

Looking Forward--What Are the Best Uses for the Myers Park Property?

(9.7 Acres bounded by Myers Park Drive, Van Buren and the RR tracks)

Recently our neighborhoods faced a challenging proposal for the possible sale and intensive development of the 9.7 acre Myers Park property where the Parks and Recreation community center and administrative offices are located. While the proposed comprehensive plan amendment was withdrawn by the City Commission, the future of the site is still uncertain.

At the Woodland Drives neighborhood meeting of February 28, City Commissioner Gil Ziffer agreed that “visioning” a forward-looking use of this property, rather than reacting to the ideas of others, would be useful in determining how the property might be used in the future. The Myers Park Neighborhood Association endorsed the visioning process the following week.

What Is Visioning?

- A vision is a mental picture of what people want their community to look and feel like.
- Its purpose is to capture a picture of the community’s future anyone could quickly grasp and appreciate.
- The visioning process is how the product is created.
- At its heart, the process is simple – neighbors talking with neighbors about the future of their neighborhood.
- This process includes several visioning meetings where citizens gather and talk, debate, dream, and laugh in small groups.

The vision does not represent one individual’s or just one group’s point of view. It represents ideas drawn from every neighborhood, age group, and interest within the community. Not everyone will wholeheartedly endorse every part of the vision. However, everyone should feel that the vision arose from a fair and representative process, and that the vision as a whole is legitimate and acceptable.

At the end, the outcome of Visioning Workshops is expected to play a role in informing and guiding City Commission decision-making regarding this property.

How You Can Be Involved

A series of three visioning workshops, each building on the previous workshop, will be held as follows:

- **April 18 from 6-9 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church/Westminster Fellowship Hall, 110 N Adams St, Tallahassee
- **April 22 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** at Leroy Collins Public Library (downtown), 200 W Park Ave, Tallahassee
- **April 27 from 6-9 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church/Westminster Fellowship Hall, 110 N Adams St, Tallahassee

Broad community representation and participation is vital to a successful outcome.

If you have a specialization, key information, or specific area of interest that may be relevant regarding current or future use of this 9.7 acre Parks and Rec property, please contact Visioning Team representatives to discuss-- Steve Jennings, stephen.jennings@mac.com or Beth Hollister, bethholl@yahoo.com