

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE COMMITTEE (EDZC) MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

PRESENT: Chairman Jessica Hawkins and Vice Chairman Gary Rooney; Members: Joseph Cataldo, Bob DelVecchio, Mike Williams and Linda Moore **Also Present:** Kira Honse, Assistant City Attorney and Heather McCarty, Records Retention Specialist

Unexcused Absence: Terry Torres

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called today's meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) August 20, 2018

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. DelVecchio seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Representative from Florida Department of Transportation to discuss "Complete Streets"

This item was not discussed.

Mrs. Suzy Feeney gave out a handout on the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Context Classification (see attached). She said the whole downtown Twin Pairs is listed as C-4, Urban General. She handed out page 6 and 7 from FDOT's 38 page Context Classification report (on file in the City Clerk's office). She said that they need to show that their community is interested in doing Complete Streets. She added that they are trying to get someone from FDOT here as soon as possible.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) Update on Master Plan

Mrs. Moore said that she typed up the Master Plan with everything that they had spoken about from their last meeting (on file in the City Clerk's office).

Mrs. Moore said the lighting for the road leading to the Freshman Learning Center (FLC) is in and it is much safer to walk from Downtown to the FLC. She added that she looked into the idea of putting signage up and it would be very expensive. She said she spoke with Southern Social and Post and Vine

and they feel if they were allowed to advertise in their establishments that people can park there then eventually people would start parking there.

Mrs. Moore said they need some numbers on what outdoor patios are going to cost. Mr. Cataldo said they have the costs of what Stuart spent and they are about \$5,000 on average to do them.

Mrs. Moore read item A-4) Outdoor Dining for Restaurants Downtown.

Ms. Kira Honse, Assistant City Attorney, suggested they remove specific restaurant's names and leave it generic.

Mrs. Feeney said that she has spoken with some City Councilmembers and it was pretty much unanimous that they would not vote for the parking patios because of the current parking issues unless they could show where they have sufficient parking so it wouldn't be impacted.

Mr. Cataldo felt there was a way to create at least a couple more spaces downtown in the City parking by restriping and moving some things around. He said right now there are only two (2) or three (3) restaurants interested and he thinks they could match those spaces. He said the real question is how they solve the long term parking issues in downtown.

Mrs. Feeney thinks a lot has to do with the education campaign. She said none of the City Council members she spoke with knew what Complete Streets was. She felt that the Board members should start to reach out one on one with the Councilmembers.

Mrs. Hawkins said they need to be educated themselves first.

Mr. Rooney said they should bring FDOT straight in to City Council to tell them directly and not come to their Committee first.

Mrs. Feeney said Complete Streets is not a mystery and if they go to FDOT's website there is plenty of information on Complete Streets. She commented that FDOT is not coming here to educate them, but to answer specific questions on how it affects them. She urged them to look at FDOT's website.

Mr. Rooney said this issue has been talked about for years. He feels no one has the expertise to convince the Council except FDOT.

Mr. Cataldo said there are two (2) issues. He pointed out that FDOT can do Complete Streets and they don't need City Council, but they would prefer to have the City on board.

Mrs. Hawkins talked about the Town of Indian River Shores and the argument they are in with FDOT because the Town doesn't want a sidewalk on the east side of A1A.

Mr. Cataldo asked if FDOT could do Complete Streets without the City of Vero Beach. Mrs. Hawkins answered yes and that whatever their plan is, they are going to do it regardless.

Mr. Cataldo thought they were all in agreement in support of the Kimley Horn plan. He thinks there are two (2) issues: Complete Streets and the Kimley Horn plan. He said they have asked Council to support the Kimley Horn plan and it had support, but not from this Council, but they are about to potentially change. He said this is the time to see where the candidates stand and to make their position be known

to the Council and the public. They had a plan that the City spent money on that works. If the City would support that in conjunction with FDOT wanting to implement Complete Streets, it would be a perfect storm.

Mrs. Moore asked if they should do a presentation to City Council themselves, or if they should try to wait for FDOT or backchannel or lobby them. Mr. Cataldo said he absolutely believes they should backchannel them. He said they should use any political connections that could be used because they have projects and money and there is a need. He thinks the first step start is to start with the concept of the Kimley Horn plan, which is probably not much different than Complete Streets.

Mr. Rooney pointed out that a year or so ago, there were signatures gathered around town in support. He said they need to be prepared for the voices in opposition at the City Council meeting. He said that everybody who runs a business or owns land along there should be invited.

Mr. Cataldo agreed and added that even if they are told no, they would go back again. Mrs. Moore felt that since they are talking about parking solutions on beachside that it may be a good time to bring it up.

Mr. Cataldo said they should start with the Kimley Horn plan and mention Complete Streets. He said they need to get the City involved, including Public Works and Planning. He said this is a big picture issue and the way FDOT moves, from what he has heard, they are getting to be late in the game. He said now is the time. If it is a budgetary issue, it is not really an issue because nobody is saying that the City needs to spend money necessarily.

Mr. Williams said they have been talking about this for awhile and about the City having to put up money.

Mr. Cataldo explained that if it is not part of a project that FDOT was planning on doing, the City would have to pay. He said it is a perfect time to meld the two (2) together.

Mrs. Moore asked what is the next step, who is going to do it and when.

Mr. Cataldo said they voted before and he thinks they should vote again and make a motion for the City Council to support the Kimley Horn plan to create parking downtown and traffic calming.

Mrs. Moore asked if the next step is to have one (1) of them go to City Council and make that recommendation.

Ms. Honse said there is a City Council meeting tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. and the next one would be October 2, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Mrs. Moore asked who from their Board would go to the October 2nd City Council meeting and talk about the Kimley Horn plan and Complete Streets. She said she would make the presentation if no one else would.

The Committee went through the draft of their Master Plan.

A) One (1) Year Projects

A-1 Maps and Signage:

Mrs. Hawkins said the signage they originally put in their plan was tri-sided kiosks that Main Street has taken over. She said there is nothing for their Committee to specifically do and that item could be removed.

A-2) Special Themed Lighting

Mrs. Hawkins said the special them lighting is a cost issue and a maintenance cost issue so she felt that could be moved down to B) Two (2) to Three (3) Year Projects. She said they are working with the City and they are adding lighting, but it is not the themed lighting.

Mr. Williams asked if they could go to Main Street and talk about signage. Mrs. Hawkins said he could not go with another Board member and do anything outside of their meetings, but he could go by himself to one of their meetings on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Williams thought that people had put money into the signs. Mrs. Hawkins said they have. She said they were revamping the one (1) put up at the corner of 14th and 21st because of water intrusion and lighting issues and they are currently working on redoing it with solar lights built in.

Mr. Williams said he either wants people to get their money back or he wants this to move forward. He said he would go talk to them.

Mrs. Hawkins talked about the special themed lighting. She said they are working on other lighting projects, but the themed lighting is more of a long-term project. She felt they could reword that and move it up to A-1) and make it more of a safety concern.

Mrs. Moore referred to the murals that would be going in downtown. She said that some of them are not in very well lit areas. She felt they should keep additional lighting in their plan.

Mrs. Hawkins suggested putting lighting as A-1) and moving special themed lighting to B) Two (2) to Three (3) Year Projects.

A-3) Public Safety

Mrs. Hawkins reviewed that they had worked with Chief Currey intensely and there was a bike patrol started, but she doesn't know what happened to it. She said they have a very serious homeless issue on 14th Avenue that needs to be handled but she doesn't know what this Committee can do to try and help.

Mrs. Feeney referred to the problems they had at the Heritage Center. She said Chief Currey added more patrols to go by at different times of the day which helped. She said on the lighting, this Committee voted four (4) months ago to be able to recommend going out to bid on the more decorative lighting and uplighting.

Mrs. Hawkins said those types of projects are going to have to be on the business owners. Mrs. Feeney said that this Committee voted to be able to do the uplighting.

Mrs. Moore commented if there was better lighting in the Pocahontas Park area that the homeless problem might not be as severe.

Mrs. Hawkins said there are safety concerns and they need to talk to Chief Currey about those and the bike patrols. Mr. DelVecchio pointed out that the Chief has agreed that the lighting might deter the homeless from sleeping there overnight.

The Committee discussed the homeless situation downtown.

Mrs. Honse pointed out that it is a nationwide problem.

Mr. Cataldo thought having increased patrols would make downtown customers feel more comfortable.

Mr. Rooney added that the City could control the right to distribute food downtown to the homeless.

The Committee requested they ask Chief Currey to attend their next meeting.

Mrs. Hawkins proposed moving A-3) Public Safety up to A-2) and keeping public safety in the forefront.

Mr. Cataldo noted that additional patrols could be done immediately.

The Committee agreed that A-3) would be outdoor dining.

A-4) Traffic Calming

Mr. Cataldo said they should ask for City Council support, including reinsertion into the Comprehensive Plan the traffic calming of the Twin Pairs proposed under the Kimley Horn plan.

Mrs. Hawkins suggested rewording “traffic calming” and calling it “State Road 60 parking and traffic program.”

B) Two (2) to Three (3) Year Projects

B-1) Additional Bus Stops Downtown

Mrs. Hawkins said the Go Line has moved everything and there are quite a few stops downtown now so that has been accomplished. She would like to create a list of things that have been accomplished by their group to show City Council that they are accomplishing things.

Mrs. Moore said under accomplishments, they could have maps and signage and additional bus stops.

B-2) Sidewalk Widening

Mrs. Hawkins said they need to have Mr. Falls provide input on this item.

C. Five (5) Year Plus Projects

C-1) Stamp Crosswalk

Mrs. Hawkins said they were told that stamped crosswalks are cost prohibitive to do when the road isn't being repaved so because of that it was just going to be done as the roads were repaved. She said

however, the corner of 21st Street and 14th Avenue has been repaved. She said they need to have a discussion with Mr. Falls as to when that whole corridor along 14th Avenue will be paved so that they can know when those stamped crosswalks might take place. She said she would send an email to Mr. Falls.

C-2) SR 60 Restructuring and Additional Landscaping

Mrs. Hawkins suggested maybe they could work with Main Street to get some additional landscaping. She said there is a clear zone regulation for SR60 since it is an FDOT road and they would need to talk to FDOT to see what they would allow along those corridors.

Mr. Cataldo requested that they change “will require funds” to “may require” because they are not sure if it will require local or public funds.

Mrs. Hawkins asked if they should move landscaping up to two (2) to three (3) year projects. The Committee agreed to move Landscaping up to B-2).

Mrs. Moore asked about specifically stating that they want to light up the fountain. She asked if they could ask to spend their money on that project.

Mrs. Honse said they would need to let Public Works know that is something they want to spend funds on and it would need to go to City Council. She added that according to the budget material for the upcoming City Council meeting, the anticipated revenue for this group from this tax year is \$55,199

Mr. Rooney brought up their previous motion to go to Council and asking to spend money on lighting.

Mrs. Hawkins said there has to be a budgeted amount for City Council approval for them to put it out to bid.

Mr. Cataldo said they should recommend that they solicit bids to light up the fountain and possibly the parking lot on the corner of SR60. Mrs. Hawkins asked if they had a quote for that already.

Mrs. Feeney said they did not receive a hard number quote from Mr. Michael Naffzinger on the lighting of the fountain but they did get a hard number on the parking across from Scott’s Sporting Goods.

Mrs. Hawkins said they cannot ask Mr. Naffzinger for a hard number if he wants to participate in the bid.

Mrs. Moore asked if they have the money now, do they have to wait until the new budget year to ask to get bids on lighting up the fountain and the parking area. Mrs. Hawkins explained the RFP process. She said it gets started with City Council giving them approval to go out to bid. She asked what they need to do to get that.

Ms. Honse explained it would have to be placed on a City Council agenda. She said they would work with the Public Works Department and the Finance Department to have a memo done showing what it is they’re wanting to do and where they have the money.

Mr. Rooney said that their last motion hasn’t been put on the agenda yet so that should go on at the same time.

Mrs. Hawkins suggested they ask for up to \$20,000 for lighting the parking area and the corner by the fountain. She said she would include that in her email to Mr. Falls.

Ms. Honse suggested it would be better to shoot for the second meeting in October to have plenty of time to get everything done. She added that they would contact Ms. Cindy Lawson, Finance Director, regarding their funds.

C-3) Art Displays in Green Space

Mrs. Hawkins said the Cultural Council is doing things, especially in their Art District. She suggested they could reword it and move it up to B) because things are happening already. She said they could change “committed to promoting art” to “committed to continuing promoting art within the green areas of downtown.”

Ms. Honse brought up the Tree and Beautification Commission. She said they talk about some of the same areas they do here and have talked about adding some benches and some lighting. She said they meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Mrs. Hawkins said maybe they could combine their efforts. Ms. Honse suggested they could hold a joint meeting. She said the Chairman is Mr. Chris Runge.

Mrs. Hawkins said she would email the Chairman and let him know they would like to have a meeting together.

B) Twin Pairs Calming

This item was previously discussed.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) October 15, 2018

The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2018.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Today’s meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

/hm