

## **SCHOOL PLANNING TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

There was a meeting of the School Planning Technical Advisory Committee (SPTAC) at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 10, 2011 in Conference Room A1-411 of the County Administration Building "A", 1801 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were members **Stan Boling**, IRC Planning Director; **Bob Keating**, IRC Community Development Director; **Chris Mora**, IRC Public Works Director; **Phil Matson** (arrived at 10:05 a.m.), IRC Metropolitan Planning Organization Staff Director; **David Fleetwood**, IRC Parks Superintendent; **Chris Kafer**, IRC County Engineer; and **Susan Olson**, School Board Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Construction.

Absent was **Erik Olson**, IRC Utilities Director; **Mike Redstone**, IRC Assistant Recreation Director; **Michael Degutis**, School Board Assistant Superintendent of Operations; and **Sheriff Deryl Loar**, IRC Sheriff's Department (all excused).

Also present were John McCoy, IRC Senior Planner; Carol Johnson, School Board Member; Patrick Walther, Carter Associates, Inc.; and Terri Collins-Lister, Commissioner Assistant, District 4.

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Stan Boling, IRC Planning Director, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions followed.

### **Approval of November 30, 2010 Minutes**

10:53:22

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Mora, SECONDED BY Mr. Fleetwood, the members voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the November 30, 2010 Minutes as submitted.**

Mr. Matson arrived at 10:05 a.m.

### **Review and Approval of a Major Site Plan to Construct the New Vero Beach Elementary School at 1770 12<sup>th</sup> Street**

Mr. Boling summarized Carter Associates, Inc., had submitted a request on behalf of Indian River County School District to construct a new elementary school on the Vero Beach Elementary Campus, replacing the existing elementary facility which will be demolished. The request had been reviewed and approved by the county's Technical Review Committee and was now to be considered by the School Planning Technical Advisory Committee (SPTAC). The SPTAC's responsibility was to formalize approval of the site plan and make a determination of the on-site and off-site improvements necessary to serve and support the new (rebuilt) elementary school.

Located on the north side of 12<sup>th</sup> Street between 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the 33.8 acre subject property includes the existing Vero Beach Elementary school and the Indian River County School District facilities complex. The Vero Beach High School and the Association of Retarded Citizens lease area were contiguous to the north. As proposed, the new Vero Beach Elementary school was designed to serve up to 750 students, a capacity increase of 191 students from the existing school facility's capacity of 559 students.

Mr. McCoy highlighted advantages of the project and indicated that no offsite improvements were necessary except some pedestrian improvements identified in staff's report.

Mrs. Olson stated the ultimate site layout would benefit from the changes made which essentially equipped the parent pick-up with more stacking by coming off 12<sup>th</sup> Street which was a much better approach to the school; and the buses will have a better turning radii.

The only thing she felt was still uncertain was what would happen to the playing field space immediately to the north of Vero Beach Elementary. She continued there were some preliminary plans for recouping some of the space but there would be a net loss of playing fields on the overall 33.8 acre site. One alternative for making up that loss lies further north, adjacent to the Vero Beach Freshman Learning Center where currently the School Board Facilities and Maintenance Office was housed. Those facilities are relocating at the end of the year and the facilities demolished so the District could reclaim that space for playing and athletic fields.

Mr. Patrick Walther, Carter Associates, Inc., added it had been a joy to work with the School Board and Vero Beach Elementary principal, Bonnie Swanson, to make the school a green school. He felt once the school was finished, it would be an impressive facility.

Mrs. Carol Johnson, School Board member, interjected they would not be applying for the Green Building Certification only because it cost \$90,000 to obtain the “plaque” for certification. She stated that the building will be “green” without the plaque.

Mr. Kafer questioned why a 6 foot wide sidewalk was being installed on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue instead of an 8 foot sidewalk which would accommodate both pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Discussion ensued about the width of sidewalks fronting Vero Beach High School which was 6 feet. There was a concensus that the proposed 6 foot wide connection was appropriate.

Mrs. Johnson stated unfortunately, in all of the schools they were finding where there used to be a plethora of bike racks, now most of the schools only have two bike racks. There were not many children walking to school or riding their bikes anymore as parents were concerned about the safety of their children.

Mr. Keating asked if the majority of the parent concern was due to lack of sidewalks or predators. Mrs. Johnson responded the concern was due to predators.

(11:08:20)

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Fleetwood, SECONDED BY Mr. Kafer, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to grant site plan approval for the new Vero Beach Elementary School facility as presented.**

**Approval of the Re-purposing of Thompson Elementary School to the Thompson Lifelong Learning Center at 1110 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SW**

Mr. Boling recapped that IRC School District staff had submitted a request for SPTAC approval for the re-purposing of Thompson Elementary School to the Thompson Lifelong Learning Center. The facility would provide for Pre-Kindergarten, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, Exceptional Student Education, and adult education programs and community services. The request had been reviewed and approved by county staff and was now to be considered by the SPTAC.

The building is located on the south side of 11<sup>th</sup> Street, SW between 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SW and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SW, the 13.50 acre subject property is zoned RS-6 (Residential Single Family up to 6 units/acre) and includes the existing campus

facilities that was recently used as a magnet school. The campus was in a residential area, with single family homes on the south, east and west sides.

Mrs. Olson reported this project had been one of the best she has been associated with. She added it was difficult to close the school due to a dramatic decrease in enrollment and it was fortunate the opportunity to re-purpose the school had become available. Adult education enrollment had increased and provided more revenue. The biggest success was the ability to provide the pre-kindergarten classes as had been evidenced by high test results.

11:15:27

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Fleetwood, SECONDED BY Mr. Mora, the members voted unanimously (7-0) to grant approval of the re-purposing of Thompson Elementary School to the Thompson Lifelong Learning Center.**

### **Other Business**

Mr. Kafer pointed out on the Thompson Elementary School site there was currently a Safe Routes to School grant for sidewalks along 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SW; 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SW; and 15<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Streets. The Department of Transportation was going to rescind the grant because the facility was no longer going to be used as an elementary school and the money would go back into the coffers for another location.

Discussion was held regarding the scenario if the facility was turned back into an elementary school at a later date. Mr. Matson asked if the absence of sidewalks would again be a problem.

Mrs. Olson replied in the affirmative and that problem would again have to be addressed if the facility was again used as an elementary school.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.