



## MINUTES

### Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee

Meeting Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 6 PM

Lealman Exchange, 5175 45<sup>th</sup> St. N., Building A, Lealman, FL 33714

**Committee Members Present:** Gary Grooms, Marsha McCoy, Brian Ellis, Rick Orr, Jeremy Heath

**Members Absent:** Father Viet, Teresa N Van Alstine, Steve Cleveland, Oscar Seguban

**Pinellas County Staff Present:** David Sadowsky, Chris Moore, Caroline Lanford, Tanya Kurtin

**I. Call to Order: 6:00pm**

**II. Introductions:**

Advisory Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

January 27, 2021 –Minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

**IV. Lealman CRA Mural Program:**

Barbara St. Clair, CEO of Creative Pinellas, Inc., Pinellas County's designated Local Arts Agency, presented an agreement with the Community Redevelopment Agency to administer a Mural Program in the Lealman CRA. The total value of the contract is \$50,000 to produce up to 5 murals to be provided on public or private building facades or other areas of Public Right of Way. Committee Chair Grooms voiced support for the program in strategic locations that will be highly visible to the public and hoped the program could continue in years ahead as more than five will be needed to make a thematic impact. Committee Vice Chair Heath asked if there would be an opportunity for public creative input or ideas. Ms. St. Clair responded that there would be and that the artist would be selected based upon their portfolio and their ability to be flexible/open to items that the public would want to see of the murals. Committee Member Orr asked some general questions about permitting and was informed that a private property owner would not need a permit. The item concluded with Ms. St. Clair thanking the group for their time and partnership.

**V. Lealman Alleyway Action Plan:**

County staff member Caroline Lanford presented the item and reported there are 176 alleys totaling 13.8 miles. She indicated an overall assessment of the alleys had been done, categorizing them by different typologies based upon conditions observed in the field data collection process. Ms. Lanford also shared with the group examples of alley concepts and features that could be considered such as murals, lighting, playgrounds, gardens, outdoor dining, sports/recreational opportunities, and place making/wayfinding. Ms. Lanford concluded by indicating the goal was to have a strategy adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. Committee Members voiced positive support for addressing this issue and the concepts presented. Chair Grooms voiced support and commented that a targeted approach in a condensed area is ideal as a pilot to demonstrate proof of concept. Vice Chair Heath also voiced strong support for the alleyways

being utilized as described in the presentation. Ms. Lanford indicated a draft plan will be released soon followed by public outreach for comments on its content.

**VI. FY20-21 Workplan Update:**

Staff member Chris Moore presented and provided an update on the following projects:

- **58<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. Sidewalk:** staff budget estimates have risen to \$1.375 million in total, however CRA staff still support the project, and the Committee agreed.
- **Housing Services Request for Proposals:** staff is developing an RFP seeking housing services, specifically rehabilitation of existing, naturally occurring affordable housing, and development of new, single family homes (either market rate or affordable.) The Committee agreed with the approach and overall importance of the program as an opportunity to address blight in the CRA. The Committee also expressed a desire to participate in the selection process and staff indicated it would have to examine similar precedent, but no doubt will engage the Committee to the maximum extent possible.
- **Lealman Gateway, Wayfinding, Landscaping Engineering, Design and Construction Services:** staff is developing a scope of work for graphic design services as well as construction design and engineering services for the development of sites previously identified for gateway and wayfinding signage opportunities. The first phase of the scope would essentially produce graphic renderings of what the signs look like (shape, material, fonts, colors, etc.) but also for the sites themselves (i.e., landscaping, streetscaping elements). A second phase would produce the actual construction documents for each site. The Committee voiced a desire to review the scope of work and staff indicated this would be possible for the next meeting.
- **Lealman Exchange Strategic Planning:** staff updated the Committee on the timeline ahead, indicating it will be provided to the Committee for discussion on March 24<sup>th</sup> and is slated to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. Advisory Committee Member Comments:** No members had comments.

**VIII. Citizen Input:** Jorge Mercado, Lealman resident and current Vice President of Lealman Community District Services, Inc., voice frustration with the slow pace of progress and asked what CRA funds had been primarily used for to date. Staff responded most programmatic funding had been for the commercial and residential site improvement grant programs and offered to meet with Mr. Mercado to better address his questions and concerns. Neil Brickfield, Executive Director of the Pinellas PAL, requested name placards to identify staff and Committee members and asked that future meetings be hosted in a hybrid in-person/virtual format to allow for easier community participation. Staff responded it appreciated these comments and that it will identify the best technological solution to allow for a hybrid meeting format, based on available funds on hand.

**IX. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.