

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 30, 2024
To: Citizens Advisory Committee
From: Artie White, PLACE Director
Subject: Summary CAC Meeting Minutes for August 22, 2024

Committee Members present:

Byron Greene	Sean McGlynn
Kathy Bell	Chuck Goodheart
Chris Daniels	Leroy Peck, Vice Chair
Ashley Leggett, Chair	Hollie Myers
Adner Marcelin	Whitney Doyle
Fred Varn	

Committee Members absent:

Mary Glowacki	Rod McQueen
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The regular meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm on August 22, 2024 at the Blueprint Office by Chair Ashley Leggett.

I. **AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

There were no modifications to the published agenda.

II. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

The Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency (BPIA) offered two alternatives for citizen comment, by email or in person. There were no comments received by email.

Steven Martin spoke on his concerns about the development of the Northeast Gateway and encouraged Blueprint to prioritize environmental representation.

III. **PRESENTATION / INFORMATION ITEMS**

Recognition of Outgoing CAC Members

Planning Manager Megan Doherty expressed gratitude to Ashley Leggett for serving in her role as Chair the past year and recognized her contributions. Mrs. Doherty also thanked Sean McGlynn for his CAC membership since 2018, noting that he has been at the table for many key discussions and projects.

Q2 2024 Blueprint Infrastructure Project Status Report

BPIA Director Autumn Calder shared a highlighting current projects, including an overview of upcoming construction projects shared at the Chamber of Commerce Conference. Director Calder spoke about the work Blueprint has done in the past nine

years and moved into discussion specifically about three key gateway projects. Director Calder first highlighted the NE Corridor Connector Project that encapsulates the widening of Bannerman Road. Director Calder noted the substantial commercial and residential growth along this corridor over the past 15 years. Director Calder then discussed the Northeast Gateway project, currently under construction. The plan to construct Welaunee Boulevard has been underway for decades as a result of local leaders modifying previous DOT plans in order to create the best design for the community. Phase Two of Welaunee Boulevard, planned for construction in 2026, will include new roads that offer an alternative to the canopy roads. Director Calder discussed the economic impact of the Northeast Gateway, which is projected to bring in up to \$8.2 billion in revenue. The Airport Gateway project was also highlighted, which is a planned \$120 million investment into the Southside, including construction of seven miles of new roads and 12 miles of bike improvements. This project builds the long-awaited entrance from the TLH Airport into downtown Tallahassee.

CAC member ___ inquired about when the committee would get a tour of the Florida Innovation Lab. Calder answered saying it was close to being completed, and that a tour of Airport Gateway and Innovation Lab was a good idea.

IV. CONSENT

1. Approval of the May 2, 2024 Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

CAC member ___ moved to approve the Consent agenda, ___ seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

3. Presentation of the FY 2024 Annual Report of the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

Mrs. Doherty spoke about the work accomplished over the past year by BPIA. She mentioned the completion of Pinewood Drive sidewalk as part of the Lake Jackson Greenway project, that serves as an important connector in the non-motorized transit network. The History and Culture Trail made a lot of progress, including the completed installation of the remaining art exhibits and the interpretive panels. Megan noted that there are many construction projects coming up or already in progress, and in 2025 some will conclude while others will start. Megan spoke about the importance of community engagement, including how Blueprint got to host study tours from groups in Utah and Georgia who were interested in looking at the Capital Cascades Trail and development around the university. She talked about the grand opening for Debbie Lightsey Nature Park and how the community is using it, as well as how it received a national award.

CAC member ___ reflected that it is exciting to hear about how other cities came to Tallahassee to see how things are done. Director Calder responded that Blueprint gets phone calls all the time from people who want to know about their projects. CAC member ___ added that watching Cascades go from where it started to where it is now is amazing and the work is appreciated.

Keith Bowers, Director of the Office of Economic Vitality, talked about how they're trying to do more marketing and advance various projects. In FY 2024, OEV advanced nine projects with \$36 million of OEV commitments and leveraged \$392 million in investments, with potential to create over 9,000 jobs. Keith explained that for every dollar invested in an OEV project, the rate of return is \$8.25. OEV was recognized by the Florida Economic Development Council for the Amazon Fulfillment Center. He mentioned that Tallahassee was also recognized as having a strong metropolitan area economy. Mr. Bowers describes OEV as being intentional about community engagement, including hosting visits from other cities like New Orleans and St. Petersburg who wanted to replicate economic tactics used in Tallahassee. Lastly, Keith noted that OEV is involved in emergency management practices, including after the recent tornados that came through.

CAC member ___ moved to accept the presentation on the FY 2024 Annual Report. ___ seconded this motion. The motioned passed unanimously.

4. Recommendations of Appointments and Reappointments to the Blueprint Citizens Advisory Committee

Megan introduces that there are positions open for appointment and reappointment. CAC members Adner Marcelin, Fred Varn, and Leroy Peck are all recommended for reappointment. Two vacancies recommended for new appointment are the Big Bend Environmental Forum seat currently held by Sean McGlynn, Deborah Burr was nominated to fill that seat. Blueprint advertised the Financial Expert seat which will be filled by applicant William McCloud.

CAC member ___ motioned to approved the staff recommendation of Option 1: Recommend the IA Board approve the reappointment of Adner Marcelin to fill the Blueprint CAC Civil Rights Community position, Option 2: Recommend the IA Board approve the reappointment of Leroy Peck to the Blueprint CAC to represent the Council of Neighborhood Associations, Option 3: Recommend the IA Board approve the reappointment of Fred Varn to fill the Blueprint CAC Elderly Community position, Option 4: Recommend the IA Board approve the appointment of Deborah Burr to the Blueprint CAC to represent the Big Bend Environmental Forum, and Option 5: Recommend the IA Board approve the appointment of William McCloud to the Blueprint CAC to fill the Financial Expert position. This motion was seconded by CAC member ___ with no additional notes.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING – 5:00 PM

First Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget and Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Five Year Capital Improvement Program Budget for the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

Chair Ashley Leggett opened the public hearing. No comment cards were received. BPIA Director Autumn Calder gave a presentation on the 2025 proposed budget. She mentioned that a major influence on the budget are the 15 projects are going into construction next year. Also noted that \$10 million is fixed each year for sidewalks,

parks, bike lanes, etc. as voted on in 2015, as well as bonding voted by the IA Board in 2018. Calder explains that there are no changes to the operating budget from last year other than cost of living increase in par with the City and County. Autumn detailed specific projects and what stages they're at, including how much of the FY25 budget will be allocated to different aspects. Calder spoke on BPIA's 5 Year Capital Expenditure Plan which has almost \$150 million put toward infrastructure projects. Autumn spoke to how Blueprint tries to meet minority business goals through collaboration with OEV, including that they held a mixer at Dorothy B Oven Park that was attended by 65 businesses and was well received by the community. By 2025 Blueprint will have 25 projects underway, totaling around \$800 million, \$400 million of which are in the Southside.

Director of OEV Keith Bowers spoke about their proposal for FY25. They are working on various projects and trying to focus on advertisement and leveraging. Bowers discusses a Mag Lab conference in February that is expected to bring new businesses and visitors to the city. Similar to Blueprint, there are no new positions in OEV, but there is the same cost increase as the City and County. There are no substantial changes in allocation of funds. There are some program enhancements, including compliance software which will be tracking minority business participation. Keith said OEV has a commitment to new development needs and that they are hoping to attract opportunities for businesses to expand.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

NEXT CAC Meeting: January 30, 2025