

**CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH
VISION PLAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Vision Plan Stewardship Committee of the City of Fort Walton Beach was held on Monday, September 14, 2009, at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers of Fort Walton Beach City Hall with the following members present:

Ted Corcoran, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce; Debbie Bodensine, EDC; Eric Davis, citizen (arrived 5:09 p.m.); Michael Jimmerson, Beautification; Doug Reed, CRA

Absent: Don Amunds, County (unexcused); Glenda Glover, MPB (unexcused)

Also Present: Samantha Abell, Sr. Planner; Michael Beedie, Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Bodensine moved to approve the minutes of March 9, 2009 and June 1, 2009. Mr. Reed seconded motion and it carried unanimously with Bodensine, Corcoran, Davis, Jimmerson, and Reed in favor (Amunds and Glover absent).

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMITTEE

Discussion of role and responsibilities of the Vision Plan Stewardship Committee.

Samantha Abell, Senior Planner, mentioned at the last Council meeting Councilman Holmes requested the Committee consider how it can operate most effectively in conjunction with the City's vision plan and comprehensive Plan. She noted the Committee has also expressed dissatisfaction with their role and responsibilities. She reviewed the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in 1990, the adoption of the Vision Plan in 1994, the creation of the committee in 1995 to assist with the implementation of the Vision Plan, the adoption of the 2000 Comprehensive Plan, the adoption of the Vision Plan Update in 2004, and in 2008 the committee re-prioritized its implementation plan objectives and action items, identified economic development as the most important issue facing the City and stated its desire to focus on that issue. She reported Council will consider at their next meeting adoption of an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to adopt an Economic Development Element which will provide the framework for an Economic Implementation Plan in order to establish specific action items, list the economic agencies responsible for implementation, and provide for period review by the City Council. She said the economic agencies named within the element are all represented on the Vision Plan Stewardship Committee and given its focus, perhaps a more efficient use of the committee would be to act as an economic advisory group to City Council. She noted the committee has the composition of being a very effective economic committee, to assist with the development of the Economic Implementation Plan, to look at how well the City is actually implementing the objectives and policies of the Economic Development Element, and provide quarterly progress reports from its members on the marketing, beautification, and redevelopment of targeted areas. She asked the members thoughts on the possible evolution of the committee.

Discussion included an exchange of views on the past, current, and future role of the committee, whether to just recommend that the existing resolution be amended to add the economic focus of the committee or that the committee be eliminated to be substituted with an economic committee; whether it should be a task force or a committee; and the various roles the individual committees and entities would play on an economic committee. There was consensus that this is the direction the committee has been seeking.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMITTEE

Mr. Reed moved to request staff to return with a resolution to create an economic development committee. Mr. Jimmerson seconded motion and it carried unanimously with Bodensine, Corcoran, Davis, Jimmerson, and Reed in favor (Amunds and Glover absent).

COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

CRA - Mr. Reed reported the CRA is moving forward to get back on the table to finish Highway 98 and there is more work to do on Beal Parkway; and they are examining a lot of avenues to see how to accomplish more work force housing.

Beautification – Mr. Jimmerson reported they have two vacancies on the committee; and they have started back with the beautification awards.

EDC – Ms. Bodensine reported there is interest in the Commerce and Technology Park.

Citizen – Mr. Davis reported he receives a lot of positive feedback; and mentioned there is concern about the vagrants downtown.

Chamber – Mr. Corcoran reported the Chamber, EDC, and staff are working together to reinforce the economic development element; and discussed the visioning campaign of the Chamber.

NEXT MEETING

It was noted the next regularly scheduled meeting is December and the timeframe for staff to prepare the resolution would be 4-6 weeks.

Ms. Bodensine moved to meet November 2, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Reed seconded motion and it carried unanimously with Bodensine, Corcoran, Davis, Jimmerson, and Reed in favor (Amunds and Glover absent).

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.