

FOCUS 2000 MEETING HELD MAY 8, 1998

FOCUS 2000 NOTES  
TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE  
MAY 08, 1998

The meeting was called to order promptly at 8:30 AM with introductions by the two Palm Beach County School facilitators, Judy and Bob and all the participants. The creation of "Ground Rules" followed.

At approximately 9:20 AM the participants were divided into five groups (one Town Commissioner in each group). Everyone was advised that a mock drill whereby Ocean Ridge was devastated by a hurricane has taken place and the groups must plan, rebuild and share back with the others on how to recreate the Town.

Commissioner Kaleel's group developed a plan whereby the major roads and property rights remained the same, however, their goal was to improve the greenways, lighting on major roads, create meandering walkways, mini parks and also convert the property at Beachway and A1A into a natural mini park with a playground for the children. They decided to keep Town Hall in its current location, however, expand the facility to provide for a recreation, civic center and maybe a library. They wanted underground utilities, improved drainage and utilization of the 50' beach access located just south of Boynton Public Beach. They wanted to create a water/sewage plant. The group also wanted to have improved entrance monuments at the city limits. Lastly they commented that after some debate that they were not in favor of commercial areas.

Commissioner Bridges' group was similar in many aspects. They wanted to remain conservative and leave much of the community in its current state. They decided to retain the water services from Boynton Beach and add sewage systems. They agreed that more parks should be added to the south end of Town and there was a big emphasis on creating a park on the ICWW that would also provide a marina and fishing behind Town Hall and at the Corrine St. property. They favored a little neighborhood commercial development, such as a little store by the marina that would sell soft drinks and newspapers and possibly a small restaurant. They also stated that Ocean Ave. could be converted to commercial development for small type businesses. The group felt the dune areas should remain as natural as possible with all public accesses open. They felt that high rise multi-family zoning should be removed the code. They favored the possibility of dredging to provide a channel for better flushing at the Corrine St. property.

Commissioner Aaskov's group was similar in many aspects to the two other groups such as bikepaths, underground utilities, sewers, more parks (including A1A/Beachway), lighting (adding more decorative lighting to A1A, Beachway and Ocean Ave.), and sidewalks. They stressed that the community should be pedestrian friendly. They felt the Town Hall should be enhanced to provide additional space, parking, and possibly a tennis/picnic area in its present location. They felt the property behind Town Hall through to the ICWW should be developed to include a dock. They agreed that the Corrine St. property should be developed into a nature area with walkways and a fishing

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area. The group felt the additional plantings of native trees along the three major roadways was important, with Town assistance provided to residents. They felt the dunes and seawalls should be rebuilt with the construction of as many crossovers as possible enhanced with landscaping. The group agreed that the current zoning codes should remain in effect. The group wanted to explore the possibility of utilizing reclaimed water for irrigation as is currently being done in Boca Raton. They also agreed that the reduction of No Seeums was necessary possibly by dredging more channels. The commercial development was still in a state of debate.

Commissioner Stamos' group emphasized beautifying the entrances. The majority of the group agreed that there should be no commercial. Consistent landscaping along A1A that created a canopy and utilized palm trees was favored. They agreed that the community should be pedestrian friendly with bikepaths (including a bikepath along A1A), sidewalks, and underground utilities. The group felt that the Beachway/A1A property should be developed into a natural park and agreed that the Corrine St. property should be developed into a park/playground/marina with a boat ramp area. They agreed that the Town Hall should remain where it is, however, it should be expanded and redesigned for the Town Hall and Public Safety Depts. The consensus was that there should be architectural diversity, however, the codes should remain similar to what they are now. They felt there should be adequate public access to the beach that includes the installation of small freshwater shower nozzles. They debated on whether some items should remain consistent throughout the town such as mailboxes. Lastly they felt the Town should develop a general informational booklet.

Commissioner O'Hare's group created more of a "Utopia" community whereas the present owners did not retain property rights. They replaced A1A with a meandering road with bikepaths and a narrow bike lane. The community had underground utilities, with two relocated central bridges with a new Town Hall, civic center, playground, and a reverse osmosis water/sewer system located between them. They built a marina behind the civic center. They constructed a gazebo at the beach. A playground was located in the south end of Town. They also felt the housing should be kept low retaining multi-family and single family residences, however, multi-family areas were relocated. The group felt the canals off of the ICWW should be rebuilt. Lastly they agreed that there should be no commercial except for a snack stand by the gazebo at the beach.

Following lunch all the participants jointly developed a list of 24 PLUSES of the Town with six top choices. The top choices included: beaches; low crime rate/safe community; small town atmosphere; location; ratio of police/fire officers to residents; and diversity of population and architecture.

The participants also developed a list of 38 DELTAS with twelve top priorities which include: underground utilities (35 votes); sewer systems (27); other sources of funding i.e. grants (21); increased maintenance dept. (20); expansion of Town facilities to include civic center and recreational center (24); uniform town entry features (21); increase conservation preservation areas (20); No Seeums (23); trees and plants (27); more bike

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paths including SR A1A (17); Comprehensive Strategic Plan (20); and improve storm drainage (16).

The participants then developed the following Vision Statement:

THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE WILL BE A BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED, DIVERSE SEASIDE COMMUNITY BUILT AROUND THE FAMILY AND CIVIC PRIDE, STATE OF THE ART PUBLIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ENHANCES THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF OUR TOWN.

Following the Vision Statement came this Mission Statement:

THE MISSION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE IS TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED, DIVERSE SEASIDE COMMUNITY BUILT AROUND THE FAMILY AND CIVIC PRIDE, STATE OF THEART PUBLIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ENHANCES THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF OUR TOWN.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:10 PM.