



EAST LITTLE HAVANA GREENPRINT PROJECT

STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting #3, March 30, 2005

8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Jose Martí Park

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

WELCOME

Mildred Majoros, Project Manager, Miami Office, the Trust for Public Land, and Project Manager for the East Little Havana Greenprint Project, welcomed everyone, and expressed her continued gratitude to Jose Marti Park for their sponsorship of the Steering Committee meetings.

She asked everyone to introduce themselves. Once again, additional new members had joined the Committee in response to her efforts encouraging all of the interested or affected stakeholder groups to participate in these deliberations.

She then turned the meeting over to the Facilitator, Janice Fleischer.

AGENDA REVIEW AND GUIDELINES

Ms. Fleischer directed members to the contents of their meeting packets which contained updated information on Steering Committee members as well as the materials needed for the day's presentations. She reviewed the Agenda for the day (**Exhibit A**). She announced that lunch reservations had been made at a local East Little Havana eatery, Casa Panza Restaurant and that all members who had the time were welcome to join Ms. Majoros, the Consultants and Ms. Fleischer for lunch.

All Reports of Proceedings of the Committee, Discussion Guidelines and Committee related information, can be found on the website of FLASH Resolutions at:
www.flashresolutions.com .

PRESENTATION: TREE CANOPY SURVEY

Ms. Majoros presented the results of the East Little Havana Greenprint Project Tree Canopy Inventory (**Exhibit B**). During her presentation, Ms. Majoros explained that TPL recently completed a tree inventory of the project area, which will provide detailed and reliable information about the existing tree coverage in East Little Havana. The data compiled from

this inventory will be shared with the City for their use. The only trees which were inventoried were those on the public right of way areas.

She went on to explain that data was collected for 1, 9777 trees in the project area, of which almost half are of a palm species and provide little shade. There is not much variety in the species of trees and almost 10% of the trees are diseased. This data will be used as a baseline for developing the overall tree canopy goals and priorities as part of the overall East Little Havana Greenprint Plan.

Ms. Majoros announced that the Pilot Tree Planting has been scheduled for May 21, 2005. More information and details on the pilot planting will be provided in the near future.

At the conclusion of the presentation, members made the following comments:

1. Look for grants
2. Educate the community on trash clean up
3. This pilot project has an initial \$10,000.00 to be spent on trees, education and the community event; more money will follow
4. When planting, take location of lights, power lines into account
5. We are working collaboratively with the city to maintain the trees once they are planted, and will need to involve Code Enforcement to ensure that the trees are being maintained.
6. Look into flowering trees as well as non flowering species.

POTENTIAL TREE PLANTING SITES: GROUP DISCUSSION

Members were directed to their packets for a list of the three potential sites for the tree planting (**Exhibit C**). George Puig, Project Manager for the Consultant, EDAW, gave a presentation (**Exhibit D**) which included the following items:

- ✓ Potential sites for street tree planting
- ✓ Work up to date
- ✓ Planning process (Next Steps)
- ✓ Questions and Answers

Mr. Puig explained that the expectation is that all three sites will be planted; the choice for now is which site to do first. The members will be taken on a ride to each of the sites at the end of the meeting today.

Mr. Puig went on to explain that in deciding on the sites, the desire to put the trees close to both parks and schools was influential. The Consultants will work with the Public Works Department of the City to avoid underground lines and other obstacles. In going over the details of each site, Mr. Puig reviewed the pros and cons, including parking issues, trash on the streets, existing trees, grassy areas/swales ready for planting, maintenance issues and curbs.

At the end of the presentation, members and the Consultants engaged in a question and answer period during which the following was recorded:

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1. Have senior citizens be advocates for trees
2. Use the strong "citizen watch" that exists in this area: Citizens On Patrol
3. Lack of parking causes neighbors to cut the trees down
4. Consider a tree "give away" with educational "obstacle course" (i.e. you get a free tree if you go through a series of explanations on how to plant, where to plant, how to care for the tree, etc.)
5. Concern about turnover of land; lots of construction and parking on swales; make developers accountable
6. Change zoning/rules to require canopy
7. Ensure code enforcement officers are familiar and are on the sites
8. Attention should be given to street trees along 12th Avenue, SW 1st Street and Flagler and other areas where developers are building new projects. In addition developer education will be important to ensure that the right and sufficient trees are included in new development projects.
9. Having someone responsible for a tree ensures tree health; need to get right party responsible for the tree; owners and businesses
10. Design standards will be part of project
11. In deciding on sites, need to know if development is planned
 - a. Mapping of new development project will be included in the Greenprint

NEXT STEPS IN THE GREENPRINT DESIGN PROCESS

Mr. Puig continued his presentation (**Exhibit D**) by reviewing the coordination element of the project with the community, the Steering Committee and the City. He explained that one of the outcomes of this Project will be to provide a guide to future development of parks and open space which can be used by the City or other organizations beyond this Project. The Project will also have a review and assessment of maintenance plans and schedules to assist the City with the implementation of the Project. He explained that existing trees need to be incorporated into the design; resident and user needs will be considered (for example: parking) and developers will be made aware and encouraged to be responsible with their plans. Residential designs will differ from commercial designs and linkage opportunities will be identified. It is the intention of the Consultants and TPL to coordinate with other greenway plans in the area (i.e. Miami River Greenway).

Once again, members were encouraged to ask questions and provide comments which were responded to by Ms. Majoros and the Consultant Team. The following was recorded:

1. Surveys of individuals on the Greenprint Project were taken on Miami River Day; copies of the survey were handed out (**Exhibit E**)
2. On May 21 we will do the pilot planting; we should look at the spaces inside properties; possibly combine public input meeting on this day
3. Include:
 - a. Parks Department
 - b. Code Enforcement
 - c. Planning Department

4. Approach churches to have them promote this to their congregations
5. Churches own much of the property we will be considering
6. Want to provide recreational opportunities for kids within this plan
7. We need to begin acquiring land now to be used as part of this Project; recreational and open space
 - a. Sally Jude volunteered to help find out about acquisition possibilities
8. Jose Casanova will start looking for grants, but he pointed out that one needs to be aware that funders are usually looking for matching funds
9. At the next Steering Committee meeting; provide information about where land acquisition opportunities exist
10. Have local organizations and church groups do a “Adopt a Tree” like the “Adopt a Highway” program
11. Kiwanis is currently looking at replacing trees on 8th Street; we should be coordinating with th
12. Businesses need to be educated re: signs, benefits of tree canopy coverage
13. Use pictures to demonstrate
14. Provide tours of areas with good tree coverage for community
15. Little Havana Community Partnership; use this neighborhood advocacy group
 - a. On April 22 they are having an all day event; TPL should communicate with them to see if some coordinated activity could be done

FINALIZING THE VISION: PLENARY SESSION

At the conclusion of the Consultant presentation, it was decided that the exercise on Finalizing the Vision would be postponed in order to allow sufficient time for members to tour the potential planting sites and provide their input.

FIELD TRIP: POTENTIAL PLANTING SITES

Prior to leaving for the field trip, Ms. Fleischer announced that reminders will be sent out along with a Preliminary Agenda for the next meeting. Members were provided with a list of all future meeting dates to assist them with coordinating their calendars. (Exhibit F)

Members were reminded to complete their Evaluation forms.

All members who were able to participate were taken on a van tour of each of the three potential sites. During the tour, Ms. Fleischer recorded the following comments and input with regard to each site:

General comments:

1. The “Adopt a Tree” program could give away trees to owners in conjunction with the Pilot Planting
2. See what lands/buildings are owned by the County in each site area to see about getting them to plant inside the property line
3. Once a final site is determine; the neighborhood should be canvassed to make sure everyone knows about the planting event
4. Make sure trees comply with landscaping codes

5. Code enforcement needs to be very attentive to whatever planting is done
6. Use Smart Growth ideas of combining stormwater runoff methods with the overall plan

Information about trees:

1. Pink Tababula is flowering
2. Black Olives
 - a. Not native
 - b. Good shade
 - c. Fast growing
 - d. Stain sidewalks
3. Mahogany
 - a. Native
 - b. Good shade tree
4. Sabal Palms
 - a. Native
 - b. State Tree
 - c. Good for small areas
 - d. No shade
 - e. None are nursery grown; all come from the wild
5. Native trees have deep roots; withstand winds better

SITES:

Site #1: 6th Avenue from 1st Street to 8th Street (N/S)

1. Approximately 7 blocks long
2. There is a fourplex where yard and trees maintained very well; they would probably be willing to help with upkeep of other foliage in neighborhood
3. There is a "big box" building on one corner
4. Use revolving fund programs
5. When you see high weeds in the swale, it means no one is using that for parking, that is a good sign

Site #2: NW 2nd Street from 9 Avenue to the River (E/W)

1. Approximately 3.5 blocks long
2. This site links Henderson Park to the River
3. This site has a lot of trash in the swale and street areas

Site #3: NW 3rd Street from 12 Avenue to the River (E/W)

1. Approximately 6 blocks
2. This site was preferred by all participants on field trip
3. This site is also preferred by Commissioner Sanchez
4. This site has several historic buildings; a large senior citizen component and home; and connects to the Miami River



5. The curb is very low near Victoria Hospital so people ignore it and park on the swale; if you add height to the curb it will protect the swale.

IDEA PARKING LOT

None received.