

MINUTES
CLEAR Plan 2030 Consortium
Jacksonville State University, Rm 1101A, B
April 3rd, 2012
9:00 am

Members Present:

Jennifer Maddox (Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama)
Curtis Simpson (United Way)
Margaret Morton (SAFE & Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers)
Jack Plunk (Calhoun Area MPO)
Jesse Cleveland (Community Action Agency of Talladega, Clay, Randolph, Calhoun, & Cleburne Counties)
Sharon Fenstermaker (Collaborative Solutions, Inc.)
Charles Merkel (East Alabama Mayors Association)
Jim Freind (Alabama Power)
Andrew Wackerle (USDA Rural Development- non-voting Consortium member)

Observers:

Frank Young (Town of Oak Grove)
Lynn Causey (City of Jacksonville)
Dorothy Tidwell (Randolph County Chamber of Commerce)
Robbie Coffman (Public Health Area 6/ADPH)

Staff Present:

Randy Frost (EARPDC, Director of Aging)
Robin Caler (EARPDC, Principle Planner)
Ashley Myers (EARPDC, Regional Planner)

Ms. Myers called the meeting to order and asked for a motion regarding the meeting minutes from the February 14th, 2012 Consortium meeting. Mayor Merkel moved to approve the meeting minutes as written with Ms. Morton seconding the motion.

Next, Ms. Myers reported two people emailed approval of the CLEAR Plan Consortium bylaws which were discussed at the February meeting and called for a motion. Ms. Morton moved to approve the bylaws as written with Mr. Cleveland seconding the motion.

Ms. Myers then stated all but one of the MOUs have been completed, which is great.

Mr. Frost welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Mr. Frost then discussed the Public Engagement Request For Qualifications (RFQ) which was issued by the Consortium in February. Attendees were given some time to review the one

proposal which was submitted in response to the RFQ. Next, Mr. Frost went through each of the project tasks identified by the Partners for Livable Communities.

Mr. Frost asked the Consortium if they had any questions or thoughts regarding the proposal.

Mr. Plunk asked what is a Civic Vision Compact? Mr. Frost said it is a compilation of all activities gone through for the 20 year plan. We know there are some communities that want to do the project now, while there are others that will want to see the benefits before they want to participate. The compact will set the standards for the long range plan, incorporating the existing planning process and allow us to have a working document that can be used as a tool.

Mr. Cleveland said it is a very thorough proposal, but asked if it would be an issue than only one submission was received. Mr. Frost said that since it is a professional services contract, according to Alabama state law it is okay only one submission was received. Also, we adequately advertised the proposal, so we are okay in that regard. And the one we received is from a reputable firm with a good track record in large and small places, with some expertise in this area. He stated he seeks the Consortium's input on each of the tasks involved in the RFQ. Within the next week or 10 days if any of the Consortium have any questions or written comments to please let him know and he will contact the Partners for Livable Communities and get a response. And by no means is this supposed to be an aging plan, but instead a livable plan for everyone. We can rerelease the RFQ if the Consortium would like to take that step.

Ms. Fenstermaker said it is fortunate that the Partners for Livable Communities applied and that they have someone on their team living in Alabama.

Mr. Plunk asked if the submission meets the plan goals and budget? Mr. Frost said that the proposal meets the goals, not the budget, but he wants to take the money aspect away from the proposal to see if it would work well for the project, to which he says it does. He stated there is a bit of leeway in the project budget because not all of the areas originally budgeted are being utilized or have been under budget, so some money may be moved to the consultant aspect of the project. Mr. Frost stated he would like to have a motion from the Consortium allowing negotiation to occur and see if an agreement can be reached regarding the financial aspect of the project. Additionally, Mr. Aycock, key personal of the Partners for Livable Communities who lives in Alabama, has the capability to help find potential funding for the project.

Ms. Morton asked if the timeline for the RFQ, which is currently a yearlong, could be extended for a second year in order to allow for excess money to be moved into consultant fees? Mr. Frost said, yes that is possible. The Partners and Consortium are open to negation of the timeline and expense of the project.

Mr. Plunk said the submission from the Partners for Livable Communities is the only one we received and it looks good, therefore he moved to approve Mr. Frost the authority to negotiate the timeline and expense of the proposal. Mr. Cleveland seconded the motion and it passed 8-0.

Mr. Freind asked if Tuscaloosa did this project? Mr. Frost stated yes, they used the Partners of Livable Communities.

Ms. Coffman stated it is important to remember even though we say it is 10-county region, it will actually be more than that, because several of the counties often cross the Georgia state line for many things including health care.

Mr. Frost closed saying that if any of the Consortium members thinks of an idea, question, or potential funding source to let him know.

Ms. Myers stated the next Consortium meeting will include discussion of the Fair Housing Equity Assessment and the Regional Analysis of Impediments. The grant requires the Fair Housing Equity Assessment, but we can opt into completing the Regional Analysis of Impediments if we would like. Also, East Alabama staff is working on getting the CLEAR Plan 2030 website up and running, so online communication and non-face-to-face interactions can take place.

Ms. Myers then stated the next Consortium meeting will take place in June and asked if Tuesday is still okay with everyone. It was decided she will send an email out with a couple of different Tuesday dates and ask the Consortium which date they would like for the next meeting.

Ms. Myers adjourned the Consortium meeting and said there will be a short break before the Livability Resource Team Orientation meeting will begin in the same room.