

Council

SHINING A LIGHT ON BLAINE:

A Seaside City in Search of Identity

Preliminary Proposals for Creating a Focus and Direction for the Blaine Waterfront

Respectfully Submitted

August 2, 2007

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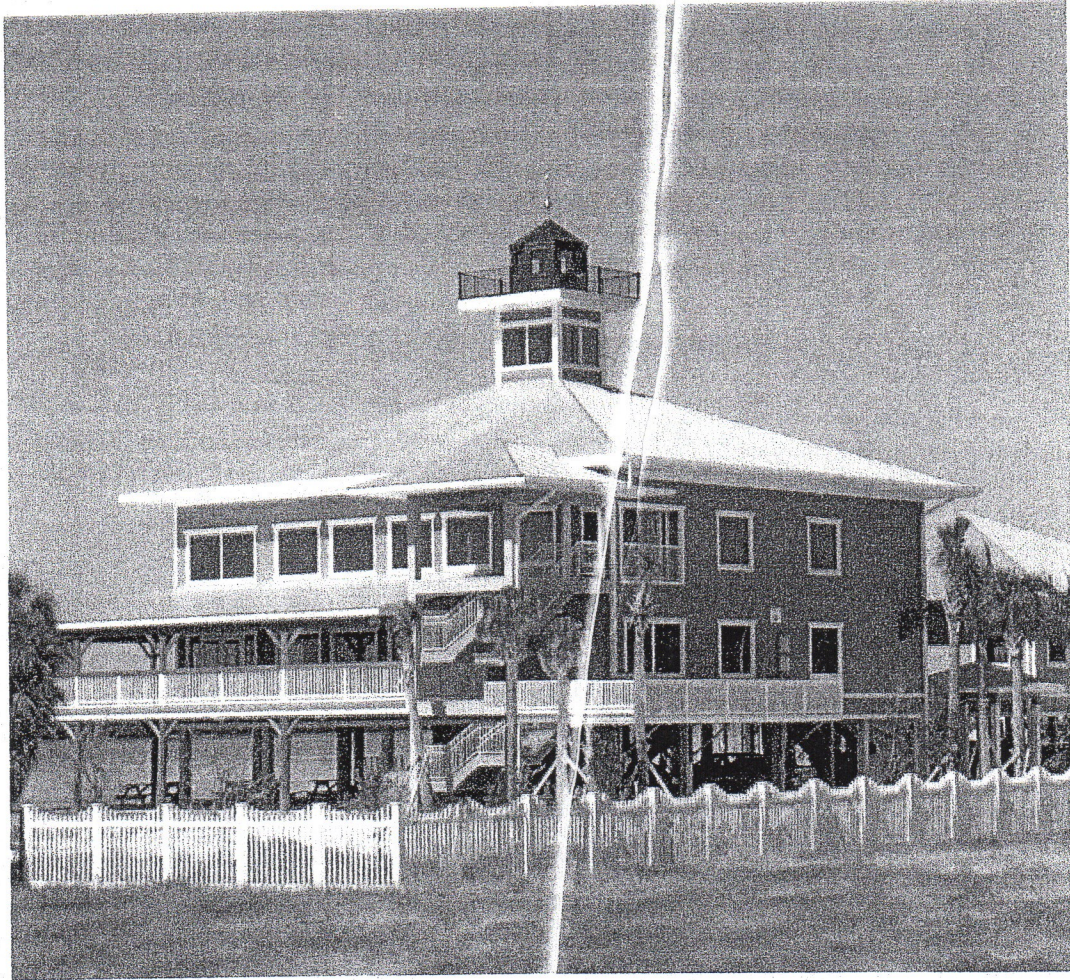
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Okay, so this lighthouse is in Florida. Delete the palm trees, think Maine (rhymes with Blaine), and you get the picture.

If not, here's the picture: A lighthouse complex would shine a light on Blaine forever. The Blaine Lighthouse instantly provides the City of Blaine with an easily recognizable identity and focus for weekend tourism and day getaways.

Not to mention the practical uses...

- Finally, a respectable home for the **Blaine Visitor Center**. Carol deserves better, and so does the City of Blaine.
- A **maritime museum**. Combine artifacts from Blaine's rich maritime history with a meeting room for presentations by local historians. And the kids will love climbing up and down the staircase to the lighthouse itself.
- A **maritime gallery**. This will host both a permanent exhibition of local art and craftwork, and a rotating exhibit of visiting artists.

WHAT'S NEXT? PLENTY!

The Blaine Lighthouse complex and Drayton Memorial Footbridge could become the focus of a wide variety of local, regional, and cross-border activities and events...

- *Marine animal, wildlife and birdwatching lectures and outings.
- *An annual boat show.
- *Walks and runs for charity and fun.
- *Tours and talks detailing the history of the bay.
- *Expansion of Blaine's current concert offerings.
- *Galleries.
- *Gift shops.
- *Antique shops.
- *Maritime-themed restaurants, hotels, condominiums, and other vacation lodging.

WHAT ABOUT \$\$\$?

Won't all this cost a lot of money? You bet. But "all this" will also generate a ton of revenue in the form of tourist dollars and taxes and fees from all the additional business that the renewed waterfront will engender.

Not to mention jobs. Blaine should see its unemployment rate drop to an all-time low as its prestige and pride reach an all-time high.

CONCLUSION

An ambitious goal...

**Identifying Blaine as a prominent seaside destination and getaway*

calls for an ambitious focus...

**The Blaine Lighthouse and Drayton Footbridge*

and an ambitious beginning...

**The Lighthouse Group and Water Music Festival.*

It also requires great care.