



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Joint Meeting

Monday, September 12, 2016

1:00 PM

RL Anderson Bldg - Venice, FL

with Sarasota Board of County Commission

NOTE: This is a draft copy of the minutes of the 09-12-2016 Commission Joint Meeting with the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners, has not been approved and is subject to change.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

The North Port City Commission Joint Meeting with the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners was called to order in the Robert Anderson Building at 1:00 p.m. by Sarasota County Commission Chairman Maio.

Present: North Port City Commission: Mayor Moore; Commissioners Jones, and Yates.

Sarasota County Commission: Chairman Maio; Vice-Chair Caragiulo; Commissioners Jason, Robinson, and Hines; County Administrator Harmer; Deputy Clerks Greer and White.

Absent: Vice-Mayor DiFranco; and Commissioner Cook.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sarasota County Commissioner Caragiulo.

1. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 1:01 P.M. -- 1:22 P.M.

2. JOINT DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update on the North Port Connector Bridge Project.

City Manager Lewis introduced Neighborhood Development Services Director Williams who provided a PowerPoint historical setting of the bridge project. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, September 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at the Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park.

Discussion ensued: (1) County Commissioners Robinson and Mason expressed appreciation to both County and City staffs and their professional efforts to complete this important project; (2) Commissioner Yates and Mayor Moore contributed comments regarding the collaboration involved in the bridge construction; (3) County Commissioner Robinson requested a consensus concerning the Legacy Trail.

There was a consensus that the County Administrator ensure that updates regarding the North Port Connector Bridge and the North Port Extension of the Legacy Trail received by Sarasota County are forwarded to the City of North Port City Commission.

B. Senator Bob Johnson's Landing and Snook Haven project updates.

County Administrator Harmer introduced Sarasota County Director of Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Brown, who provided an update on the projects regarding the Senator Bob Johnson's Landing and Snook Haven.

Following a question, it was reported that usage of the Landing in conjunction with the world rowing championships and practices will not impede the progress of the park improvements.

C. River road project planning update.

County Administrator Harmer introduced Public Works Director Brownman who provided a review and update on the River Road expansion and connection to I-75: (1) the \$21.9 million right-of-way acquisition covered from 2006 to 2016; (2) funding investments to date total approximately \$52.6 million; (3) the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has included River Road on their major project priorities list and on their financially feasible plan for 2030-2040, and the State may begin to program funding toward the project as those years draw closer; (4) negotiations are underway to complete the section of River Road from U.S. 41 to West Villages Parkway; (5) a temporary resurfacing of River Road is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2017.

D. West Villages update.

County Administrator Harmer introduced West Villages General Manager Black, who provided an update on the development's Master Plan and overall vision, along with an offer to widen a section of River Road, as mentioned in the last agenda item.

Discussion ensued: (1) the coordination of a site concept plan between Sarasota County and West Villages Improvement District concerning Tuscano Park near Taylor Ranch in Venice was explained and how it will be integrated into the West Villages; (2) the separate town sections of West Villages are all experiencing an influx of families, not just retirees and a proposed 600-acre site is being held for a future elementary and middle school; (3) subsequent to a question, Mr. Black stated that a 63-acre park has been turned over to the City of North Port and the other parks within the development are planned to be maintained by West Villages; (4) Mr. Black stated that active discussions are ongoing with the Atlanta Braves, and other teams, to secure a lease with one or more teams to bring spring training to Sarasota County and North Port. It was also stated that a land commitment of 100 to 150-acres is on the negotiation table.

E. Warm Mineral Springs area update.

North Port City Manager Lewis provided a brief summary of the progress at Warm Mineral Springs and ancillary developments and introduced General Services Director Carmichael who presented a PowerPoint overview.

Discussion ensued: (1) it was reported that once the feasibility study is received, the Commission will direct further plans for the buildings and property; (2) a final draft of the study is expected within the next two weeks and thereafter, will be placed for discussion on a Commission agenda; (3) City Manager Lewis stated that the Commission will determine the pace for the implementation of an overall plan; (4) Director Carmichael reported that: [a] Public Utilities has been working constantly to keep the septic system working and now a sewer line has been installed from the system to the closest utilities manhole which alleviated the problems within the drainfield; [b] a future lift station is anticipated on the site; [c] all permitting is in place to decommission the septic tanks and upon delivery of a panel and pump, the switch will take place within a week or two; [d] the site is still served by well water and historically, has posed no problems nor caused significant maintenance issues; [e] the USGS Report has not been officially

received and presented to the Commission yet; (5) County Commissioner Robinson requested that the City Commission consider Warm Mineral Springs as a viable contender to receive Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funding for infrastructure; (6) to avoid conflicts with future plans, the County may have to improve the gateway to Warm Mineral Springs, and it was requested to keep project updates flowing between the two government entities; (7) Chairman Maio stated that the County is willing to help with the necessary CRA forms and reported that as yet, no one has applied for any of the \$1.4 million funding being offered; (8) following a question, it was stated that information is posted on the Sarasota County website concerning the criteria to apply for CRA funding, including what projects and programs are eligible. The program focuses more on the implementation of a project rather than the early planning stages, the latter of which is not targeted for funding; (9) aspects of the CRA program were cited for the record from Florida Statutes 163, Part III - Community Redevelopment; (10) North Port is currently seeking a Historical Designation for the Warm Mineral Springs site, with an answer anticipated by the end of September.

Assistant County Administrator Cunningham provided an update on the history and progress of the Three Graces Statue near Warm Mineral Springs. Confirmation was provided that the statute is located on Sarasota County property, except for a wing wall which is in the Florida Department of Transportation right-of-way. If the statute remains at its present location, permission would be needed to obtain a right-of-way use permit to maintain and retain the wing wall. If removed from its present location, the City of North Port is exploring an option to accept the donation of the statue and potential sites to relocate the sculpture. It was reported that a local non-profit organization expressed interest to manage the restoration and long-term maintenance of the statue.

Discussion ensued: (1) regulatory steps must be completed prior to relocating the sculpture; (2) subsequent to an inquiry, Commissioner Yates stated that she preferred that it be preserved and restored due to its cultural and historical significance; (3) Chairman Maio stated that Sarasota County permits identification signs, monument signs, walls, and landscaping inside County road rights-of-way; (4) at the present time, there is no electricity to the sculpture; (5) Commissioner Robinson opined that only in extreme circumstances should County art be relinquished to another entity and does not view this situation as such an occasion. The sculpture should remain where it is located but safety issues must take priority; (6) a technical assessment is needed to determine where it should be located.

There was a consensus that the Sarasota County Administrator keep the Board of County Commissioners apprised of any updates received regarding Warm Mineral Springs so that the County may plan accordingly for the gateway.

There was a consensus that the Sarasota County Administrator add an agenda item to a future Board of County Commissioners meeting to include the Three Graces Statue and the issue of ownership.

There was a consensus that the Sarasota County Administrator add an agenda item to a future Board of County Commissioners meeting to include the possibility of the addition of pedestrian and bike safety features to the road around the Three Graces Statue.

Recess 3:05 p.m. - 3:18 p.m.

F. Update on the Suncoast Technical College joint-use library project.

County Administrator Harmer introduced Libraries and Historical Resources Director Kalajian who provided a brief overview of the library project for the Suncoast Technical College. Several commissioners expressed enthusiasm for the addition of the technical college and library, which will add greatly to the educational resources of the area.

G. Discussion of planning efforts for a new public pool in the City of North Port.

City Commission Mayor Moore introduced City Manager Lewis, who provided an update regarding the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) items regarding the YMCA pool and the proposed 50-meter pool at Butler Park.

Discussion ensued: (1) citing the July 7, 2012 Joint Meeting between the Sarasota Board of County Commission and the City of North Port, Commissioner Robinson stated, in connection with the discussion pertaining to partnering in another pool, that the County only expressed interest, (with no commitment at that time) in a 50-meter pool, with the possibility of using the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) to help in the construction; (2) in September, 2012 the Board of County Commissioners discussed the issue and after a request for additional information, was informed that North Port had decided on a 25-meter pool and no additional information was forthcoming on the 50-meter pool. Since that time, funding was allocated from the TDT for other projects and suggested that the County Commission entertain another discussion regarding a competitive 50-meter swimming pool, however, no official request has been received from North Port in connection with the 50-meter pool; (3) Commissioner Yates reported that the project has been placed in the City's CIP with the dedication of \$2.3 million toward the product of a 50-meter pool and an official commitment by the North Port Commission may be easily obtained; (4) after the several necessary steps have been made, the Board of County Commissioners may appropriately appeal to the TDT for funding; (5) City Manager Lewis cited the draft minutes to a recent North Port City Commission Workshop. Subsequently, it was noted that there were some discrepancies in the minutes and clarification is being sought from the City Clerk.

H. Update on Conservation Foundation efforts related to the Orange Hammock Ranch property.

County Administrator Harmer introduced Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast President Johnson, who provided a brief history of the Orange Hammock Ranch property and a synopsis of the current negotiation path. Chairman Maio stated that the four neighboring County Commissions, the North Port City Commission, and the Peace River Water Authority unanimously voiced support for the purchase of this property.

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

County Commissioner Robinson commented on, and discussions were held, regarding several projects that the County has partnered in with the City of North Port.

Members of the Board of County Commissioners and City Commissioners expressed their thanks to Commissioners Robinson and Mason and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Members of the Board of County Commissioners and City Commissioners expressed gratitude for the collaboration between the County and the City of North Port.

4. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Public comment was held 4:02 p.m. -- 4:09 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Maio adjourned the North Port City Commission Joint Meeting with the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners at 4:10 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Linda M. Yates, Mayor

Attest: _____
Patsy C. Adkins, MMC, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2016.