

CRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 13, 2020

ROLL

COUNCILMAN MICHAEL JARMAN, COUNCIL LIAISON
DAVID CAMPBELL, STAFF LIAISON
AMY MYERS, CITY ATTORNEY
KELLY JENKINS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MATT BUSH
BEN FAUST
ANDY GONSALVES (Arrived later)
DEBBIE MCCORMICK
CLAIR PEASE

Councilman Jarman opened the meeting at 3:02 P.M. and welcomed the new Committee members.

He called for Public Comments, and there was none.

ITEM 1 ELECTION OF CHAIR. The Committee members present elected to appoint Mr. Matt Bush as the Chair.

ITEM 2 BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION. Ms. Myers briefed the new Committee members on the Sunshine Law, Ethics Laws and possible voting conflicts if they occurred. She said the Committee members were not the final authority nor able to expend funds. She said the Committee would also report to the City Council at least twice per year.

Mr. Campbell said the Committee recommendations would be taken to the Council for consideration, and the next meeting would have a certain type of lighting to be discussed.

ITEM 3 OVERVIEW OF FRONT BEACH ROAD COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLANS. Mr. Campbell began with Segment 2, explaining the City was waiting on AT&T, WOW and Comcast to underground their wires so that the poles could be removed. He distributed the Segment 2 schedule, now 95% complete. He explained that at the last Council meeting, the Council authorized the design of a roundabout with construction tentatively scheduled for January or February. The Council directed that the projects be sped up and possibly incentivize the completion dates. He explained these were not merely road projects because of undergrounding the power and reworking the utilities.

He said Segment 4.1 Design (Lullwater Lake to Hills Road) was now 60% complete. A community information meeting had been planned this summer but it was delayed because of the virus. He said it was important for everyone affected by the construction to be at that meeting. Tentative plans were to complete the design the first quarter 2021 and start construction after the season, trying not to affect two seasons.

Discussion ensued concerning working day and night on the projects. Night work would be noisy and the concern over material access. Mr. Faust said the real issue would be cost. Night work would be more dangerous but traffic would be less. Specific performance specs would be in the Bid Documents, similar to those in the Bay Parkway project. Mr. Campbell added that SR79 lended itself to night work because of less residential.

The plans for Powell Adams were completed and Mr. Campbell spoke of the Hyatt being built. He spoke of the lighted t- intersection but that a roundabout may go at that intersection. Mr. Faust spoke of the roundabouts and their failures. He said initially, roundabouts had been discussed at many Council meetings and they tried to make them work. Ms. Jenkins asked if he remembered why the SR79 roundabout failed. Mr. Faust explained the urban design and not the same as the rest of the CRA. Discussion ensued concerning the concerns about a roundabout. Mr. Campbell said one of the biggest concerns was the cost of the property for stormwater, not that it was a failure. He said he would look at several locations for roundabouts.

At this juncture, Mr. Gonsalves arrived.

Mr. Campbell said trams would merge into the traffic with the roundabouts. They discussed a t-intersection being more dangerous. Chair Bush spoke of pedestrian crossings being poorly lit. Mr. Campbell said they can be upgraded and said the crossing at Sharkeys was the best. He added that the pedestrian crossing at Sandpiper would potentially back up the traffic to the roundabout.

For Segment 4.2, the design was just started in May. It would be a 16 month design timeframe.

Mr. Campbell said the Council authorized the Eighty Million Dollar Bond issue to speed up the CRA. He spoke of the TIF funds, the Ten to Eleven Million Dollars per year, which hopefully would rise to Fifteen Million Dollars per year by 2025. He noted the spreadsheet with the funds budgeted for each year, with the goal to finish Front Beach Road as quickly as possible in order to use the tram lanes.

Mr. Campbell spoke of the Phase 1 Segment, Alf Coleman. He said FDOT gave the City funds to do the sidewalks, but only from the Parkway to Middle Beach Road.

Regarding Hills Road, that could be moved up in the schedule because St. Joe was preparing to develop east of Pier Park on the multi-use site.


Mr. Campbell asked the Committee members to review the design guidelines for the next meeting.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 P.M.

READ AND APPROVED this 10th of August, 2020.



Matt Bush, Chair

ATTEST:


Jo Smith, Interim City Clerk