

**MINUTES
LAKE COUNTY
MT. PLYMOUTH-SORRENTO
PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

AUGUST 8, 2007

The Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento Planning Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. at the Sorrento Christian Center, 32441 CR 437N, Sorrento, Florida. The Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento Planning Advisory Committee is an advisory committee for continued planning efforts within the Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento area as defined in Ordinance 2004-67.

Members Present:

G. Curtis Duffield, President
Betty Ann Christian, Secretary

Tim Bailey
Jeanne Etter
Scott Taylor
Clark Morris

Minnie Bollar
Judy Weis
Jeff Richardson

Members Absent:

Dr. Ronald Holman
Priscilla Bernardo-Drugge, Vice-President

Staff Present:

Donna Bohrer, Office Associate, Planning and Community Design
Karen Ginsberg, Senior Planner, Planning and Community Design

Guests:

Commissioner Linda Stewart, Lake County Board of County Commissioners
Keith Schue, Local Planning Agency member
Peggy Belflower, Local Planning Agency member

G. Curtis Duffield, President called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and noted that a Quorum was present. He confirmed that Proof of Publication was on file in the Planning and Community Design Division and that the meeting had been noticed pursuant to the Sunshine Statute.

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Florida Department of Transportation presentation

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Approval of minutes from the last meeting was continued to the next meeting because they were not available in time for the committee to review.

Karen Ginsberg, Senior Planner, Planning and Community Design explained Mr. Bennett had resigned and said she would consult with staff regarding the work of this Committee. Ms. Ginsberg said retention of consultants to assist this Committee was still pending. Commissioner Stewart said approval for the hiring of consultants will be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Tim Bailey thought it was important for the MPSPAC to have professional assistance, such as that provided by Mr. Bennett.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PRESENTATION

David Marsh, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) said he was the Planning Liaison to the Lake/Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (L/SMPO). He introduced Frank Hickson, Inter-Modal System Development Manager, FDOT, who was also present to answer questions.

Mr. Marsh said the FDOT shared the Committee's concerns regarding SR 46 and said a safety and speed study had been initiated on SR 46 between south 437 and 435. He said this study would include review of speed, safety, sight distance, accident statistics and other safety issues. There was discussion about extending the study area to include the curve east of 435. Mr. Marsh said these studies generally take about sixty (60) days to complete and said FDOT would be available to discuss the study results. He added that FDOT would be contacting the Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) regarding speed enforcement on SR 46.

Mr. Marsh said traffic counts were available and the level of service (LOS) for SR 46 was a "D" or "E" based on the State standard. He said roads operating at those levels were not uncommon in the State. In response to comments from Scott Taylor, Mr. Marsh said there is not yet a construction date for the Wekiva Parkway. He said FDOT will continue to focus on the safety and maintenance of SR 46.

Mr. Marsh said FDOT must conform to State statutes and regulations regarding slowing down traffic and traffic calming. He said most methods of traffic calming are directed to urban areas. He said because the use of round-a-bouts requires large amounts of right-of-way it is more expensive than traffic signals. He suggested evaluating their options after the safety and speed study was complete.

Mr. Marsh said it was his understanding that SR 46 would to become a county road after the Wekiva Parkway was complete. He discussed the cost of the Parkway, the available funding, the possible involvement of the Expressway Authority or the Turnpike Authority and that the Parkway could become a toll road. Jeanne Etter was concerned that collecting tolls would keep people on SR 46 and said their concern was in maintaining the character of their community.

Keith Schue, The Nature's Conservancy, discussed his understanding of how toll collection could figure in this road construction.

Mr. Marsh said the DOT was very aware of the community's desire to have SR 46 remain a two-lane road.

An unidentified member of the audience discussed an area on SR 46 that he felt was unsafe. He said he had been told that the three-way traffic light would be replaced by the four-way light.

Mr. Bailey asked about the projected volume of traffic on SR 46 after completion of the bypass. Mr. Marsh said there are approximately 16,000 vehicles a day at the present time, the forecast shows 13,000 a day in 2025, if the Parkway is built. Mr. Hickson said without the Parkway the number would reach 25,000. Mr. Bailey voiced concern regarding these traffic numbers and their plans for their community. Mr. Marsh said there would be more options when SR 46 is no longer a state road. Clark Morris noted that roads can be an economic engine and foster growth.

Ms. Ginsberg said she wanted the committee to know that the County had received the Sorrento Commons application and said it had not yet met all the sufficiency requirements. She said the next was Development Review at which time the staff report will be discussed, then the application would be reviewed by the Zoning Board and finally the BCC. She said the application had not been placed on the schedule. Ms. Etter asked if a public meeting was going to be scheduled. Ms. Ginsberg said she would raise that issue with staff. There was discussion about the committee having input on this proposed project and the process followed by the County.

There was discussion about possible dates for a workshop requested by Dr. Holman.

Clark Morris discussed the development pressures on the area and proceeding to draft their Land Development Regulations (LDRs). There was discussion regarding this issue and how to best move forward to draft LDRs.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Etter explained that the new County Park would be named the East Lake Community Park. She said that conforms to County policy naming regional parks to reflect their location. She said it was her understanding a provision would be made within the park to recognize the contributions of Tommy Hight, Mr. Treadwell and other possible community members.

Ms. Etter said the Sorrento Hills application hearing before the BCC had been postponed to a special meeting on September 21, 2007 at 9:00. There was discussion on this project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lou Fabrizio said the Sorrento Commons project had been submitted to the County and they were working to meet the sufficiency requirements. He said they would be scheduling the community meetings he had said would be held when the County review

dates were set. He said he was willing to discuss the plan with any interested person and said members of the MPSPAC were invited to attend the community meetings.

Pam Jennelle, East Lake Chamber of Commerce, said to clear up any misinformation about their position on naming the County Park. She said the Chamber was not asked to endorse either nomination.

Mr. Schue asked how these zoning changes would relate to the Comprehensive Plan because plans can't be approved that conflict with that Plan. He asked how mandatory Future Land Use Map (FLUM) changes were going to be handled.

MOTION by Jeanne Etter, SECONDED by Betty Ann Christian to adjourn the meeting.

**FOR: Duffield, Bailey, Bollar, Christian, Etter, Taylor, Weiss,
Richardson, Morris**

ABSENT: Bernardo-Drugge, Holman

AGAINST: None

MOTION PASSED: 9-0

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Donna R. Bohrer
Public Hearing Coordinator

Betty Ann Christian
Secretary