

# Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 23, 2023  
**To:** Citizens Advisory Committee  
**From:** Autumn Calder, Blueprint Director  
**Subject:** Approval of the November 16, 2022 Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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**Committee Members present:**

Peter Okonkwo, Chair	Rod McQueen, Vice Chair
Jim McShane	Kathy Bell
Hollie Myers	Adner Marcelin
Leroy Peck	Ashley Leggett
Whitney Doyle	Fred Varn
Mary Glowacki	Elva Peppers
Sean McGlynn (virtual)	

**Committee Members absent:**

Chris Daniels	
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**I. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

There were no agenda modifications.

**II. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Lonnie Mann of the Panhandle Archeological Society spoke about archival research he conducted on the New Hope Community, gave a brief history of this African American community, thanked Blueprint for developing an agenda item for IA Board consideration, and requested the CAC strongly recommend that the IA Board approve a study of the community.

Gloria Anderson also spoke about the New Hope Community & the NE Gateway project, how her ancestors lived in this community during slavery from the year of 1860, and requested the CAC strongly recommend that the IA Board approve a study of the community.

**PRESENTATION / INFORMATION ITEMS**

*Welcome of new CAC Members Whitney Doyle and Hollie Myers*

Peter Okonkwo welcomed two new CAC members, Whitney Doyle and Hollie Myers.

*Status Update Presentation for the Fairgrounds Beautification & Improvement Project*

Blueprint Planner, Tatiana Daguillard presented the latest updates on this project along with going over key findings, the Master Plan process, survey information, community & stakeholder engagement, and the most recent open house that was given. Ms. Daguillard also discussed the major takeaways from the 'Listening & Gathering' phase of the master plan process.

Rod McQueen inquired about the limits of improvement and if it includes Gene Cox Stadium. Ms. Daguillard replied that although the Fairgrounds leased area does not include Gene Cox Stadium, the stadium is important and the master plan team and process is mindful of integrating it into the master plan.

*Presentation of the Northeast Gateway Project*

Martha Hodgson, Blueprint Project Manager provided an overview of the Northeast Gateway project, including the Purpose and Need, as well as the economic impact of this project. Project milestones covering the period from 2016-2021 were discussed, including past IA Board direction. The project is currently in design and completion of the design and permitting process is expected early next year.

Tatiana Daguillard provided an update on the recent IA Board direction as related to the New Hope Cemetery, in proximity of the Northeast Gateway project, and the consideration of conducting a historical survey. Blueprint staff has met with descendants and researchers of the New Hope Community, including Mr. Mann and Mrs. Anderson.

Mrs. Hodgson then went over the next steps of the Northeast Gateway project. Mr. Peck inquired about the source of funding for the future I-10 Interchange, and Mrs. Hodgson stated that the funding was not included in the NE Gateway project and would be determined at a later date. Mr. McQueen inquired as to whether there were any planned improvements to the existing Pimlico Drive near Montford Middle & Roberts Elementary schools. Mrs. Hodgson noted planned improvements would connect the existing Pimlico Drive to Welaunee Blvd but would not include any other modifications to the existing roadway.

Peter Okonkwo inquired as to environmental findings and systems along the project corridor. Design and Construction Manager, Daniel Scheer noted that there are confirmed wetlands & a bald eagle's nest that they have to stay away from during construction.

Fred Varn inquired about the Pimlico roundabout as it relates to child pick-up near Montford Middle & Roberts Elementary schools. Mrs. Hodgson noted the intent is for the improvements to alleviate congestion by providing alternative routes. Blueprint Director, Autumn Calder also noted that this project will provide congestion relief for Killlearn Estates; as some neighborhood traffic going through the neighborhood to Thomasville Road will go to Welaunee Boulevard instead.

*Presentation of the OEV Report*

OEV Director, Keith Bowers gave a presentation on the Non-Competitive Economic Development Solicitation Proposal Process including defining what it is and all of the steps. Mr. Bowers stated that the IA Board has to approve any and all of these proposals. Mr. Bowers also presented on the new Size-Up Business Intelligence Application and discussed how it helps small businesses on how they fair with their competition.

**III. CONSENT**

**1. Approval of the August 31, 2022 Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

Rod McQueen moved to accept the August 31, 2022 Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. It was seconded by Leroy Peck. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**2. Election of the CAC Vice Chair**

Elva Peppers moved to nominate Ashley Leggett as the new CAC Vice Chair. It was seconded by Kathy Bell. Motion passed unanimously.

**V. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

NEXT CAC Meeting: February 23, 2023 at 4:30pm at the Blueprint Grand Conference Room.