

ARC COMMITTEE MEETING FOLLOW-UP

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

September 15, 2011 -- Meeting Notes

Members Present	Members Absent
Richard Oden, Chair	Dan Post
Kerry Armstrong	Brian Bowling
Kip Berry	Dennis Burnette
Dan Davis	Ray Christman
Allie Kelly	Todd Enrst
Tad Leithead, Ex-Officio	Gene Hatfield
Mark Mathews	Katie Kirkpatrick
Narender Reddy	Danny Lindsey
Dave Sjoquist	BJ Mathis
	Ralph Moore
	John O'Callaghan
	Mickey Thompson
	H. Lamar Willis

GENERAL

1. Welcome *Richard Oden, Chair*

2. Public Comment Period *Richard Oden, Chair*

No Public Comments

3. Approve August 11th Meeting Summary *Richard Oden, Chair*

Approved.

4. ELUC Teams Update

Chairman Oden requested updates from each team leader on their planning team assignments.

Land Use Team:

Dan Reuter reported that the Land Use team met with staff in the past week to discuss next steps related to airport area work. Mr. Reuter stated that the Land Use team supported staff's suggestion to convene a working group and suggested that this group be comprised of staff from the jurisdictions immediately surrounding the airport. The team also recommended that this working group first focus on defining the geography of the airport area and then move on to other issues including better coordination, needed improvements, and potential governance.

Water:

Kerry Armstrong provided the group with an update on the water team. Mr. Armstrong informed the group that Florida, Alabama, and Southeast Power customers have filed motions for reconsideration of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals panel decision, as expected. Mr. Armstrong then told the committee that the 11th Circuit Court decision impacts the ACT basin and the judge in that case has asked the parties to submit motions to dismiss by September 14th. Related to this issue, Mr. Armstrong told the committee about the ACF Stakeholders which is working on issues related to the basin and ongoing water litigation. Finally, Mr. Armstrong informed the group of two public meetings regarding potential rule changes that could affect the Atlanta region and its basins.

Housing:

Dan Reuter gave the committee an update on the housing team, which held its monthly meeting via conference call. He discussed the HUD Sustainable Communities grant for which ARC is applying. There have been 188 pre-applications submitted for this year's grant. Mr. Reuter then updated the group on the initiative to invite Jonny Isakson to come to the region and discuss the foreclosure issue. Finally Mr. Reuter gave a brief update on the continuing Piece By Piece work that ARC is involved in that is already trying to implement portions of the HUD grant proposal.

Energy:

Pat Stevens gave ELUC an update on the Energy Teams current efforts. The team is attempting to convene a group of outside parties with the purpose of starting the discussing on whether or not regional policy on energy is needed.

Local Government:

Mayor Matthews updated the committee on the Local Government team and current work by the Government Services division. The Local Government Training Institute is offering four fall classes. The Community Planning Academy's fall course offerings are out and include one-day workshops as well as advanced level courses, free webinars, and peer-to-peer lunches. Mayor Matthews then updated the group on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS working group is meeting on September 22. The goal is to issue an RFP in October and get consultants on by the first part of 2012.

Resource Team:

Allie Kelly updated the committee on four activities the Resource Team is undertaking. First, the Resource Team is interested in adding advisory team members and has developed a list of potential contacts. To clarify the responsibilities of these new members, the team has

identified Roles and Responsibilities for Advisory Team Members. This information will be provided to ELUC. Secondly, the team is working on paper reduction policies in regard to paper reduction for ELUC meetings. This information will be provided to the committee as well. Thirdly, the nomination request for the 2011 Resource Plan was released in August with nominations due by Friday, September 16th. And finally, ARC is working to develop a Conservation index for greenspace properties based on the regional Greenspace Inventory. ARC staff is working collaboratively with others to track conservation data for the state.

5. 2012 Work Program

Emerson Bryan, ARC

Emerson Bryan gave an update on the 2011-2012 ARC work program. Mr. Bryan explained how the work program has four themes of Regional Sustainability, Innovation, Regional Impact/Local Relevance, and Implementation/Action. He also discussed how the work program relates to the ARC Strategic Plan and its five objectives. Mr. Bryan closed his remarks by letting the committee know that they will hear more on the work program at next month's meeting.

PLAN UPDATES

6. Brief Update on PLAN 2040 Next Steps

Dan Reuter, ARC

Dan Reuter gave the committee an update on PLAN 2040 implementation. In August, a letter was sent to every Mayor and County Chairman in the region with the other elected officials copied, that offered to have staff come and present on PLAN 2040.

The committee requested that staff to invite ARC citizen members to PLAN 2040 presentations within the jurisdictions those members represent. Staff will notify the appropriate members of the meeting dates, times, and locations.

DATA ITEMS

7. Regional Snapshot

Jim Skinner, ARC

Jim Skinner discussed the most recent ARC Regional Snapshot which provides a detailed look at age related data from the 2010 census. Mr. Skinner stated that the main headlines from this snapshot are that Atlanta is a rapidly aging region and the older age groups, which include 45-65 and 65 and older ranges, are the only ones that added population in Atlanta from 2000 to 2010. He stated that no jurisdiction in the region reported a decline in this age group, while several jurisdictions saw a decline in the school aged population.

8. Cities and Towns Publication

Darlene Daly, ARC

Darlene Daly presented on the recently released Cities and Towns Report, which each committee member received in their packet. Ms. Daly stated that this report is based on recently released census data. The report includes a lot of data, so Ms. Daly focused on two observations, exceptional growth away from the core and an increase in diversity. She explained that whether due to annexations or the establishment of new cities, there are a number of cities that have seen incredible growth. The report shows that several have doubled their population over the past two years. Ms. Daly pointed out the City of Braselton, which saw an increase of 500%, though it is a

smaller city. There are similar examples in Cherokee and Henry Counties. At the other end of the spectrum, Ms. Daly commented that there were some cities, closer to the core of the region, that saw a population decrease which includes Marietta, College Park, and Lithonia.

Ms. Daly then discussed a second observation related to an increase in diversity. Overall growth of white residents in the region is being outpaced by non-white residents. White residents seem to be moving further out into mostly white areas on the edge of the region and are also moving into previously non-white areas. At the same time, several cities moved from majority white to majority black and Hispanic. Ms. Daly pointed out several maps that graphically represent these demographic shifts.

Ms. Daly closed by telling the committee that staff will continue to analyze data as it is released by the census bureau. The Cities and Towns report is available in the at ARC offices in the information library on the C level, or digitally on the ARC website.

REVIEWS OR SPECIAL STUDIES

9. ELUC input to Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Program in 2012 *Rob LeBeau, ARC*

Rob LeBeau updated the committee on the Livable Centers Initiative program and discussed potential program changes for 2011. The LCI program was created in 1999 and PLAN 2040 continues the program until at least 2017, with a total of \$18 million for studies and \$500 million for transportation projects. As of 2011, there have been 111 LCI studies throughout the 20 county region. Mr. LeBeau stated that this program seeks a mix of compact housing, retail, and jobs; seeks to encourage all transportation modes; and encourages robust stakeholder involvement.

Mr. LeBeau then discussed the main priorities for the LCI program, as stated in PLAN 2040. These priorities included continuing the program on the foundation of supporting mixed land uses, transportation options, and public involvement; a focus on existing LCI communities and plan implementation; and an emphasis on optimizing existing station areas and supporting future transit investment areas.

The committee provided two comments one related to focusing the LCI program on the aging population, and the second related to “lessons learned” from Blueprints program conducted by the Georgia Conservancy.

Mr. LeBeau then asked the committee for comments and suggestions related to LCI program changes. Proposed new study areas may include regionally important town centers, activity centers, and corridors; redevelopment areas with existing infrastructure; and areas with a confluence of opportunity.

Mr. LeBeau then presented additional concepts for the committee to consider including support to ongoing stakeholder involvement and public education within LCI areas; rural area planning support; or a focus on smaller centers.

Mr. LeBeau concluded by telling the committee that staff will bring this issue before them again in the coming months, with the application ready for release by the end of the year.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.