

City Council of the City of Greenville

Planning Commission Special Called Workshop Preliminary Recommendations of the Airport District Planning Study

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.
City Hall, 206 South Main Street, 9th floor Conference Room

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL: Councilmembers Kenneth C. Gibson, Russell Stall, and Dorothy H. Dowe
[A quorum of the City Council was not present.]

CITY STAFF: Assistant City Manager Shannon Lavrin; City Attorney Leigh B. Paoletti;
Assistant City Attorney Logan Wells, Special Assistant to the Manager
Megan Young, and Deputy City Clerk Sherry Scoggins

PLANNING COMMISSION: Chair Meg Terry, Jeff Randolph, Mike Martinez, Diane Eldridge,
Derek Enderlin, Pamela Adams, and Lynn Solesbee

Call to Order

Planning Commission Chair Meg Terry called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

Presentation of the Preliminary Recommendations of the Airport District Planning Study (Preview of Public Presentation occurring at 6 PM)

Project Manager Amanda Morrell and Placemaking Practice Group Manager Craig Lewis of Arcadis are the consultants for the Airport District Planning Study.

Ms. Morrell provided a PowerPoint presentation which will also be shown at the public presentation occurring at 6:00 p.m. this evening in the hangar adjacent to the Runway Café. Ms. Morrell recommended Pleasantburg, Haywood and Laurens for narrowing of travel lanes to allow for sidewalks and slow down vehicles, vegetation within spot medians in the center lanes, and the addition of trees along the sidewalks to promote walkability. Ms. Morrell proposed a parking deck on Exposition Drive that could be within walking distance of the Greenville Convention Center as well as the potential for two hotels within walking distance of the Greenville Convention Center. Ms. Morrell added that the Greenville Convention Center could utilize outdoor space for additional venue area. Ms. Morrell stated the firm has been studying the 1,000 acres of the area around the Greenville Convention Center and the Greenville Downtown Airport for the past eight months and added that it is part of Greenville that lacks an identity. Ms. Morrell stated the citizen input received at this evening's public presentation will be incorporated in the draft report and available in mid-July.

Councilmember Dowe questioned if South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) was contacted with a request for a light at Pleasantburg Drive and Eisenhower Drive. Ms. Morrell stated that can be discussed with SCDOT. Councilmember Dowe questioned the current width of a street lane. Ms. Morrell stated between 12 and 13 feet. Councilmember Dowe questioned if Greenville has any road corridors with street lanes that are 10 feet.

Councilmember Stall questioned the traffic count for Pleasantburg Drive. Ms. Morrell stated 17,000 vehicles.

Councilmember Gibson questioned the comment about the Greenville Convention Center not being utilized. Ms. Morrell stated the outside of the Greenville Convention Center is underutilized.

Councilmember Stall questioned if razing the current Greenville Convention Center had been considered. Ms. Morrell stated no.

Councilmember Dowe questioned if VisitGreenville was contacted. Ms. Morrell stated no.

Councilmember Stall stated the Greenville Convention Center lacks connectivity to downtown Greenville, and he questioned if the use of BRT was considered. Ms. Morrell stated BRT was not researched.

Councilmember Gibson questioned how much property is owned by the City and how much is private.

Councilmember Dowe stated the loop around the airport and the Swamp Rabbit Trail (SRT) could spur private investment.

Councilmember Gibson stated the hotels could attract more conventions at the Greenville Convention Center, but a downtown conference center would have restaurants within walking distance.

Assistant City Manager Shannon Lavrin stated the final plan will have implementation matrixes. Ms. Lavrin was asked about the zoning around the Downtown Airport and the Greenville Convention Center, and she provided an overview. Ms. Lavrin was asked about the façade grant availability for the corridors of Pleasantburg, Haywood, and Laurens; and she stated the area for the façade grant was expanded and includes the Pleasantburg, Haywood, and Laurens corridors.

Executive Session, if required

None

Adjournment

With no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Sherry Scoggins, MMC
Deputy City Clerk

Meeting notice posted on June 2, 2023.