

Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

June 27, 2018 ~ 6:00 PM

The meeting was held on June 27, 2018 at the Lealman Community Campus, 5175 45th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33714.

1. Call to Order (Steve Cleveland)

Chairman Cleveland called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Members: Steve Cleveland; Gary Grooms; Cheryl DiCicco; Enoch Nicholson; Iris Parrish

Absent Members: Dwane Hawkins; Linda Rochelle; Brian Ellis; and Tommy Johnson

County Staff: Chris D. Moore and Ryan A. Brinson

3. Approval of Minutes

The December 12, 2017 meeting minutes were unanimously approved. The minutes from the January 23, 2018, February 27, 2018 and April 24, 2018 meetings were also approved separately pending confirmation from the County Attorney's office that they could be considered official minutes given there was no quorum at those meetings. Staff will confirm with the County Attorney's office and advise if further action is required.

4. Administrative Business

• Welcome New Committee Members & Officer Election discussion

Chairman Cleveland welcomed and introduced a new Member, Ms. Iris Parrish. Mr. Cleveland told the group that Ms. Parrish volunteers a lot in the community and is a true asset to the Advisory Committee. Mr. Cleveland mentioned that he would like staff to look into changing the by-laws to allow for alternates to ensure that we can have a quorum when committee members are absent.

The Committee nominated Mr. Cleveland as Chair and Mr. Nicholson as Vice Chair for the rest of the year.

5. New Business

•Duke Energy Partnership

A Duke Energy representative presented to the Committee on a new program they are launching in Lealman to assist low-income families/customers with energy-efficiency improvements to their homes. The Duke Energy Neighborhood Energy Saver Program offers free walkthrough energy assessments designed to help customers learn how their homes use energy and how they can lower their monthly electric bills. In addition, qualified customers receive up to 20 free energy-saving products installed at no cost such as: energy-efficient light bulbs; water-saving shower heads and faucet aerators; air conditioning/heating system filters; water heater wraps and commercial grate weather stripping. A community meeting with more information on the roll out of the program will be advertised and held at the Lealman Community Campus in August.

•Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) CRA Budget

Chris Moore presented the proposed Spending Action Plan reflected in Appendix C, Table C-2 of the approved Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Plan. The tax increment revenues (TIF) reflected in the handout are estimates at this time, as the TIF is only an estimated projection. As such, the Committee was not taking action on the total budget but was taking action on the

percentage allocations for the various programs. Mr. Moore mentioned that out of all the programs listed in the budget a second version of the existing Residential and Non-Residential grant program will most likely be launched again in FY19. The Committee's consensus was to keep the programmatic spending percentages the same as they were in the FY17-18 budget year, and voted accordingly, with the formal approval by the Board of County Commissioners in September.

6. Staff Report

• Joes Creek Park Master Plan Update

Ryan Brinson mentioned that the design firm AECOM submitted two draft proposals of the Park Master Plan to County staff a few months ago. Staff reviewed the two drafts and provided comments to the proposal that appeared to be the most practical. That draft is currently being fine tuned into a more refined Concept Plan which incorporates the Campus, vacant parcel to the east and the Park/Trail. Mr. Brinson mentioned that once the firm has a conceptual design, the revised draft will be presented to the Committee for their input. Committee Member Grooms mentioned that AECOM is a very experienced design firm and he is pleased that Pinellas County hired them to perform the work.

• CRA Grant Application Update

Mr. Moore informed the group that we have received and pre-approved 18 Grant Applications (14 Residential and 4 Non-Residential). Of the 14 Residential applications, however 6 applications are incomplete to a certain extent or still need to provide bids. Mr. Moore mentioned that a second roll out of the program will likely be launched during the FY19 and that ongoing updates will be made to the Committee on an as needed basis. The committee members were upset to hear of the challenges the County was experiencing implementing the program and wanted to make sure that staff is doing everything they can to expedite the process. Mr. Moore stated staff shares the Committee's concerns and is working to solidify the contractor payment process and staff will follow-up with applicants to provide them updates on the process. The Committee suggested that signs be made to advertise that the improvement was paid for using Lealman CRA program money.

• Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Moore mentioned to the committee that the County's Comprehensive Plan is currently being updated. The first phase of the project has begun which is essentially a policy consolidation of the over 1,100 existing policies. This process is intended to eliminate redundancy in existing policies, in an effort to streamline the Plan. The second phase will outline Guiding Principles that will steer the direction of the Plan update. The third phase of the Plan update will be the actual update itself and public hearing process to the LPA, Board of County Commissioners and State review. Mr. Moore informed the Committee that the County's Planning Department held a public workshop/open house at the Campus in May, with approximately 20 residents attending and providing feedback on the plan update. Mr. Moore then shared power point slides from the workshop and a survey on the proposed Guiding Principles.

• Linking Lealman (Complete Streets) Update

Mr. Moore presented this item and told the Committee that this initiative will encourage and address all modes of transportation within the Lealman CRA footprint such as; bike, car, bus, and pedestrian improvements. This Mobility Plan will work in tandem with redevelopment opportunities and will focus on complete street concepts along 54th Ave North. Mr. Moore informed the Committee that a workshop/open house was held at the Campus in June, allowing for residents to provide feedback. Mr. Moore reported that the community's comments were mixed, with some recognizing the need for a "road diet" to slow or reduce vehicular traffic and thereby increase pedestrian and bicycle safety, while other residents were concerned about the impact intentionally slowing traffic on 54th Ave would have. Additional updates will be provided by staff as the plan progresses.

• Lealman Community Campus Tenant Status

Mr. Moore told the group that the YMCA is currently offering a summer camp program at the

Campus. He mentioned they are in discussions on a long-term lease to occupy the majority of the first floor space in the 2-story building. The YMCA is envisioned to be the anchor tenant at the Campus, operating an Early Learning Center, while also potentially offering many of their other programs such as basketball leagues, dance classes and senior-related activities to the community. The other tenants currently occupying space at the Campus (The Broach School, Pinellas Autism Project and Excelerated Teaching Center) provide various counseling and educational services to special needs children. Staff is engaging other nonprofits that were also previously approved by the Board of County Commissioners to occupy space through a Letter of Interest process. Mr. Moore concluded by discussing the various County departments that will operate at the Campus, including Health and Human Services, Animal Services, Economic Development and Code Enforcement.

•Tire Collection Day Results

Mr. Brinson shared a brief update on how successful the Tire Collection day was. A total of 1,500 tires were removed Countywide and out of that roughly 500 came from the Lealman community. Mr. Cleveland was commended for his efforts since his team volunteered and collected 120 on their own.

7. Comments

Ms. DiCicco inquired about the whether the Community Health Center of Pinellas County had opened yet and what was the status on the Little Libraries project. Chairman Cleveland responded that the Health Center was now open and Mr. Brinson mentioned that staff is working on finding appropriate locations to deliver the boxes.

Vice Chair Nicholson asked if the County's Code Enforcement team could provide the Committee at the next meeting an update on enforcement activities in the community and discuss what the County's process and procedures currently are with regard to non-compliant property owners and abandoned/vacant uninhabitable homes.

8. Citizen Input

A Citizen suggested that the CRA Advisory Meetings be placed on the general County Calendar and for staff to look into who maintains the CRA Facebook page.