Gordon River Greenway Project Update

Status of Project Permits:
- **ACOE** – Application submitted originally in April – notice published 4/14/11; a revised submittal joined the Goodlette access road to the project - per CORPS request. A public notice for the revised submittal expected any day. Considering all agency input, expect approval early 2012.
- **SFWMD** – Application submitted 6/16/11 – Request for Information (RFI) letter received and comments are being addressed.
- **FWC** – Approx. 5 gopher tortoises on the zoo node will need to be relocated. Caracara prairie Preserve is under consideration as the relocation site.

Status of Development Approvals:
- **Rezone**:
  - EAC – 5/4/11 - Recommend denial
  - CCPC:
    - 6/2/11 – 7-1 recommended approval with stipulations :
      - To add treatment swales next to the asphalt pathway
      - To have 50% or greater of the parking area a grass lot.
      - To keep the 22-acre preserve instead of reducing it to 17 acres
    - 7/7/11 – Stipulations met - Recommended approval 8-0
  - BCC – 7/26/11 Meeting – Approved rezone unanimously
- **Site Development Plan**: Submitted 7/7/11 – expect comments by August 12, 2011. At that point Kimley-Horn will have the district comments and will revise the plan set. A second submittal is estimated for mid September and final approval for the middle of October. At that point the final construction plans will be started.

Project Discussions:
- Cost Estimates – Working with consultant to identify costs and come up with the Conservation Collier portion of costs. Sorry, but costs are still being developed.
- Bridge and boardwalk materials – consultant seeking best price and performance
- Lighting –
  - Adding specs to plan to bid both electric and solar LED with conduits in place. Plan shows 30 (LED/electric) lights on CC portion, with tube LED for the bridge – 5 foot sections.
  - Transformers and associated costs – could be a transformer on our parcel south of the bridge – still working with FPL to identify sites and provide easements.
  - 60% Plan set – no changes yet
  - Exotic Removal – meeting with Airport Authority set for 7/29/11.

Meetings:
- Weekly project meetings – Thursday mornings
- Stakeholder’s Meeting – July 15, 2011 – Summary Notes Attached
- Next Stakeholders Meeting – September 9, 2011.
SUMMARY NOTES

Gordon River Greenway Park
Stakeholders Meeting
Public Services Conference Room
July 15, 2011
9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Attendees:
Marla Ramsey, Administrator – Public Services
Barry Williams, Dir. Parks and Recreation
Mike Delate – Grady Minor (Consultant)
JP Marchand – Kimley-Horn (Consultant)
Alex Sulecki – Conservation Collier
Jeff Curl – Conservation Collier Committee
Matt McLean – Naples Zoo
Cecilia Varga – City of Naples
Ellie Krier – Southwest Florida Preservation
land Trust (SWFPLT)
Matthew Kragh – City of Naples/Pulling
property development
Erv Dehn – Naples Airport Authority
Ted Soliday - Naples Airport Authority
Chuck Lewis – Bears Paw
Paul Poirier – Bears Paw
Curtis Cafiso – Conservancy of SW FL

Acronyms Used:
EAC – Environmental Advisory Council
CCPC – Collier County Planning Commission
BCC – Board of County Commissioners
SFWMD – South Florida Water Management District
SDP – Site Development Plan
CCLAAC – Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee
ACOE – Army Corps of Engineers
RFI – Request For Information letter
LDC – Land Development Code

General Project Update – JP Marchand
Project moving quickly, rezone to BCC on 7/26 – regular agenda, Item 8A. Barry Williams asked all stakeholders to appear and support the rezone request.

- ST permit – JP responded that he has heard from the planning dept and they can’t grant the permit administratively. The request will need to go back through the EAC, CCPC and BCC.
- CCPC approved with 4 stipulations
  - Treatment swale along path
  - 50% or greater grass parking
  - GT preserve stays at 22 acres
  - Land use limited to parks and parking
- USACOE Permit – application has been in for 6 months, recently resubmitted combining the Goodlette driveway project per request of reviewers – USACOE to re-notice in about a week. Had good meeting with Marine Fisheries Agency re kayak launch.
- SFWMD – application submitted June 16th, so far looking good. RFI letter received and consultant in process of responding – looking good.
- SDP – Submitted last week
There was discussion on the boardwalk materials. Several alternates are being explored, including IPE, formed concrete and a wood/plastic composite, and likely will have a primary and alternate material in the bid. Concrete will create a weight issue and that is being factored into decisions.

There was discussion about the treatment swales required by the CCPC that go along the pathways. What materials can be used to stabilize the cleared area on Conservation Collier portion besides sod? Jeff Curl asked if there was potential for using chipped exotic material removed from the site. He noted this would require staging areas and the plan at present has none shown.

Marla R. noted that there is one more neighborhood meeting planned – for Sept/Oct. at Freedom Park.

Naples Airport – Ted Soliday and Erv Dehn – Ted Soliday asked about timing of the project. Response was construction is expected by May 2010.

There was discussion about bridge height and lighting for the Conservation Collier pedestrian bridge. JP is working with a consultant and will consult with the Airport – Ted S., who advised that the height restriction is in our zoning ordinance. Erv Dehn advised that Kimley-Horn needs to file a 7460-1 – Notice of Construction with the Federal Aviation Administration, which would address the height of the bridge and of temporary construction cranes. JP Marchand noted that the bridge will likely be constructed using a floating barge.

Ted S. advised the Airport is working with the River Reach development to provide walking access to the Greenway from the NW corner of the Airport property. Currently, there is a sidewalk that extends just over half of the way westerly down Enterprise Ave from Airport Road. The idea under consideration is to ask River Reach to construct a small pedestrian bridge over a swale that separates the Airport and River Reach properties and allow connection to the River Reach exercise path that goes around a small lake on River Reach property. The exercise path could then connect with the Greenway trail on the Conservation Collier parcel. It was pointed out that there would be no public parking and there may be objection to allowing the public access to the River Reach property.

Ted S. advised he is working on providing parking on the SW corner of the Airport property. Marla R. asked whether there was opportunity for a kayak launch in that location. There was brief discussion but no definitive response.

There was discussion about removal of exotic plants and the Airport’s offer of assistance for removal of Australian pines within the height restricted zone. Mr. Soliday advised that he is working on his budget now and needs to have some idea fairly quickly of costs. He may be willing to piggyback on the County’s contract for exotic removal and provide financial assistance for the portion of the exotics that affect the airport. He will need to develop a project map. He advised that there are other exotics on adjoining lands that also need to be removed, including those on Nature Point property on the west side of the Golden Gate canal. This will need to be a separate contract. Erv Dehn will provide a map of plotted exotics within the height zone based on tree height that was previously developed by the Airport. This will help the county develop a scope and get costs. A separate meeting will be set between the County and the Airport during the week of August 25th at the Airport offices to discuss details of such a project.

SWFPLT – Ellie Krier: Marla Ramsey asked Ellie Krier about the timing of development of the asphalt pathway on the Airport easement that will extend the Greenway trail south from the Conservation Collier parcel. Ms. Krier will check timing of the trail on the airport easement.
Ms. Krier is working on a donation regarding the Collier Development Corporation 7.5 acres just south of the Conservation Collier parcel. Ted Soliday expressed that the Airport is still interested in assisting with exotic removal on that parcel, but cannot address issues related to the noise overlay, as the parcel is outside the boundary.

There was a question of whether the most recent concept map was on the www.gordonrivergreenway.org website. JP Marchand to get the most recent concept map to Ms. Krier for posting. Alex S. to get the draft 60% set to Ms. Krier for her group to review.

Ms. Krier advised that she will arrange for supporters to attend the BCC meeting on July 26 and she will be speaking with Commissioners in advance requesting that they focus on the rezone.

There was discussion about potential for memorial bench and other structure donation. Ms. Krier will work on that but needs costs for the benches and other structures.

**City of Naples – Cecelia Vargas** – Staff plans to present their plan to Council in September. Ellie Krier noted that there have already been “charettes” on the city bridge. Matt Kragh noted that the city is looking at land issues on their side of the project.

**Conservation Collier – Alex Sulecki** – In addition to already discussed items (the sidewalk connection with River Reach/Airport and exotic plant removal with the Airport) Ms. Sulecki advised stakeholders that the management plan for Conservation Collier’s portion of the GRG Park has been approved by the BCC and can be viewed at [http://www.colliergov.net/Index.aspx?page=546](http://www.colliergov.net/Index.aspx?page=546). She also provided the Conservation Collier gopher tortoise relocation policy and program details to JP Marchand in regard to gopher tortoises that will need to be relocated from the zoo parking node.

**Naples Zoo – Matt McLean** – There was discussion about the parking area and Mr. McLean asked about lighting, was it going to be solar? The response from parks was - no. Mr. McLean asked about costs for the parking area and was advised that costs would be developed after July 30th. In regard to the status of the entry area, Mr. McLean advised that the “y” intersection would be going to a “t” and that the plan would be resubmitted. There was concern on the part of the zoo about certain trees and the timing of relocation. A copy of the redesign will be provided to the zoo with construction planned before May 2012. Timing will be worked out with JP Marchand within the next month or so. The Water Management District permit for the zoo entrance has been submitted.

JP Marchand noted that he needs the conservancy and zoo plans to show the “bigger picture.” Mr. Marchand also needs the projections for attendance/parking at the zoo before the BCC meeting on July 26th. It was noted by Mr. McLean that there are currently 350 spaces which are filled 3 times on Saturdays – approximately 1,000 cars. Barry Williams advised that in determining the number of visitors from car counts, Parks and Recreation uses a multiplier of 2.4.

Mike Delate advised that the entry plans for the zoo node are being combined with USACOE and SFWMD permit applications.

**Bears Paw – Paul Poirier and Chuck Lewis** – The plans for road access at the north parking node were reviewed as there were questions about where a wall and vegetation screenings will be placed. Marla Ramsey advised that a 300’ wall with type B buffer will be installed on a berm approx 15 ft off the
property line. There was discussion about whether the County’s wall and the existing Bear’s Paw walls could be joined to keep people from walking down in between them. Bear’s Paw may be able to coordinate wall/landscaping with improvements to their golf hole adjacent to the parking node.

There was discussion about the height of the wall and a request from Bear’s Paw to have the County’s wall resemble the Bear’s Paw wall. Staff will review considering elevations and LDC requirements. Staff requested Bear’s Paw draft a letter advising planners they are seeking flexibility for coordination. Staff will provide an overall concept plan for this portion of the project to Bears Paw.

Conservancy of SW Florida – Curtis Cafiso – Marla R. requested a map for the overflow parking area and asked whether construction vehicles building the zoo node parking lot could access the site using Smith Preserve Way? Mr. Cafiso indicated that with safety precautions taken this would be possible. There was discussion regarding timing of construction and staging areas needed. Mr. Cafiso cautioned that if construction and visitor vehicles use the access during season it could present a chokepoint.

The meeting ended at 11:00 am.

Next Meeting - Friday September 9, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Public Services Administration offices conference room – Building H, Collier Government Center, 3339 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 214, Naples.