

# Sales Tax Committee Retreat

## Summary Minutes

### February 1, 2013

*Absent members:* Mr. Ed Murray

**Meeting began at 9:07 am**

#### **Agenda Item #1: Opening Remarks by Chair Evans**

After welcoming the Committee and going over the agenda, Chairman Steve Evans reviewed the Committee's enabling resolution and the direction that the County and City Commissions had given the Committee.

Mr. William Pebbles expressed his concern about the Imagine Tallahassee presentation, noting that it was not on the agenda the Committee approved. He requested that the Committee ~~considering~~ discussing this proposal during the February 21, 2013 meeting as originally scheduled.

#### **Agenda Item #2: Overview of the Community's Vision Statements**

The County Administrator, Vince Long, presented to the Committee the County's Vision Statement. He detailed how the County developed its Vision and gave examples of how the Vision is incorporated into everything the County does.

The City of Tallahassee Manager, Ms. Anita Favors-Thompson, presented to the Committee on the City's Vision Statement. She encouraged the Committee to think big and outside of process.

Mr. Wayne Tedder, Director of PLACE, presented to the Committee on the Blueprint 2000 Vision Statement. He noted that BP2000 projects focus on cost effectiveness and keeping citizens involved as the projects adjust to other circumstances. Mr. Tedder also noted the Blueprint 2000's holistic philosophy ensures that multiple benefits are derived from projects, such as a stormwater pond that doubled as a park.

Mr. Tedder also presented the Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement. He discussed the challenges that the Comprehensive Plan has faced.

#### **Agenda Item #3: Imagine Tallahassee Presentation**

Dr. Jim Murdaugh, Mr. J.T. Burnette, and Ms. Karen Moore presented to the Committee on Imagine Tallahassee. Dr. Murdaugh discussed the importance of setting aside funds for things that are important so that they're not consumed by what's perceived as an urgent need today. Mr. Burnette explained the concept of Imagine Tallahassee and showed the Committee video testimonials that gave support of Imagine Tallahassee. Ms. Karen Moore proposed that the Committee set aside the 15% portion of the sales tax for economic development to allow Imagine Tallahassee to develop a vision for economic vitality which will be presented to the Committee in the fall for approval and inclusion in the final recommendations to be presented to the County and City Commission. Ms. Moore mentioned that Committee will be able continue its process on discussing infrastructure projects while Imagine Tallahassee worked through its process on the economic development portion.

Mr. Will Messer reminded the Committee that they were picked specially to determine how all the funding regarding the sales tax would benefit the community and cautioned the Committee against passing that responsibility off.

Ms. Laurie Hartsfield noted that the City and County only recommended 10% be set aside for Economic Development. Ms. Moore pointed out that the 15% would only be set aside for the time being, but not necessarily all allocated to economic development.

Many Committee members expressed their support of the Imagine Tallahassee proposal, noting that the community needed to develop an identity. Mr. William Peebles stated that he was not sure that the Imagine Tallahassee Steering Committee was the right group of people to develop proposal for the economic development portion of the sales tax.

Mr. Peebles moved that the Committee support paragraph (A) of the Imagine Tallahassee Visioning Concept which states: "There will be a distinct and inclusive visioning process associated with identifying the future of the economic vitality of Leon County and the City of Tallahassee. The process will be funded by Imagine Tallahassee, Inc. and staffed by Leon County and the City of Tallahassee." Mr. Messer seconded the motion.

The Committee discussed the motion. Mr. Messer also stated that BP2000 vision statement should be amended to reflect the economic development portion of the sales tax.

After the discussion, Ms. Henree Martin made a substitute motion that 15% of the Sales Tax would remain undesignated until after the Imagine Tallahassee visioning process and associated action plan are completed, presented, and agreed upon by the Committee. Mr. Kim Williams seconded the motion. The substitute motion passed with Mr. Will Messer and Mr. William Peebles in opposition.

Mr. Kim Williams moved that the Committee endorse the proposed Imagine Tallahassee Citizen Steering Committee. Ms. Henree Martin seconded the motion.

Mr. Darryl Jones, Chair of the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Commission, addressed the Committee on involving the human services community in any visioning process for Tallahassee and Leon County.

Mr. Tom O'Steen expressed his discomfort at telling Imagine Tallahassee how to select its steering committee.

County Commissioner Nick Maddox reminded the Committee that they would be the ones making the final recommendation to the County and City Commissions and suggested that because of that, they should be involved in the Imagine Tallahassee process.

Mr. Kim Williams restated his motion to have the Committee endorse the proposed Imagine Tallahassee Citizen Steering Committee, with the caveat that it could recommend members, until the Steering Committee had reached 25 members. Ms. Henree Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Will Messer and Mr. William Peebles opposed.

After a short break, the Committee reconvened. Mr. Messer moved that the following representatives be added to the Imagine Tallahassee Steering Committee: faith based community, non-profit sector, and Network of Entrepreneurs and Business Advocates. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item #4: Our Community: Past, Present, and Future**

Mr. Wayne Tedder presented to the Committee an overview of the community's population, land area, and infrastructure, and trends for growth.

Mr. Ed Young, Research Division Manager with the Planning Department, supplemented Mr. Tedder's information on population, noting that the community is still growing, but not as fast as in the past. Mr. Young also noted that there might be some over count of college students living at home with their family, but that the over count was negligible.

The Committee discussed the City and County Master Sewer Plan. Mr. John Buss, Director of Water Resource Engineering with Tallahassee Utilities, noted that in the sewer master plan, most of the areas outside the urban service boundary were not funded. Mr. Buss stated that if funding were made available for the unfunded sewer projects, the City stands ready to build the sewer capacity. Some of the rural communities, like Woodville, are targeted growth areas. Mr. Buss also noted that there are rebate sewer incentives to developers building inside the city.

The Committee continued the discussion regarding transportation issues within the community. Mr. Gabriel Menendez, City of Tallahassee Public Works Director, discussed roadway Level of Service and gave examples of roads that are over capacity. He noted that the more over capacity a roadway is the longer the peak hour (ie, rush hour).

Mr. Tedder discussed discrepancies in the Comprehensive Plan, citing how areas around Lake Jackson and Woodville are zoned for higher density, but constrained by environmental overlays.

Ms. Christic Henry noted the desire to consider aesthetics when planning for stormwater and not just building canals and ditches.

**Agenda Item #5: Project Themes and Action Statements**

Mr. Wayne Tedder presented to the Committee a map displaying all the sales tax projects have been discussed by the Committee in the past year. The Committee requested that they be provided with a summary of the County decision on the sewer workshop, as well as digital copies of the maps handed out.

Mr. Tedder then facilitated a discussion with the Committee that identified the following project themes:

- Regional Mobility/Transportation (Starmetro, airport, road capacity, bike/pedestrian)
- Sense of Community (special urban places, sense of place, creative class)
- Water Quality (Protects natural resources, stormwater)
- Connectivity (greenways, sidewalks, trails, bikes)
- Economic Vitality
- Parks/Ecotourism
- Vertical Infrastructure
- Gateways

The Committee requested that staff develop action statements to define each of the themes. These action statements will be reviewed by the Committee for edits at the next meeting.

The Committee determined that all projects that are ultimately recommended to the Commissions be holistic and improve the quality of life in the community. The Committee also began brainstorming marketing ideas such as signs highlighting Blueprint 2000 projects - similar to how the School Board advertised the impact of their half penny sales tax.

**Agenda Item # 6: Finalize the Infrastructure Project Decision Making Process**

Mr. Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator, presented to the Committee a revised decision making process.

The Committee requested that FAMU and FSU present on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The Committee also adjusted the calendar to meet April 18<sup>th</sup> instead of April 11<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the Committee postponed the open house planned for May 23<sup>rd</sup> and decided to hold it in the fall after Imagine Tallahassee has presented to the Sales Tax Committee. Instead, the Committee decided to hold another meeting for project deliberation and discussion on this date.

Ms. Henree Martin moved to accept the infrastructure project decision making process. Ms. Kim Rivers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm.**