



FREEPORT PLANNING BOARD

April 8, 2012 Workshop Summary

Freeport Waterfronts Florida Participation Program

7:00 p.m. City Hall Council Room

Attendees: Latilda Henninger/City Planner, Julie Dennis DEO Waterfronts Florida Program Manager, Ben Grafton/DeFuniak Herald-Beach Breeze, Michele Ray – ‘Lil Chat Shrimping/Stakeholder, Gilbert Ray/ ‘Lil Chat Shrimping/Stakeholder, Eddie Farris/Freeport Planning Board, Lance Helton/Marina Village – Stakeholder, Cliff Knauer/City Engineer, Scott Brannon/Dist. 1 County Commissioner, Billy McLean/McLean Fishing & Shrimping/Stakeholder, Elizabeth Brannon/Freeport City Council.

I. Welcome/Latilda Henninger

Latilda welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation in the process.

II. Draft Vision Plan/Cliff Knauer

Cliff went through the draft vision plan and explained the 4-prong approach to visioning for the Waterfronts Florida Program: economic development, hazard mitigation, public access and natural/cultural resource protection

III. Vision Statement Exercise-Vote/Julie Dennis

Julie had the group mark the vision statements they liked best and to indicate key phrases that best reflected Freeport.

IV. Program Priority Areas/Julie-Latilda

Julie and Latilda had the group prioritize action items under each of the 4 priority areas of the program. The priorities identified included:

- Way-finding signage for Freeport’s waterfront (*economic development*)
- Mooring field along east shore of Four Mile Creek for barges and tugboats to tie to, so that the trees on the west bank will not be damaged. (*cultural & natural resource protection, hazard mitigation*)
- No wake zones (*hazard mitigation*)
- City boat docks with leasable slips (Four Mile Creek boats getting top priority) at the south east corner of Steel Bridge to create a local seafood market. (*public access, economic development*)



- Investigate purchase of land from CEMEX to add a parking lot next to the boat docks for boat customers. (*public access, economic development*)
- Investigate purchase of Freeport Shipbuilders property through various grant processes (*economic development, public access*)
- Streamline the process for dredging; find a public purpose for the removed spoil material. (*public access, hazard mitigation*)

V. Information Needs/Julie

The group discussed various agencies and resources that could assist them in the identified priority areas.

VI. Next Steps/Latilda

Latilda discussed the completion of Freeport's vision plan. The final Planning Board workshop will take place May 2nd, where the draft vision plan will be reviewed and discussed. The draft vision plan will then go before the Freeport City Council for review/approval on Tuesday, May 8th. The City will approve by resolution to approve the vision plan and to incorporate goals, objectives and policies into Freeport's Comprehensive Plan which promote and protect Freeport's Working Waterfront Planning Area.

The meeting adjourned informally.