

Triumph Advisory Committee (TAC) Minutes

December 6, 2017

Present: Juliet Milam, Major Joe Prreston, Bill Fletcher, Bob Brooke, Bonnie McQuiston, DeFuniak Springs City Council Chairwoman, Kim Kirby, City of DeFuniak Springs Manager, Dennis Sherwood, Danny Lucas, Mayor Hayward Thomas

Absences: Gus Andrews, Mayor Russ Barley

Staff: Restore Act Coordinator, Bill Williams, Louis Svehla, TAC acting secretary, Evelyn Strickland

Welcome: Restore Act Coordinator, Bill Williams opened the meeting at 3:01 pm clarifying a quorum by 6 of 11 members present. He called for a motion of business to accept the November 1, 2017 meeting minutes. Bonnie McQuiston made a motion to approve the minutes. Bob Brookes mentioned a Scribner's error, Bonnie McQuiston amended her motion to approve the minutes with the Scribner error corrected. Bill Fletcher seconded the motion.

All Ayes (Kim Kirby, Mayor Hayward Thomas & Danny Lucas were not present during the vote).

Triumph Board Update: Bill Williams began a Power Point updating the committee on the current process approved by the State TAC to date. Discussion ensued between the committee members.

Bill Williams began to explain the current status of the application process of the applicants that were approved by the BCC at the November 7th BCC meeting. Discussion ensued between the committee members.

Bill Williams explained the grant writing expectations and limitations. Discussion ensued between the committee members and Mr. Williams asked if there were any questions from the audience regarding grant writing. Seeing no questions, he moved on to matching funds, government assets and working with the private sector. Mr. Williams asked if there were questions from the audience regarding public/private partnerships. Lee Goodson asked about procurement. Mr. Williams answered how that would work with the public/private partnerships.

Restore Act Overview: Bill Williams announced the Restore Committee at Freeport Community Center on December 13th at 4:30. Bill Fletcher said he could not go but everyone else should attend. Bill Williams said the Triumph Committee & Restore Act committees should have a joint meeting.

Bill Williams began to review the data on the website and encouraged the committee to study the data at least to the point where the committee asked questions and required answers from the state, federal and county governments.

Bob Brookes interjected that the information presented was good, but wanted to move into what the committee would be doing. Discussion ensued between Bob Brookes and Bill Fletcher.

Bill Williams reiterated that the committee needed the information in order to make educated decisions on upcoming applications.

Bob Brookes interjected again and said the committee needed to on to the A & B's of the applications. Bill Williams explained again that the pre-applications submitted to the TAC on November 1st had been approved by the BCC on November 7th. He went on to state that no further action by the TAC of those

pre-applications is needed at this time. He stated that the TAC cannot create standards for the local application process before the state committee sets their perimeters for the state-level application process.

Bonnie McQuiston stated that we need to look at the application that the state board has created and stated we should mirror what they are doing but until the state knows their perimeters, we cannot do much more.

Bob Brookes interjected again that the TAC was not moving toward a goal by reviewing and updating Restore information.

Bill Williams stated again that this is a 15 year process and it would behoove the TAC to endure the education in order to move forward in the future process.

Economic & Environmental Strategic Planning: Bill Williams asked Austin Mount, Director of WFRPC to go over where the Strategic Plan is at this time. Mr. Mount explained that the EDA Grant to pay for half of the Strategic plan has not yet been awarded (Walton County will pay the second half). Mr. Mount explained that it looks as though the Strategic Plan will cost considerably less than originally anticipated. He went on to say that the Federal EDA has yet to announce the grant award to date. That is the reason why the public has not heard a lot about the grant because they are keeping a low profile until the Fed EDA makes their announcement. Mr. Mount called for the TAC to participate in the Strategic Plan. He also strongly encouraged the TAC to educate themselves on all aspects of the Restore Act, the Pot monies and mentioned their best source of information is from Bill Williams here in Walton County.

Bob Brooke interjected and asked Mr. Mount if the TAC's involvement would create a Sunshine Law issue. Mr. Mount stated he would get with Mr. Williams to make sure they were within Sunshine statues, but did not foresee an issue.

He went on to state that statewide strategies are creating a great momentum for the Walton County Strategic Plan and the timing for Walton County could not be better. The county in and of itself has a very diverse economy and the plan needs to address that diversity and stress that we are one county and not North and South. Discussion ensued between the committee members.

Bill Williams then asked WCEDA Director, Bill Imfeld to speak regarding the changing economy and goals for WC. Mr. Imfeld stated that Walton County needs "shovel-ready" sites as we move forward over the next 2 decades and then went on to explain key stakeholders for Walton County and their roles in the success of our economy.

Bill Williams asked Charlie Morse to educate the TAC regarding the working relationship between Northwest Florida State College and Emerald Coast Technical College. Mr. Morse explained how the two educational entities work together to further the economic growth of Walton County and how the education of students will increase a quality work force for the community.

Q & A: Bill Williams opened the floor for statements and questions from the committee and audience. He began by inviting Danny Lucas to state his recommendations on where as a TAC the collective group wants to go.

Discussions ensued and questions and answers by Bill Williams and Austin Mount.

Austin Mount reiterated that he regularly attended the State TAC and commended Bill Williams for getting Walton County readied and because of Mr. Williams efforts, Walton Ciounty is now "ahead of the game" in comparison to the other counties involved. Mr. Mount encouraged the committee to "hang tight" and be patient in their education, as they are doing it right and have a good foundation.

Major Joe Preston stressed the need to differentiate between urgent and important and to be patient during Bill Williams foundation building. Major Preston said that although Mr. Williams information can be tedious, it is needful for moving forward. Discussion ensued between the committee members.

Discussion ensued as to when the next TAC meeting will take place. Bill Williams stated that it would depend on what the state requires for applications and we cannot move forward with a date until we have the state's perimeters for the process.

Kim Kirby asked if the committee would set a regular monthly meeting date. Mrs. Kirby stated that all the TAC members had full schedules and if a regular date was set, the members would more likely be available for meetings. She continued to state that if there was no need to meet, that particular meeting could be cancelled. No action was taken by the TAC.

Seeing no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 pm.