

PC Minutes 11/19/08

ITEM NO. 11 CPA-2008-7 ENVIRONMENTAL CHAPTER (AMB & MKM)

CPA-2008-7: Receive public comment and direct staff on general strategies to be included in draft environmental chapter of Horizon 2020.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Ms. Amy Brown presented the item.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Alan Black, League of Women Voters, said that land features should be reflected on future land use maps. He also stated that TRD's tool can assist in dealing with private property concerns. He said that the Air Resources Goal has no policy statements. He expressed concern about global warming. He recapped the letter the League of Women Voters sent.

Mr. Tom Huntzinger said he was encouraged by the environmental chapter. He stated that floodplain and stream corridors are important for water quality in Clinton Lake. He would like habitats and clean water referred to in the environmental chapter.

Mr. Bob Garrett said he was encouraged by the environmental chapter and felt that the environment should be preserved.

Mr. Charles Marsh said that both City Commission and Board of County Commissioners have said they are looking to Chapter 16 to provide the frame work for Chapter 7. He suggested in the overview adding the language of "high quality agricultural land" and other natural areas. He also suggested adding "sustainable food supplies" to the list. He read language from the September National Geographic magazine.

Ms. Barbara Clark, Citizens for Responsible Planning, thanked staff and Planning Commission for their open work on this. She expressed interest in establishing a local and regional food system. She referenced the American Planning Association policy guide language regarding food sustainability.

Mr. Michael Almon, Sustainability Action Network, said the environment is more than site specific and it is in more of terms of an ecology system, and all species are operating within that eco system. He said that the Mayors Task Force on Climate Protection is halfway through discussing ways to protect air quality. The Mayors Task Force on Peak Oil was appointed last week and will be discussing issues as well. He said he would like the Environmental Chapter to receive reports from both task forces.

Commissioner Harris said the committee has been talking about how to interact with the two groups Mr. Almon mentioned.

Mr. Frank Male, owner of Lawrence Landscape, encouraged involvement of business owners. He expressed concern about water conservation.

Commissioner Hird asked Mr. Male how he anticipated the Environmental Chapter affecting his business.

Mr. Male said that he installs lawn irrigation systems and he not sure at this point how it will affect his business.

Ms. Bobbie Flory, Lawrence Homebuilder Association, appreciated being able to participate in the discussion. She stated that the City of Lawrence just adopted an Energy Code with higher requirements

which the Lawrence Homebuilder Association support. She said that consumers want green building. She said that LEED is a third party criteria for building and did not think it should be included in the Environmental Chapter.

Commissioner Harris asked if Homebuilder Association standards are national standards.

Ms. Flory said they are trying to get them approved as national standards.

Commissioner Moore asked staff if they would be meeting with the Home Builders Association.

Ms. Brown replied, yes.

Ms. Jane Bateman commented on the need for balance and how that will be accomplished.

Mr. Mike McGrew, Vice Chair for Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, expressed concern about the stagnant economy and was concerned about the impact to private property. He said there was a need to establish a new tax base.

Ms. Beth Johnson, Chamber of Commerce, said that businesses and job opportunities are needed and that balance is needed to protect the tax base. She said that Horizon 2020, Chapter 7 talks about job growth goal and she felt that there should be mention of businesses in the environmental chapter. She encouraged continued work with groups that fit all interests.

Mr. Devin Scrogun said one way to increase jobs is thru small businesses energy initiatives and that encouragement of this would increase jobs to create and maintain that.

Ms. Natalya Lowther said she would like to change the perception of 'unbuilt environment.' She said that agricultural and natural land use is as valuable as built environments. She felt that owners should be able to permanently 'opt out' of development. She felt it was important to have land remembered when plans are being made.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Commissioner Harris was pleased that the public was present and glad they expressed specific requests.

Commissioner Moore agreed with Commissioner Harris and thanked the public for constructive comments.

Commissioner Hird felt that Douglas County should have an environmental chapter. He said they should really consider those involved in agricultural and that they also need to consider the impact on existing employment.

Commissioner Harris said she was encouraged that there were a mix of comments and perspectives of public comments.

NO ACTION TAKEN