make these costly, long-lasting, and impactful decisions that we will all have to live with and fund for many years to come?

There are multiple reasons I oppose the proposed amendments, but I will restrict the length of my comments as much as I can. First, this thinking harkens back to the auto-oriented planning models of the ‘50s and demonstrates not an iota of 21st Century thinking about urban sprawl, increased carbon footprint, preservation of rural areas, and wildlife protection, not to mention compounding the existing inequities between north and south Tallahassee. Also, do young people want to live in suburbs far from the city center where “the action” is? Do they want to be car-dependent and carbon-generating? I think not, and they are the future.

What happened to the “Southern Strategy”? Has it been pushed aside for this ill-considered proposition? Our taxes would be much better used to revitalize the south and southeast by providing opportunity and choice for housing and employment throughout the city and county instead of reinforcing the existing disparities. Many neighborhoods in Tallahassee are without adequate housing, sidewalks, public transit, central water and/or sewer, and food, but there is no rush to make these issues a priority for the City.

It’s hard to rationalize that it’s not all about money and the monied. Actually, it’s an example of the
vicious cycle of the rich getting richer, with these decisions feeding directly into that spiral. Surely we can be more creative and compassionate than going back to the ‘50s while reinforcing all the negatives that have been fostered since then. Good planning looks to the future while addressing the real needs of the city, not feeding the deep pockets of large developers out to make a buck.

We are in the middle of a horrible pandemic and severe economic upheaval. Now is not the time to make such a drastic commitment of public funds and the private funds that will follow. I hope you will reconsider the ramifications of your decisions on this as well as the need to have public, face-to-face discussions. After all, this is a democracy, or, at the very least, that should be the overarching goal.

Thank you,

Judye McCalman
2019 Country Club Drive
32301
Your decision is requested.

Darwin Gamble(darwingamble@yahoo.com) has asked you to approve the attached message for delivery to:

IA Comments

A preview of the message is below. To view the complete message, open the attachment.

From: Darwin Gamble(darwingamble@yahoo.com)
To: comments@blueprintia.org
Subject: Convention Center

The Blueprint Interagency Board should rescind its March 12, 2020 vote to proceed with a new Florida State University managed convention center at a total cost of $53 million. For more than five years the citizens have been told that Blueprint’s portion of the funding would be $20 million. Approving something different without additional public comment is a breach of trust.

Prior to the 2014 election, the Leon County Sales Tax Committee made its final recommendations regarding which projects Blueprint should fund if voters approved the sales tax extension. The committee’s report contains numerous references to the “Madison Mile Convention District” and identifies Florida State University as the “convening organization.” The report also told the public that total Blueprint funding for the project would be $20 million. The Madison Mile is part of the university’s “Arena District,” and the terms are sometimes used interchangeably.

A 2015 interlocal agreement between the City and the County specified that funding for the Madison Mile project would be “up to $20 million.” During a Blueprint Board workshop on September 20, 2018, the following exchange occurred regarding the convention center’s funding.

Commissioner Proctor: “Who has the checkbook, or are there two checkbooks worth twenty million dollars?”

Ben Pingree: “We’re pleased to report that there are more than...probably more than
two checkbooks. But there are two checkbooks. The IA’s one is for up to twenty million dollars. F-S-U, as part of their larger Arena District or Madison Mile District, it’ll be quite a bit more than that when you aggregate all of the things that they’re going to build.”

However, in a letter dated December 16, 2019, the university told Blueprint staff that it could not provide funding for the design and construction of the convention center because it received no capital outlay funding from the State of Florida. Nevertheless, the university offered to manage the facility.

On March 12, 2020, Blueprint staff proposed that the board approve $40 million to fund the project plus another $13 million for debt service, or a total of $53 million. Staff also characterized Blueprint’s role in funding the center very differently than it did in September 2018 as demonstrated in the following comment.

**Ben Pingree:** “Twenty million dollars was recommended at the time of the Sales Tax Committee as a placeholder, acknowledging the price per square foot and the fact that even in those dollar terms we didn’t know what the price of the facility would be.”

For more than five years prior to March 2020, every official source of information available to the public created and perpetuated the expectation that Blueprint’s share of funding for FSU’s planned convention center would be $20 million, regardless of the facility’s total cost. The Board should put the brakes on this project until the public has had a chance to weigh in.
Your decision is requested.

Sue Gross(suegross@hotmail.com) has asked you to approve the attached message for delivery to:

IA Comments

A preview of the message is below. To view the complete message, open the attachment.

From: Sue Gross(suegross@hotmail.com)
To: comments@blueprintia.org
Subject: Welaunee expansion

I want to go on record, as a Killearn property owner that I am opposed to this unnecessary expansion, especially the road plans to run through Killearn. We pay a lot of property tax and hate to subsidize private developers. Thank you for keeping us informed.

Susan Gross
4416 Stratfordshire ct
4418 Stratfordshire ct
2303 Ryan Place

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android
Your decision is requested.

Bruce Dietrich(brucedietrich@comcast.net) has asked you to approve the attached message for delivery to:

IA Comments

A preview of the message is below. To view the complete message, open the attachment.

From: Bruce Dietrich(brucedietrich@comcast.net)
To: Comments@blueprintia.org
Subject: Comments on Welaunee

I am a life long resident of Leon County and have lived at 4423 Argyle Lane since 1983.

I strongly support the expansion of the urban services area in Welaunee and the extension of Welaunee Blvd across I-10.

The road extension is critical to protection of Miccosukee and Centerville canopy roads as Tallahassee inevitably expands.

A well coordinated plan is important for both transportation and designation of greenways and providing a 4 lane roadway to provide relief to the 2 lane canopy roads.

Bruce Dietrich
Your decision is requested.

David Kemmer (davidanddeke@yahoo.com) has asked you to approve the attached message for delivery to:

IA Comments

A preview of the message is below. To view the complete message, open the attachment.

From: David Kemmer (davidanddeke@yahoo.com)
To: comments@blueprintia.org
Subject:

I understand the urgency to incorporate the land into the urban services area. However, why the rush now? We are in a very critical time with the unknown due to the pandemic and it's far reaching influences for years to come. I feel to depend upon the internet as an informative and public platform is an inadequate use and truly a scam. So many of our older citizens to do not have, or do not know how to use the technology to follow "informational output" to inform citizens of upcoming meetings, rezoning, scheduling, etc.
If, and I'm sure it will, pass please, please please have someone else in charge of the design. Canopy is an eyesore. Southwood is beautifully done with it's green spaces and hidden driveways. Have you ever tried to drive through Canopy on garbage collection day? It is near impossible. Tallahassee needs more natural areas like Lawrenceville, Ga. Where they have trails, boardwalks, NOT just a 100 ft walkway around the streets of Centerville Rd.
Lawrenceville, Ga. built up fast with beautiful homes but 15 years later their property values have not increased. Too much development and not enough buyers.
Please do Tallahassee a favor and incorporate LARGE Greenspaces into the plan that I know you will pass even though it sounds like a lot of people don't see the demand for it.
The overpass should not even be a consideration. Not if a four lane road is going across Thorton to access the "landlocked " property. Let people access via Thomasville and the existing off ramp on 90. There is also plenty of room to build access off of centerville at I10 if you follow the power lines. No need to build round off/on ramps. Out west you have easy on easy off Interstates with no round off/on ramps.

Deitra Kemmer
Hello Susan. I would like to submit the below statement for the upcoming Blueprint meeting.

Commissioners and OEV Team, thank you for your passion and leadership in establishing the $1 million LEAN grant. This "life-line" is greatly appreciated among those nonprofits who are eligible based on the guidelines set forth by OEV.

I am seeking your support in extending the deadline to apply for the LEAN grant in an effort to further educate the nonprofit sector of the recent changes to the qualifications. The original requirements dramatically reduced the number of nonprofits that were eligible to apply. For example, if the CEDR grant was limited to restaurants and hotels, then the demographics of those eligible businesses would be substantially smaller. So, although there are over 2,400 nonprofit organizations registered in Leon County, those who meet the review standards is substantially decreased with the limited classification.

On behalf of the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE), I respectfully request that you consider an extension of the deadline and/or consult with those leaders, who serve the nonprofit sector the eligibility classification. INIE, along with UPHS and COCA exist to serve this sector. It would be an honor to assist the OEV team in ensuring the success of LEAN.

**IMPORTANT:** The INIE office is closed and the team is working remotely in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. During this time we will rely heavily on email communication to assist all members. Please continue to email us and visit our website frequently for updates and resources regarding the impact of COVID19 on the nonprofit sector. Thank you for your patience and understanding. #NonprofitsStandStrong

Felina Martin, Executive Director
Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence
a: 300 West Pensacola Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301 p: (850) 201-9766
w: MyINIE.org e: felina@myINIE.org

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
April 9 | Board Recruitment Mixer on INSTAGRAM
April 13 - 17 | Office Hours: Accounting
April 24 | Nonprofit 101 Bootcamp Webinar presented by Carroll and Company
Thank you for your comments, they will be forwarded to the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors prior to their 1 p.m. today, April 15, 2020.

Susan

Susan Emmanuel
Public Information Officer
O: 850 219 1072
C: 850 597 4886

Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from public offices are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may be subject to public disclosure.

Thank you Susan. My comments are below.

As nonprofits are vital social and economic businesses that contribute to the Tallahassee community in providing essential services and employment, I encourage our community leaders to reconsider allocating funds to support the critical work of our grassroots nonprofit organizations.

The nonprofit sector is the "heart of our community" in providing necessary services that range from mental health and housing to social engagement and culture. It is through their dedication to service and providing the best quality of life for all residents that make Tallahassee one of Southern Living Magazines' "South's Best Cities". The sector is at jeopardy of not only its ability to provide services due to overwhelming demands, but also layoffs of employees who provide the services. With over 20,000 jobs provided in the nonprofit sector, representing $1 billion in
wages, Tallahassee stands to loose more than its front line service providers. It will
loose the variety of agencies who contribute to the economic engine of Tallahassee in
the tune of over $3 billion in revenue.

When you invest in a nonprofit, you are investing in a business whose sole purpose is
to serve. Please consider allocating emergency funds for operations to assist in
sustaining our nonprofit organizations. As always, they are equipped and prepared to
apply any funds received to areas of service with the greatest need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Felina Martin
Executive Director
Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE)

IMPORTANT: The INIE office is closed and the team is working remotely in an
effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. During this time we will rely heavily
on email communication to assist all members. Please continue to email us and
visit our website frequently for updates and resources regarding the impact of
COVID19 on the nonprofit sector. Thank you for your patience and
understanding. #NonprofitsStandStrong

Felina Martin, Executive Director
Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence
a: 300 West Pensacola Street, Tallahassee, FL  32301 p: (850) 201-9766
w: MyINIE.org  e: felina@myINIE.org

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From: Susan Emmanuel <susan.emmanuel@Blueprintia.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:25 PM
To: Felina Martin <felina@myINIE.org>
Cc: Contacts <contacts@Blueprint2000.onmicrosoft.com>
Subject: Re: Contact Form submission from Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

Ms Martin

The IA Board will receive public comments via email, as the meeting format is video conferencing.

Please reply to this message with any comments you have and we will relay them to the Board.
Thank you,

Susan Emmanuel
Public Information Officer

> On Apr 14, 2020, at 3:35 PM, Felina Martin <felina@myinnie.org> wrote:
> 
> > Sender's name: Felina Martin
> > E-mail: felina@myinne.org
> > Phone: 8502019766
> > 
> > Message: Please provide a Speaker Request Form via email to felina@myinne.org. Thank you.
> >
Your decision is requested.

lindacuz(lindamdeaton@gmail.com) has asked you to approve the attached message for delivery to:

IA Comments

A preview of the message is below. To view the complete message, open the attachment.

From: lindacuz(lindamdeaton@gmail.com)
To: Comments@blueprintia.org
Subject: Welaunee Arch

Vote NO to Welaunee Arch map amendment.

Vote NO to the expansion of the Urban Services Area for Welaunee Arch.

Blueprint dollars should not be used to provide roads and other infrastructure for the Welaunee sprawl development.

Keep the rural parts of our county rural.

Linda
Planned communities are great—but not at the expense of taxpayers.

Welaunee has already received $47 million from Blueprint.

Don’t give urban sprawlers tax incentives! The current USA, especially those in underserved areas, need those resources.

Mary Frederick, 805 Circle Drive
Commissioners ............

I’m asking you to please hit “pause” and vote against considering any large scale Comprehensive Plan amendments until public hearings can resume with the public in attendance with you! Some of these large scale amendments will shape development in the area for over a generation. Please STOP until everyone can participate.

At the May 21st meeting on Agenda Item #10

• Vote NO on Option 1
• Vote NO on Option 2
• Go with Option 3

Vote to reaffirm your unanimous decision on April 28th to NOT consider large scale comprehensive plan amendments while the commission is holding virtual meetings.

Vote to not amend your rules of procedure. Please just follow them correctly. DO NOT rescind your April 28th vote!!

Please do not consider large scale amendments UNTIL we can all meet in public without fear of COVID!

Thank you,
Mike king
Your decision is requested.

doclroc@aol.com has asked you to approve the attached message for delivery to:

IA Comments

A preview of the message is below. To view the complete message, open the attachment.

From: doclroc@aol.com
To: Comments@BlueprintIA.org
Subject:

As a life-long resident of the N.E. corridor where the Welaunee development is occurring, I would strongly urge you to not increase the size of development at this time. The traffic along Miccosukee and Centerville Roads is already difficult and will only increase with expansion. The destruction of the environment will continue, and as has been proven by the current development, measures have not been (and probably will not be) taken to protect the woodlands, prevent flooding along Centerville Road or to create an aesthetically beautiful development. For those of us who grew up seeing the lovely rolling hills and trees of Welaunee we have watched with disgust the rape of that land in the name of progress. Also, putting more money in the Northeast segment of Leon County takes away from sources that would be better used in the South and Western parts of the county.
Sincerely, Dr. Linda Teague
Your decision is requested.

WILLIAM PHELAN(wmjphelan@comcast.net) has asked you to approve the attached message for delivery to:

IA Comments

A preview of the message is below. To view the complete message, open the attachment.

From: WILLIAM PHELAN(wmjphelan@comcast.net)
To: Comments@BlueprintIA.org
Subject: Welaunee Arch and Urban Service Area

What a terrible time for long-term planning decisions--especially for something that has been controversial for decades.
Workers losing jobs in unprecedented numbers.
Countless businesses closing for good.
Tax revenues plunging.
The national, state and local economy in 2021 will be very different than it is today.
And who knows what 2030 will look like?

It is crazy to commit $87 million of public money into road and interchange construction/planning for a future high-end housing development when so many people are hurting now. And the future is so cloudy.
There are Southside neighborhoods in the Urban Services Area now that do not have urban services--like sewer service. And they are very close to Munson Slough and the Wakulla Springs drainage basin.

Let's provide urban services to urban dwellers. Let's not extend urban services into undeveloped land that may never be developed.
Let's put off decisions on Urban Services Areas until a time when we know what is going on.
William J Phelan
9601-20 Miccosukee Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32309
wmjphelan@comcast.net