

School Planning Workgroup Meeting Summary

February 18, 2010, at 10:30 am

I. Welcome and Introductions:

Gordon Beardslee with the Pinellas County Planning Department chaired the meeting, welcoming all to the first meeting for 2010 and allowed time for introductions from those in attendance.

II. Status of Implementation of Public Schools Residential Development Tracking System, Questions and Comments

Jason Graziano with Pinellas County Business and Technology Services (BTS) introduced Fred Borgianini to the group and stated that Fred along with Pam Schuler (who was not present), are the assigned BTS Business Relationship Managers for the Pinellas County Planning Department. Both Fred and Pam will become the primary contacts in the future when trying to resolve and/or troubleshoot particular issues/problems relating to the Residential Development Tracking System or other County software interfaces. Liz Freeman with the Pinellas County Planning Department noted that things like passwords, etc., should be directed to the BTS Help-Desk. Ron Rinzivillo with the City of Safety Harbor asked about future training opportunities with the Tracking System and Gordon noted the Ryan Brinson with the Pinellas County Planning Department would be available to provide refresher training as needed.

Work group members were asked to share experiences, questions, or comments that they have had concerning their recent usage of the Tracking System and all agreed that everything is running smoothly. It was noted that only two local governments so far have entered site plans into the system for concurrency tracking and compliance.

III. Review of Updated 2009 Data and Analysis Supporting Recent Amendments to the Public School Facilities Element

Ryan Brinson reviewed the revisions to the supporting the Data and Analysis for Chapters 1 & 2 and the Definitions section of the County's Public School Facilities Element (PSFE) which were updated to support the recent map amendments. It was also clarified that the supporting data and analysis is not an adopted part of the Element. Ryan mentioned two changes that occurred to Chapter 1, and also pointed out that, for the first time in the recent history of the County, we are experiencing a decline in both permanent population and

student enrollment counts. Specifically, Permanent Population figures saw a -1.4% decline and Student enrollment figures saw a -6% decline.

In Chapter 2, Ryan referred to four changes. The first one dealt with the recent closures/mergers of school facilities that occurred last year, while the second change dealt with eliminating the discussion of “Choice Attendance Areas” from the text, since the Choice program was discontinued in 2007. The third change was an update to Table 3, which lists the Charter school names, locations, and applicable grade levels they serve. The fourth change updated Table 4, based on the School Board’s Annual LOS report, adopted by the School Board a few months ago. The only change that occurred to the Definitions section was the elimination of the term and definition of “Choice Attendance Areas”.

Time was given for the members to comment on the changes, after which Ryan mentioned that the Board of County Commissioners will take final action on the PSFE map amendments and supporting data and analysis on March 16, 2010.

IV. Developing a Uniform Approach to Analyzing Potential Student Impacts Associated with Proposed Future Land Use Map Amendments

Marshall Touchton with the Pinellas County School District reviewed the recent inquiries he has received concerning the many different ways local governments address potential student impacts associated with proposed future land use map amendments. Marshall handed out and presented a draft worksheet table that he recently developed to assist local governments with the submission requirements to the Department of Community of Affairs.

Paul Geisz from the City of St. Petersburg suggested that the School District’s approved Student Yield Factor rate be posted on the County’s website and be easily accessible for all to use. The group concurred with the suggestion and the Factor will be posted as soon possible. Paul also inquired about updating of the Residential Development Tracking System’s available capacity information relating to schools within the City of St. Petersburg’s Concurrency Service Areas.

Marshall responded to Paul’s question and confirmed that he is in the process of working on a refresh update table with Juan Butler of Pinellas County BTS, and has plans on updating this information to correspond with last years recent School District improvements, closures/mergers, and annual student enrollment count.

Mark Ely from the City of Seminole inquired if anyone in the work group has had any experiences in the past regarding the State’s assessment of future land use map amendments dealing with the Mixed Use classification or special

designation such as a Community Redevelopment District. Specifically, Mark wanted to know if the State would still require an impact assessment even if the proposed development associated with the amendment would be developed only with non-residential uses. Gordon suggested the best way to resolve certain situations like that might be to condition the proposed amendment area by a development agreement imposing restrictions that prohibit residential uses.

All agreed that Marshall's worksheet table would provide a uniform approach to analyzing potential student impacts associated with proposed future land use map amendments. Marshall agreed to finalize the worksheet table and make it readily available to County staff for posting on the website in a read only format, so that the hidden formulas and numbers cannot be altered, however all users could still cut-and-paste the information as needed into their respective staff reports.

V. Coordination of Future School Improvement Projects

Gordon introduced this item and noted that Michael Bessette with the School District was unable to be in attendance and asked if any member had any recent local experiences to share with the Workgroup. Al Navaroli with Pinellas County Building and Development Review Services mentioned that he received three site plans last year from the School Board's engineering consultant that dealt with substantial school improvements and noted for the most part coordination efforts have been successful with the District staff and engineer of record. Marshall stated that last year the reason why so many local governments noticed an increase in the number of school site plan submittals was due to the fact that the District received State funding to complete outstanding scheduled projects.

Al also stated that the School Board is not required by law to comply with the County's Land Development Code regulations and that any site plan review submittals are considered a courtesy. Mark noted however that all school improvements are still subjected to the requirements of the Florida Fire Prevention and Florida Building Code. Mark also cited an Attorney General's legal opinion regarding Al's reference to the local LDC requirement exemption, by stating that if an adopted local comprehensive plan establishes policies that require all proposed developments and/or site improvements to be in conformity with adopted LDC regulations, public development is not exempted from site plan review.

Ron Rinzivillo added to the discussion noting that they have had two different coordination experiences in their jurisdiction. The City experienced a lot of cooperation from the improvements that dealt with Safety Harbor Middle but didn't receive any from the improvements made to Safety Harbor Elementary. Specifically, Ron was hoping in the future for more coordination concerning:

drainage, height, setbacks/buffering, landscaping, and traffic operational needs.

Gordon mentioned that he would call Mr. Bessette and apprise him of the discussion, but noted that this may not be an ongoing problem, due to the fact that no major construction projects are anticipated anytime soon. If necessary though, this item could be discussed at a future meeting.

VI. Other Items from members of the Work Group

Gordon mentioned that the Annual Report on the implementation of School Concurrency is currently being prepared and is scheduled to be presented to the School Collaborative at their May meeting. Liz noted that a draft copy of the report will be available by the end of March and will be shared via email, allowing everyone an opportunity to comment.

Member in Attendance:

Catherine Hartley	City of St. Pete Beach
Marshall Touchton	Pinellas County School District
Paul Geisz	City of St. Petersburg
Jason Graziano	Pinellas County BTS
Fred Borgianini	Pinellas County BTS
Jeffery Dow	City of Pinellas Park
Mark Ely	City of Seminole
Sandra Herman	City of Clearwater
Robert Tafft	City of Clearwater
Al Navaroli	Pinellas County
Ron Rinzivillo	City of Safety Harbor
Tom Moore	City of Largo
Ryan A. Brinson	Pinellas County
Gordon Beardslee	Pinellas County
Liz Freeman	Pinellas County