**D R A F T**

**MINUTES**

MARTIN HIGHWAY SCENIC HIGHWAY PROJECT

CORRIDOR ADVOCACY GROUP (CAG) MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

Dunklin Memorial Camp 6:30 – 8:15 PM

**CAG Committee Members in Attendance CAG Committee Members Absent**

Mary Dawson, Robert Dawson, Lee Jones, Nancy Oliver

Ed Campi, Brian Powers, Phil Griffith, David Knight,

Peggy Hall, Peggy Wood and Judy Roberts.

1. Lee Jones called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.
2. Mary Dawson welcomed CAG members and visitors and provided the group with updates.
3. Updates:
   1. The Eligibility Application (E.A.): The application has been completed, printed, packaged and sent to the Florida Scenic Highway Advisory Committee (SHAC) today. The document contained responses to FDOT’s comments from the preliminary document. A copy of supporting documentation was also included in a CD in the package as the Appendix. A copy of the E.A. has been posted on the Web site <http://www.sclands.org>.
   2. Artwork: Thomas Winter, recognized as the #1 photographer in Florida, has signed and numbered 16 x 20 art prints and donated them as fund-raisers.
   3. Thanks to CAG: Mary thanked CAG individuals for their support and being involved from the beginning of the cause. She said it’s now a new day, and the challenges are different.
   4. Thanks to Commissioner: Mary thanked Commissioner Ed Campi for his support of the Martin Grade Scenic Highway project at a recent St. Lucie County and Martin County Planning Organization combined meeting which included discussion about protection of scenic highways in the 2030 MPO Plan.
   5. Fund-raising: Robert Dawson reported that on August 17, over 150 people showed their support for the MGSH project by attending *"Gathering for the Grade"* at Wahoo's on the River in Stuart.  It was a fun event. More than $1,300 was deposited in the bank.
   6. The next presentation will be made to the Regional Planning Council.
4. Regarding the MGSH project, Robert Dawson said the first phase, the Eligibility Application phase, had been done by Mary Dawson and a few others who’d collected the data. The next phase, the Designation phase, would require the CAG to bring in more people into the group to expand its base.

**MINUTES of September 9, 2010 CAG Meeting Continued…**

1. Robert Dawson made Designation Phase presentation.
   1. General conversation and explanations:
      1. Ed Campi: The County would be willing to make the Martin Grade Volunteer Firehouse available to facilitate educational opportunties.
      2. Brian Powers: Would Comp Plan Ammendments be required? Ed Campi: Ammendament 4 would affect the Florida Scenic Highway but be beneficial to the community.
      3. Robert Dawson: The CAG would need to complete the Designatgion Phase by February 2012 in order to get on the State’s agenda.
      4. CAG needs to seek out partnerships. We’ve already began partnerships with Martin County – Stuart and Palm City, but need to establish relationships with Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties;
      5. Eco-Trourism: We should brand Martin County as more than just an urban tourist destination:
         1. Promote the western lands similar to what Bailey Banks? is doing with bus tours of the area; have tours to Allapattah Flats – swamp tours.
         2. SFWMD is enhancing recreation facilities out there. We could run “Western nights” and do “Old Florida” tourism, Wildlife Hospital, etc.
         3. Martin County could become the destination people want to experience. Germans coming to the area want to see aligators.
      6. CAG needs to build our outreach and fundraising efforts. Get involvement from entities such as:
         1. Local government
         2. King Ranch
         3. Becker Holdings
         4. FPL: Mary Dawson asked Ed Campi to talk with FPL about financial support.
2. Building Our Organization
3. Approval for Designation Phase
   1. Motion was made by Lee Jones, seconded by Ed Campi?, to move forward with the Designation Phase. It carried unanimously.
4. Forming Committees - General conversation and explanations:
   1. Ed Campi suggested we involve the School Board/science teachers to engage kids, as well as Palm City residents in the project. He also suggested the CAG have a booth at the upcoming Fall Fest in October. Also, involve Palm City’s Chamber of Commerce’s 150 members.
   2. Brian suggested we have a forum to get people to become a “Fan of the Grade” and ask them “What can you do to help? Have a big meeting at Dunklin with table groups working to create a comprehensive plan.
   3. Robert Dawson said he’d be attending a meeting next month in Indiantown.
5. Mary Dawson said the final version of the Eligibility Application document had been placed on the SCLands Web Page, as well as, a copy of the video. Facebook is also being utilized.
6. Brain Powers expressed appreciation for the work done and said the Eligibility Application document was outstanding. Ed Campi said the level of work being done was great and made him want to contribute. He said he’d discussed the project with Steven Leighten in Congressman Rooney’s office who expressed an interest in joing the CAG.
7. Formulating the Organization – General conversation and explanations:
   1. Lee Jones: Set timeframe for terms of service
   2. Mary Dawson: Revisit/Resetablish formally adopted By-Laws
   3. Mary Dawson: CAG should meet on a regular basis
   4. Robert Dawson: We need rules and procedures.
   5. David Knight: Set an event up for the Fall so we can involve the community.
   6. Robert Dawson: Will get tent and tables; talk with Chamber to see if there’s a discount for non-profts.
8. Next Meeting:
   1. October 19, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
   2. Location to be determined

1. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.