Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency
Board of Directors
Informational Item

July 15, 2021

Title:	Receipt and File
Category:	Informational Item
Intergovernmental Management Committee:	Vincent S. Long, Leon County Administrator Reese Goad, City of Tallahassee Manager
Lead Staff / Project Team:	Benjamin H. Pingree, Director, Department of PLACE Autumn Calder, Director, Blueprint Cristina Paredes, Director, Office of Economic Vitality

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The following informational items are being provided to the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors and have been posted to the Blueprint website.

- Items posted for July 15, 2021:
  - Draft Economic Vitality Leadership Committee June 30, 2021 Minutes
  - Blueprint Infrastructure Community Engagement Update

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors Meeting
Receipt and File: Blueprint Infrastructure Community Engagement Update
July 15, 2021

This document provides the IA Board information regarding upcoming public engagement activities for the Blueprint projects.

Effective community engagement leads to projects that genuinely reflect the community's needs and desires, provides for greater acceptance of the project by the community, fosters a strong sense of community, and affirms Agency credibility. Successful public engagement helps the Agency build trust and a cohesive relationship with the community. To that end, each project maintains and executes a unique community engagement effort that employ a variety of engagement techniques and strategies intended to meet community members where they are, encourage dialogue, relay timely and accurate information, answer questions, and address concerns throughout the life of the project.

Planned project-related community engagement activities scheduled to occur between the July 15, 2021 IA Board meeting and the September 27, 2021 IA Board meeting are outlined below. The Blueprint team maintains an open door for the community to dialogue with any team member.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Orange-Meridian Placemaking Project: July-August 2021

The Orange-Meridian Placemaking project has three major components: 1) Creation of a neighborhood park and community gathering space at Orange Avenue and Meridian Street: 2) enclosure of the East Drainage Ditch between South Monroe and Meridian streets and build multi-use path in its place to promote safety and connectivity, and 3) the contribution of $1 million to the development of a planned South City Transit Center. Design work for the park and the new multi-use path began in January 2021. Attachment #2 includes the Orange-Meridian Placemaking Project Snapshot, which includes an overall timeline for the project as well as a project map.

Orange-Meridian Placemaking Community Engagement Update:
Throughout February and March, 2021, meetings with neighborhood groups and opportunities for residents to share their ideas for the park were held both in-person and virtually. Project team members attended the Walker-Ford Farmers' Market, hosted a Community Conversation and BBQ, and partnered with the Tallahassee Peacemakers Initiative and the South City Foundation in a Pop-Up Pancake Breakfast.

Participants at events and online were encouraged to complete a survey to share their preferences for the new park regarding recreational, cultural, and environmental aspects, and to share their overall ideas. A total of 284 individuals completed the survey, including 124 people who indicated they live within a mile of the park. The strong representation by nearby residents was vital in guiding the design team during park concept development ensuring this neighborhood park reflects the ideas of the nearby residents.

The goal of the second round of community engagement for the Orange-Meridian Placemaking project is to share and receive feedback on the preliminary draft park concept (see Attachment #2) prior to presenting the recommended draft park concept to the IA Board. The project team will employ the same general outreach strategies, identified below, that produced strong involvement and garnered a variety of citizen ideas for the project during the initial outreach efforts. To effectively connect with and engage the community, outreach strategies will include:

* Outreach with existing neighborhood groups, including the Southside Neighborhood Leadership Council (July 30) and the South City Neighborhood Interest meeting (July 13) to share and receive feedback on the preliminary draft park concept.

* A Community Conversation Summer Celebration at Greater Love Church of God in Christ, July 29 (or August 5, if needed due to weather) in partnership with the South City Foundation, will serve as the main engagement activity. This event will share park concepts with the community in a public open house format and collect written and verbal feedback on the concepts as well as offer free frozen treats for attendees.

Notification of the Community Conversation Summer Celebration outreach will be conducted through area churches, businesses and daycare facilities as well as signage in the project area. In addition, information will be shared on social media, through the local media, and community partners.

* Pop-Up Events: Events such as neighborhood gatherings, parks, or at commercial locations are being identified where sharing the park concepts can be included with other scheduled events.

* Virtual engagement will be supported by the posting park concepts and feedback options to the Blueprint website. Outreach efforts notifying of the virtual participation option will include a targeted mailing to nearby residents inviting them to the access the park concepts on the Blueprint website and leave comments for the project team. The project team will collect all comments received and make adjustments to the concepts where financially and physically possible, prior to finalizing the park design.

BPIA Budget First Public Hearing, Citizens Advisory Committee: September 8, 2021

The Blueprint Citizens Advisory Committee will discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budgets at their September 8th meeting which begins at 5 p.m. The Budget Public Hearing will begin at 6 p.m. and will provide an opportunity for in-person public comments on the proposed budgets at that time. Virtual attendees will be able to submit comments via Zoom. Additionally, written comments can be submitted to Comments@Blueprintia.org. Meeting material and instructions on how to register to speak via Zoom will be posted to www.Blueprintia.org seven days prior to the meeting.

BPIA Budget, Second and Final Public Hearing, IA Board Meeting: September 27, 2021

The Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors will discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budgets for the Agency and will provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed budgets during the Public Hearing, which begins at 6 p.m. Virtual attendees will be able to submit comments via WebEx. Additionally, written comments can be submitted to Comments@Blueprintia.org. Meeting material and instructions on how to register to speak via WebEx will be posted at www.Blueprintia.org seven days prior to the meeting.

Attachments:

1. Orange-Meridian Placemaking Project Snapshot
2. Orange-Meridian Placemaking Park Preliminary Draft Concept Plan

BLUEPRINT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

Project Website:
blueprintia.org/projects/orange-meridian-placemaking/
Staff Contact: Junious Brown
(850) 219-1063
Junious.Brown@blueprintia.org

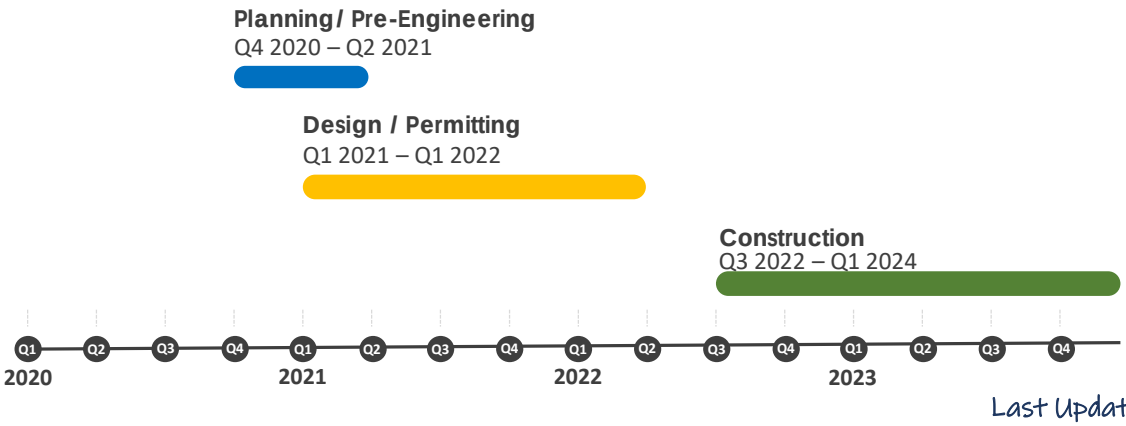
Orange-Meridian Placemaking

Project Highlights

- Create a neighborhood park and community gathering space at Orange Avenue and Meridian Street with the opportunity for trails, exercise opportunities, and a kids' play area.
- Enclose the East Drainage Ditch between South Monroe and Meridian streets and build multi-use path in its place to promote safety and connectivity.
- Contributes $1 million to the development of a planned South City Transit Center.

Current Status:

- Stormwater modeling, community engagement activities to guide park design, and design services for the replacement ditch of the portion of East Drainage Ditch between Meridian and S. Monroe streets are underway.
- Planning and Design is expected to be complete in 2021. Construction will follow in early 2022.



Last Updated: 06.09.2021

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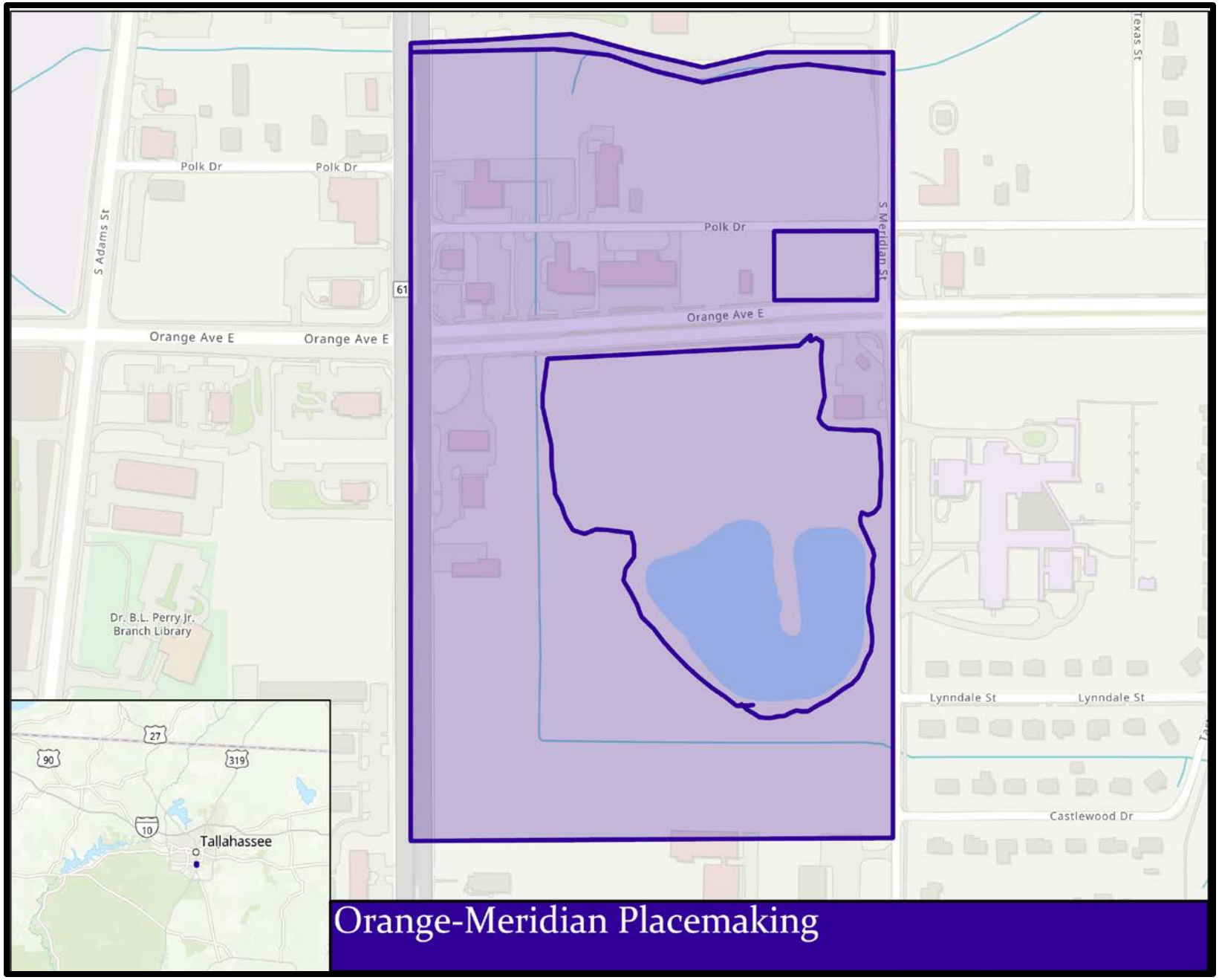

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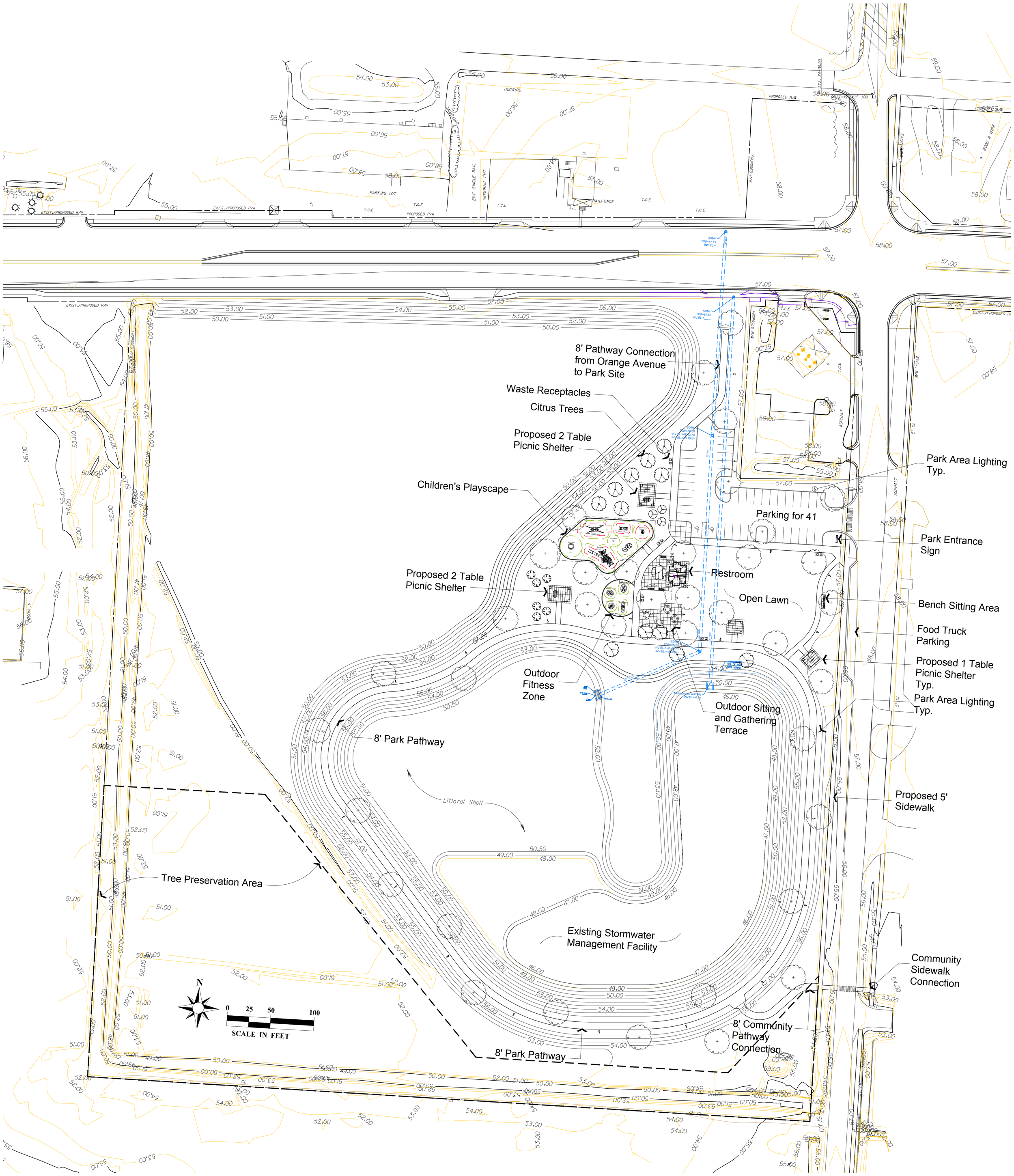

*Exact placement of amenities is contingent on use of a portion of the flood plain.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC VITALITY

Economic Vitality Leadership Council Meeting

June 30, 2021 at 11:30 am
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

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MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Evans, Chair	Bill Smith
Mindy Perkins	Katrina Rolle
Brent Edington	Jake Kiker
Mark O'Bryant	Kim Moore
Mitch Nelson	Garry Simmons
Keith Bowers	
Ricardo Schneider	
*Absent: Cissy Proctor, Dr. Temple Robinson	

I. WELCOME

Mrs. Cristina Paredes called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. by welcoming and thanking members for joining the EVLC meeting and reviewed the meeting's agenda. Cristina stated that the Council will be joined by Shelly Bell with Lively Technical College and Jim McShane from CareerSource Capital Region to discuss local workforce, followed by a presentation on the local residential market, and an update on project development activities.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. Workforce and Employer/Employee Engagement
   Ms. Shelly Bell, director of Lively Technical College, provided an update on local workforce, workforce training, challenges, and Lively Technical College program. Shelly introduced Paul Lambert, assistant director of Lively Technical College, and stated that they are working very closely with K-12 to grow what they are doing with Career Pathways. Shelly mentioned that they have Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) programs in three local high schools (Chiles, Godby, and Rickards High School) and one in Wakulla. Lively is working toward adding a program in Sail High School. Shelly stated that they hope to have this program in all of their high schools by 2023. Through a grant, Lively is able to sponsor 100 students to go through their day-time and nighttime CNA programs this summer. Shelly expressed the need for healthcare occupations.

   In trades, Ms. Shelly Bell indicated that Lively is getting calls for electricians, HVAC professionals, framers, and more. Shelly mentioned that the challenge is many shop classes that were available in schools 15-20 years ago have been replaced with computer labs. Lively is looking for ways to get students more involved with trades by getting students dual-enrolled in the college to take advantage of trade programs and getting contractors and

professionals to go to schools to speak to students. Shelly specified that Lively is proud of their partnership with the Tallahassee Regional Air Conditioning Contractors Association (TRACCA), led by Patrick Barineau of Barineau Heating and Air Conditioning, to launch an apprenticeship program. Shelly mentioned that she would like to explore this program with other trades due to its successful first year.

Mr. Steve Evans celebrated Shelly, Paul, and Jim McShane for their creativity in launching this initiative and building our local workforce. Mrs. Katrina Rolle asked where students would be getting trade information that was cut due to required class hours being reduced. Shelly answered that Lively did not make that decision but stated that groups looked at the State's framework and requirements and determined which training was most necessary for students.

Ms. Kim Moore added that she would is in support and believes it is great that there is such a trade program. Mr. Jim McShane stated that there are still getting steady numbers coming into the career center. He mentioned that they have a few hiring fairs and worked with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, but they currently do not have enough talent walking through their doors to bring to the businesses' doors. One of the biggest challenges that Jim is seeing for talent is childcare. Jim McShane stated that we are currently in a position where there is not enough people to fill jobs. Jim McShane stated that CareerSource Capital Region will experience an 11% decrease in their budget starting tomorrow. CareerSource Capital Region will continue their goal of getting as many people hired as they can.

Mr. Steve Evans asked Jim McShane, Shelly Bell, and Kim Moore what's being done to clarify the workforce that needs to come to the career centers to prepare for the influx of jobs. Kim Moore answered that there is a concentration on two sectors: Information Technology and Healthcare. Kim specified that they are working together on an initiative to recruit more people to those industries. Shelly Bell added that as a principal at Godby High School, that she didn't know what the businesses needed until she started with Lively, adding that there needs to be more engagement with K-12 schools and principals. Shelly stated that there is also a concern with talent in the building and construction sector.

Mr. Steve Evans summarized the workforce conversation stating that there is leadership coming together to launch a strategic initiative to recruit more talent and asked if that is correct. Mr. Jim McShane answered that leadership is coming together from his point of view, but more engagement is needed. Jim identified Danfoss as a local company that is looking to expand and clarified that Danfoss should start engaging now to be prepared for the completion of their expansion. Mr. Ricardo Schneider agreed and stated that Danfoss needs to look down the pipeline. Steve asked Mr. Kevin Gehrke what is being done from the manufacturing standpoint for identifying and developing talent. Kevin answered that he has been in contact with Shelly Bell to work with the youth of the region and educating the students on the skillsets needed for manufacturing, including engineering and human resources. Steve thanked Kevin and summarized that there is movement happening but not fast enough and we can work together. Ms. Kim Moore agreed with Steve's statement and added that it is important to make businesses aware that education is an important part of starting or expanding a business.

2. Update on the Tallahassee Residential Market
Mr. Steve Evans introduced T.J. Lewis to give an update on the residential market. Mrs. Cristina Paredes added that the City and the County will be hosting a joint workshop in July, which will include an update on the residential housing market from OEV and Planning Department. Mr. T.J. Lewis provided a presentation on the Tallahassee Residential Market. T.J. detailed that supply is down while demand is up in Tallahassee,

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due to the low rates creating an urgency for buyers. The Tallahassee MSA median home sales price is $253,264 while Leon County median home sales price is $265,769, while the State's median home sales price is $290,000. T.J. stated that it is currently a seller's market, meaning that homes will usually go for the asking price, if not higher, and 2021 is poised to be a record sales year in the residential market. T.J. stated that new homes in the Tallahassee market is down compared to 2020. Tallahassee is experiencing the same overall impacts of the state and nation as it relates to the residential marketing. The Comprehensive Plan policies support urban infill and higher density with the Urban Services Area where available land exists to support projected residential growth through 2045.

Mr. Steve Evans asked if there were any questions for T.J. Lewis. Mr. Jim McShane stated that realtors in our area that we are 40,000 homes short and asked T.J. where they are getting that number. T.J. answered that he has not heard that number but it could be an estimate of current demand and agreed that there is a consensus that we are in a deficit in regards to supply. Jim reminded the Council that that is workforce housing as well, and if people are earning $11-$12 an hour, many cannot afford the housing that T.J. presented. Mrs. Cristina Paredes agreed and stated that this is one of two of the workshops that the City and County are hosting, in which they will discuss affordable and workforce housing.

3. Project Development Update

Mrs. Cristina Paredes introduced Mr. Drew Dietrich to provide a project activity update and stated that they have a full pipeline in a great way. Cristina also stated that a few weeks ago, she, County Growth Management and the Fire Department toured a similar size lot needed with Project Mango. Next steps for Project Mango include it going to the County Commission for the site plan approval. Drew provided a brief update on project development activity within OEV. Drew stated that OEV has two capital projects with TCC and FSU. Currently, OEV and FSU are working together on proposals. Drew stated that OEV has submitted 20 Requests for Information (RFIs) and 13 active projects with 4 close to becoming active, so in total 17 upcoming projects. Drew stated that one project is a publicly traded company that is looking to hire several hundred employees and have a big facility of about 200,000 square feet. Drew mentioned another example of a software management company looking to expand and relocate locally and anticipating hiring about 250 employees in August.

Mr. Steve Evans added that these projects closely revolve around distribution, technology and biology. Mrs. Cristina Paredes stated that she would also add research to that list, and that this work would not be possible without the leadership of the EVLC, Chambers, and the City and the County. Steve stated that this would also not be possible without a partnership with Enterprise Florida. Cristina agreed stating that two leads came from Enterprise Florida.

III. CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURN

Steve Evans thanked the EVLC for their leadership and adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Next Economic Vitality Leadership Council Meeting:

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 11:30 am

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