



MINUTES

BCC Public Workshop

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

SWA Boardroom

Workshop

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Chairman Michael Barker, Vice-Chairman Danny Glidewell, Commissioner Boots McCormick, and Commissioner Trey Nick

ABSENT: Commissioner Tony Anderson

STAFF PRESENT: Tony Cornman, Interim County Administrator, and Mary King, Interim Deputy County Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG AND INVOCATION

STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP

1. Chairman Introduction

Chairman Barker called the meeting to order and thanked the members of the Institute for Senior Professionals for their assistance. He stated the goal is to move the county forward.

2. Institute for Senior Professionals Introduction

Mr. Dave Underwood, Project Leader, introduced their team members.

3. Project Description

Mr. Wayne Smith, Facilitator, stated the organization is affiliated with Northwest Florida State College and made up of mostly retired executives and provide pro-bono work for not-for-profit organizations and local government.

Mr. Smith stated their goal is to assist Walton County with creating their strategic plan.

4. First Four Elements of the Strategic Plan

These will guide the county.

i. Mission

ii. Vision

iii. Core Values

iv. Strategic Priority Areas

5. Mission

Mr. Smith reviewed the following:

i. Definition - What the organization will do, who they will do it for, and what the benefits are

ii. Current Mission Statement (2010) - To provide efficient and effective government services through responsive leadership ensuring pride preservation and conservation for Walton County

iii. Suggested Mission Statement - To serve the citizens of Walton County by providing a safe community and a sustainable economy while preserving our quality of life and natural resources

The commissioners each provided feedback and recommended changes for the suggested mission statement.

6. Vision

i. Definition - Where do you want to go in the future

ii. Current Vision Statement (2010) - Sustain and enhance Walton County vitality, environment, and community character.

iii. Suggested Vision Statement - Become the county in which to live, visit, work, and play.

Each commissioner provided input for their Vision of Walton County.

7. Core Values

i. Definition - An organization's deeply held beliefs that guide employee actions and decisions

Mr. Smith stated this refers to an employee and the decisions they make from a personal perspective.

ii. List of Suggested Beliefs - Transparency, integrity, accountable, ethical, professional, respectful, and credible. He stated too many core values can lose their importance. He suggested four to five.

The commissioners discussed and each chose their top three core values.

8. Strategic Priority Areas

Mr. Smith stated these are high level, preliminary, and prioritized. The strategic priority areas lead to the specific goals that become actionable by the functional areas within the county.

i. Definition - Major areas of actions needed to carry out the mission and realize the vision

ii. List of Suggested Areas

Mr. Smith reviewed and explained each of the following:

Planned Growth, Sustainable infrastructure
Economic diversification
Organizational performance
Asset management
Public information and communication
Workforce house, transportation, and training
Preservation of natural resources, historical beauty, and historical heritage
Safe, clean, prideful neighborhoods- communities
Visitor experience diversification
Cultural, arts and recreational expansion
Public safety

The commissioners made changes to the list and selected their top choices. They commented on the importance of the entire list and the need to keep all of them.

9. Public Comment

Chairman Barker opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Jackie Markel spoke about the need to focus on maintaining and preserving the character of the area. She asked for clarification on what planned growth means and stated infrastructure should go with planned growth. Ms. Markel felt that although everyone may want to be here does not mean they have to be here. She spoke about other towns she recently visited and the restrictions that were implemented in order to preserve their area.

Chairman Barker stated that the strategic plan is to address how issues will be handled for the future.

Commissioner McCormick stated 47% of property south of the bay is in preservation. He also stated that under the U.S. Constitution that people should be treated equally and be able to live where they choose.

Commissioner Glidewell stated infrastructure lags behind development and understands Ms. Markel's comments.

Mr. Uriah Matthews suggested adding "livable" and "future focused" in the mission or vision statement. He also commented on defining planned growth and articulate that on the county's website. Mr. Matthews suggested "hospitable" as one word that speaks to our tourism industry.

Chairman Barker welcomed Councilman Vallee from the City of DeFuniak Springs and spoke about how important the county's partnership is with the city.

Mrs. Brenda Rees spoke about changes and recommendations to the strategic priorities. She suggested obtaining statistics for the 55 plus age group which may provide information for future planning for senior citizens.

Ms. Barbara Morano commended the commissioners and can see the services the commissioners are providing. Ms. Morano stated the Planning Department has the expertise to plan for smart growth. She stated the South Walton Community Council has had two of the same core values (Quality of Life and Protecting Our Unique Environment) since 1995 and recognizes both agencies are on the same path.

Mr. Bob Brooke commented on the mission statement and questioned whose mission is it. He spoke about setting obtainable goals, core values and strategic priorities. He commented on there not being a plan for post-secondary education to attract the economic development and jobs/businesses needed. He asked the question "What do we want this county to look like 25 years from now". Chairman Barker stated that is the purpose of the visioning session; to determine what we are looking for in the next 25 years and how to get there.

Ms. Margaret Landry spoke about the need for better communications. Many times, projects are submitted, and the public is unfamiliar with it. She felt if the agendas were sent out sooner it would give the public additional time to review. She spoke about the rapid growth in the community and stated some of the zoning categories need more vegetation retention requirements and further recommended using less of the maximum density.

Ms. Lynne Edwards spoke about educational exercises the town of Jupiter held each Spring for anyone interested. She stated Walton County has all of the right elements of a national class hometown and urged the commissioners to not allow the county to become overbuilt. Walton County needs an assessment for senior care and the varying age groups. As a national hometown of envy, she questioned "what is the specialty of the county's character and what is the beauty of living here".

Mr. Vallee stated diversity was one issue that came up repeatedly; diversity of transportation, sports, ecotourism, and higher education. He stated we need higher education so the kids will stay here, which is a strong focus of the City of DeFuniak.

Ms. Jill Smith loves the education comments and spoke about the need for more collaboration.

Mr. Wayne Smith thanked the commissioners for their input and stated he is looking forward to continuing to develop this plan. The next workshop will be held May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the DeFuniak Springs Courthouse.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.



Mike Barker, Chairman



Alex Alford, Clerk of Court and County Comptroller