

*myregion.org*  
Board of Directors  
**MEETING BRIEF**

**April 13, 2007 --**

Randy Lyon, Chair of *myregion.org*, opened the meeting by introducing new Board Member Dexter Costin, Merrill Lynch, and guests including Heather Barnes, Walt Disney World Co.; David Bottomley; Dave Bundy, Children's Home Society of Florida; John H. Drury, City of Tavares; Pam Ellis, Cypress Creek High School; Charles Lee, Audubon of Florida; Michael Steigerwald, City of Kissimmee; and Emmanuel Tormes, Office of Governor Charlie Crist.



Jacob Stuart, President, then reviewed the day's Agenda and also announced recent awards to *myregion.org* and its How Shall We Grow? Partners, the University of Florida and the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, by the American Planning Association. He also reviewed comments that have been posted on the project message boards that include a variety of opinions.

Randy Lyon then welcomed Susan Storch, Principal, and Pam Ellis, a teacher at Cypress Creek High School and seven of her students who used the How Shall We Grow? initiative as a study guide. After watching the HSWG television series on WMFE TV, they completed the survey via the website and created their final presentation. Their work included creating posters and distributing flyers across the community encouraging residents to "Voice their Choice."

Shelley Lauten and Phil Laurien, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, presented an update of work underway since the community engagement process has been completed and as plans begin to take shape for the final roll out of the regional vision in August. The summary included statistics on the outreach and key themes that were identified (Preserving Green Space, Creating Town Centers, and Providing Transportation Options). Validation of the HSWG Survey results was completed eliminating 424 surveys as invalid, leaving a total of 7,319 surveys.

Phil Laurien congratulated the students for their enthusiasm and engagement, because the future we are talking about will belong to them. He also noted that at the recent Council of Mayors meeting, Mayor Bush, from Winter Springs, remarked that what we are building today might not be the kind of development options that future generations will prefer.

Collaborative projects like these provide power of choice. He outlined the survey results that indicated no clear winner, but more of a combination of the options, taking the best of all three remaining options. A vision for 2050 looks more like 4 Cs, Conservation, Centers, Corridors and Countryside.

Community planning options include Hamlet, Village, Town, Small City, Medium City, and Regional City (based on population totals). Mayors and County Commissioners will be asked to envision what their communities will look like in the year 2050. The results of their input will be provided to the Metropolitan Planning Organization in order to begin building appropriate transportation options to support those choices.

During the next four weeks these inputs will be incorporated into the development of the regional vision. These could lead to redevelopment of dead shopping centers to include retail, business and residential developments and the linking of transportation to other city centers. These preferences will also take into account where new development will take place creating new urban centers; both incorporated and unincorporated at the present time.

Cities and town centers currently following these types of development can begin to seek help from the planning councils to take their current plan to the next level or iteration. The American Planning

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Association will also work with *myregion.org* through design charettes providing visual depictions of a variety of options.

Harry Barley, METROPLAN Orlando, made a comment: Footprint verses Annexations? He stated the underlying theme is density and if we cannot achieve higher density, then we are creating the recipe for sprawl.

Shelley continued with local community benefit and the themes clarified in preserving green space, reducing sprawl (developing centers) and creating transportation alternatives. Community leaders are now also looking at public policy issues to address what we have learned and what we want to do. The Joint Policy Framework Committee has been formed to agree on a Regional Growth Compact and design a collaborative policy framework. Historic meetings are now taking place among planners, governmental managers and leaders.

Regarding a "green print" to define environmental preservation, significant scientific review serves as a basis for the work. These in most cases also reflect a basis of citizen input. Also very important to this process is the linkage of transportation networks to support them. Copies of draft proposals are included in the Board packet and Members are asked to provide input on these documents in the next few weeks.

Lennon Moore, Orlando/Orange County Expressway Authority, provided an update on a 2030 Master Plan underway at that Agency. Included are potential expansion projects, concept development and evaluation studies, the study process, securing input through its association with *myregion.org*, outlining a 12-18 month process and financial planning, as well as public involvement and input from a number of constituencies. Formation of Environmental Advisory Committee and a Project Advisory Committee will play a key role in the process.

The question was asked if because of the possibility of expansion of the Expressway Authority, would there be work done to amend legislation to include representation from those new jurisdictions on the Expressway Board. Mike Snyder, Director of the OOCEA, specified that this is only conceptual at this point, but should expansion roads be specified as toll roads, these issues would certainly need to be addressed.

Harry Barley noted that people are in denial about the transportation requirements that will become necessary to accommodate future growth. Residents are more inclined to put transit rail lines on the map rather than new or expanded roads. LYNX transit services represent only 1% of trips each day. This is a tough balancing act, but certainly one of the most important issues that must be addressed.

Charles Lee, Audubon Society, reinforced the need for radical transportation policies to ensure that development and transportation corridors not encroach on the last remaining environmental assets in the region. Lennon Moore said a change in mindset must be made to use transportation as a proactive tool in development rather than a reactive answer to growth.

Randy Lyon then reviewed the timeframe for development of operational plans for a Phase III of *myregion.org*. These options include a plan, governance, and resource development. With new governance to look forward to for this organization, Mr. Lyon announced his new opportunity with Dubai International to take on projects in Beijing, Shanghai and Vietnam. In those projects, he will be working with the same development issues that we are discussing right here in Central Florida.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.