

CITY OF APOPKA

Minutes of a City Council Retreat, Visioning Apopka meeting held on December 9, 2015, 11:00 a.m., Highland Manor, 604 East Main Street, Apopka, FL

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Kilsheimer
Commissioner Bill Arrowsmith
Commissioner Diane Velazquez
Commissioner Sam Ruth

ABSENT: Commissioner Billie Dean

Press Present: John Peery, The Apopka Chief
Teresa Sargeant, The Apopka Chief
Bethany Rogers, Orlando Sentinel

Mayor Kilsheimer welcomed everyone and said this was a workshop session of the Apopka City Council to hear the initial results of the public input on Visioning Apopka by Keith and Schnars.

Debbie Love, Director of Planning, Keith and Schnars, and Project Manager for Visioning Apopka, introduced Bob Cambric, Deputy Project Manager; and James Kares, Vice President of Community Solutions, who is the facilitator for today's meeting. She said they would be going over the Vision Process and Timeline and Council will be helping to reduce the strategies to a manageable group, then Refine the Emerging Draft.

Meeting Objectives

Overview Vision Process and Timeline

Debbie Love stated there were seven different community forums held on the Community Visioning, as well as surveys conducted. They took everything and consolidated that information to share with the Council. She advised in January they will hold a planning meeting with staff and from this will come a final set of strategies for Council and the community.

Strategies review and ranking

Jim Kares discussed the survey results stating there was an excellent response, having received over 1,200. He said they considered the scientific survey valid. He affirmed when asked what the greatest opportunities were for the community, safety, a city center, economic development and jobs, and beautification of streets were the items that came out on top. He said the priorities the community would like to see addressed in a vision are local shopping and restaurants, have a city center with a downtown core, and improve the overall appearance.

Mr. Kares facilitated the results from the visioning meetings and had the Council rank and prioritize the items. They went through the items by the areas throughout the city. He had the Mayor and Commissioners write down what was the most important in terms of establishing general goal and vision. The Council reviewed and ranked items by regions to include recreation, beautification, job creation, downtown center, transportation, strategic organizational plan and growth plan, and dining options.

The Council recessed at 12:45 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Mr. Kares continued with the ranking process discussing the visions of the community. He advised they will be meeting with staff to go over the ranking and determine what can be brought back for further review.

Ms. Love said to be able to continue through the remaining information, they will email the commissioners directly with the information and request their input and ranking.

Commissioner Arrowsmith left the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

Discussion was held on growth in Apopka and whether general goals were being addressed.

Mayor Kilsheimer thanked everyone for coming and participating.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Joseph E. Kilsheimer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda F. Goff, City Clerk