

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE COMMITTEE (EDZC) MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2018 10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Cataldo, Bob DelVecchio, and Terry Torres **Also Present:** Stefanie Beskovoyne, Assistant City Attorney and Heather McCarty, Records Retention Specialist

Excused Absence: Linda Moore, Garry Rooney, and Mike Williams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Cataldo called today's meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) October 15, 2018

Mr. Torres made a motion to approve the October 15, 2018 minutes. Mr. DelVecchio seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Suzy Feeney reviewed that they had a meeting last month with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Kimley Horn, MPO, some City officials, and local property owners to discuss "Complete Streets" and SR60 road calming. They found out that it is not on the FDOT's 5-year plan. She said it is within reason to being able to do it with the next 3R project. She explained that Tallahassee is in the process of testing the roads.

Mr. Cataldo pointed out that FDOT made it clear that without support from the City, they are wasting their time. He said they have money in their budget to go to City Council to make recommendations regarding the patios and lighting. He said they previously talked about a typical platform patio costing \$5,000 to \$7,000 to construct and the question was whether the City would incur the cost. He reiterated that they need to poll the restaurants to see who is interested, but he knows Blue Agave is definitely interested. Mr. DelVecchio added that Off the Rail and Rio Coco are also interested.

Mr. Torres made a motion that restaurant owners would pay a prepaid annual rent of \$600 per year per parking space on a license agreement with the City of Vero Beach subject to the discretion and approval of City Council and if the City Council later withdrew their approval, the prepaid rent would be reimbursed at a prorated rate.

Mr. Cataldo suggested that they go to City Council and say that this Board recommends that the City approves spending up to \$25,000 to construct three (3) outdoor seating areas that would be licensed or leased to the restaurant owners for \$600 per year per restaurant. He said they could allocate up to \$25,000 for three (3) locations to be chosen by a lottery, if needed. They could go to Council with the proposal and ask them to put out an advertisement that outdoor areas are available to a certain number of restaurants in the downtown area and they could apply for the license.

Mr. Torres amended his motion to include that they recommend to the Council that they fund three (3) spaces at a maximum cost of \$25,000 of their TIF money to create up to three (3) different outdoor

seating areas and if the interest is above three (3), then they will have a lottery to decide which restaurants or businesses are allocated those spaces and the fee for each space would be a prepaid annual fee of \$600 per year. Mr. DelVecchio seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Cataldo brought up lighting and the presentation that Mr. Michael Naffzinger gave them about a year ago on illuminating areas of downtown. He said they discussed at their last meeting lighting up the fountain area and having cameras installed. He said they need to come up with a number they would like to spend on beautification and lighting of downtown and then put out a request for proposals to see what can be provided for that amount of money. He said they had talked about doing the corner across from Scott's Sporting Goods and that number was around \$15,000.

Mr. Torres pointed out there is a difference between beautification lighting and safety lighting. He said there is no question that improved lighting in those particular areas where they have homeless and crime issues is probably the best return of anything they could do to make those areas safer. He said a question is whether they do lighting just for aesthetics.

Mr. Cataldo said the RFP could be for both as long as it illuminates and is aesthetically pleasing. He believes that they need to say this is something they would like to do as a Committee and allocate funds equal to the \$25,000 they are proposing for the patios and solicit proposals to create aesthetics and safety, particularly around the benches and fountain areas.

Mrs. Feeney discussed the lighting proposal from Mr. Naffzinger and the existing infrastructure.

Mr. Torres added that any type of lighting they do out there needs to be hardened rather than removable. He said they need to think forward and about what would survive a hurricane. He said that should be included in any bid they receive. He agreed with Mr. Cataldo that they need to allocate an amount and put it out for RFP.

Mr. Cataldo said his advice is that they go to City Council with the two requests for the patio areas and the outdoor lighting for aesthetics and safety and allocate up to \$25,000 for each.

Mr. DelVecchio made a motion that they have City Council gets bids on the lighting they have discussed and allocate \$25,000 towards that.

4. OLD BUSINESS

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

This item was not discussed.

B) Discuss having a Joint meeting with the Tree & Beautification Commission to discuss Art Displays in Green Space

Mr. DelVecchio asked when the next Tree and Beautification commission meeting is.

Ms. Beskovoyne said the next meeting is December 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Cataldo asked if they could attend that meeting or have a joint meeting with them.

Ms. Beskovoyne said that they could attend that meeting and then they could decide about having a joint meeting.

Mr. Cataldo asked if several of them could attend the meeting. Ms. Beskovoyne said that it is a public meeting and they could attend that meeting. She asked them to avoid having discussion amongst themselves outside a public meeting.

C) Update Master Plan

This item was postponed to their next meeting.

D) Twin Pairs Calming

Mr. Torres said that he had an idea about expediting the traffic calming issue and utilizing their funds. He recalled a proposal where they would close two (2) of the westbound lanes and create some bump-outs and do some landscaping for about one (1) million dollars. He talked about having a municipal bond in that amount.

Mr. Cataldo said they can't borrow money and use their funds to pay it. He believes the number one issue is political and having the City decide if they are in favor of the traffic calming. If so, they could apply for "Complete Streets." He added that there is a decent chance at being successful at that. He commented that if the City gets behind this, it can be done.

Mr. Torres agreed. He commented that a problem is the turnover in Council every couple years.

Mr. Cataldo said that all FDOT is asking for at this point is a letter from the City showing support.

Mr. Torres made a motion that this Committee recommends to City Council that they issue a letter to FDOT in support of traffic calming that is consistent with the past Vision reports and other reports by Kimley Horn.

Mrs. Feeney suggested they let Council find out what Complete Streets is before that.

Mr. Cataldo said they are in the information process.

Mr. Torres withdrew his motion.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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