

Minutes

Project: Bruce Beach Phasing Plan

Subject: CRA Public Workshop

Date: Monday, February 03, 2020

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers

Attendees: Owens, Gibson, Vinson, Wimberly, Dewberry (Hashtag), Baskerville-Donovan (Day Marina), Gulf Blue Group (East Garden District Private Development), CRA Board, Public

General Discussion – CRA Meeting & Public Comments:

- CRA called the meeting to order and Helen Gibson presented the projects and funding planned for the 19-20 CRA Plan/Budget. Parts of the meeting were recorded and can be found on Facebook under “850 Studio.” Presentation attached.
 - Note that the Total Estimated Cost column figure of \$16,193,760 was incorrect and will be corrected to show \$21,655,260 when posted on the City’s website for the public.
 - Additionally, the budget slide for Bruce Beach included \$1.98 million for Phase 4 after discussing with the City that the figure would be \$1.0 million.
 - CRA requested that comment cards be filled out and returned either at the meeting or by COB on Feb 4th to Helen Gibson.
- Prior to meeting: Lady concerned regarding where the mound/pile of material on the site will be dumped. Does not want it dumped in a black neighborhood.
- Spoke with Tony R. McCray II (cell: 850-602-8257) who wants to see a community center built on the site. I explained that a community center was not part of the current budget due to the cost, but that it was still planned for the future. He said that he has had significant contact with a national philanthropy group and that if money was the issue then he would get it. He wants to see a 4-story community center built that is devoted to public education regarding the African-American history in the community. He’s been talking to the Mayor. I told him that this is good, because ultimately the directive for the inclusion of a public facility would have to come from the City.
- Spoke with a Lady interested in kayaking who said that all she wants to see for kayak accessibility is a clean sand beach with no kayak docking. I explained that the pathway and kayak launch are also intended for disabled citizens to be able to enjoy kayaking. I also explained that the vast majority of the beach area will be left as-is and that the beach would still be accessible for dragging kayaks into the water. She understood and was good with the response.
- Spoke with Duane Tant (cell: 850-619-0201) who is a Biosphere Engineer. He is also heavily involved in the Audubon Society, the Panhandle Watershed Alliance, and several other organizations I could not recall. His main concern is with regard to the landscape plantings for the Bruce site. He wanted to know that the invasive species will be addressed and that the

proposed plantings will be diverse and native. He mentioned concern that the landscaping of the site be sourced from the gulf coast region because plants sourced from other parts of the country, while they may be native, would have a different scientific makeup of pollens, fruit, etc which could negatively affect migratory birds, butterflies, and bee populations. He mentioned that one of the organizations he is involved in is responsible for the recent plantings at the site. He did not specifically mention concerns on protecting these recent plantings.

- Spoke with a Lady representing the Center for Independent Living Disability Resource Center (located in Pensacola). Her concern was the full ADA compliance of the Bruce site and making sure that provisions were included in design such as:
 - Full accessibility of site with at least one accessible path to access each site feature.
 - Any educational exhibits such as informational displays should be set at a height so that disabled citizens can see/enjoy the exhibits.
 - Any educational exhibits should consider provisions for both the hearing impaired (if there are audible exhibits) and visually impaired.
- Following the Workshop portion of the meeting, time was allowed for public comments to the CRA Board:
 - Gentleman discussed contamination and safety and directed questions to the Mayor. Mayor stated that the site would be fully investigated for contamination.
 - Lady representing the Center for Independent Living {whom we spoke to during workshop portion} reiterated the importance of site accessibility to all parts of the site including considerations for exhibits (height, sound, vision).
 - Gentleman mentioned that the James Lima (sp?) economic impact information for Bruce Beach and Hashtag did not include job benefits and was very lacking in the total economic benefits of the projects. Believes that the projects will have much greater positive economic impacts.