

RDA Board Meeting — Sept 14, 2021

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm.

Present: Ken Antonetti, Jim Lampl, David Lough, Mike Marshall, Brett Morris, Anand Pallegar, Dawnyelle Singleton, Debbie Trice, Josh Weiner

Guests: Cheryl Mendelson and Sasha Hauser, CEO and Development Director, respectively, of the Van Wezel Foundation

1. Cheryl Mendelson presented plans for a multi-stage Performing Arts Center (PAC) at The Bay. The new PAC would be owned by a not-for-profit organization (the Foundation) rather than the City of Sarasota, which owns the Van Wezel. Cheryl is doing outreach to the Sarasota community to build support for the PAC.
2. Minutes from the August 10 meeting were approved.
3. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.
4. President's Report:
 - Brief discussion of Marlon Brown's request for suggestions from CCNA members of what to look for in a new Chief of Police. Jim volunteered to draft a list and circulate it to the other Board member for additions and suggestions.
5. Rosemary District Park Update
 - Anand reported that the RDA Park Committee has been disbanded due to potential Sunshine Law issues. Discussed, but unresolved, was the role the neighborhood as an organized entity will play in influencing the development of the park.
 - The Park Survey has been released. Anand did not present a specific plan for RDA to execute to get the survey distributed and completed by the Rosemary District community. Instead, he emphasized that Board Members as individuals use their networks and social media for that purpose. Josh had offered to sponsor an information session for CitySide residents; a suggestion was made that resident Board members hold sessions in their buildings. The Survey is already posted on the RDA website and will be included in the September Newsletter. Anand indicated that the Survey deadline is Sept. 30, but would prefer not to publicize that at this time.
6. October 20 Community Meeting
 - The Committee will meet to finalize plans for an online meeting (no in-person attendees). Potential speakers are Kevin Stiff (HOT Team) and Deborah Gauvreau (Suncoast Villages). No information (other than Save the Date) is ready at this time for the Newsletter.
7. City Finance Issues
 - Penny Tax: Board members felt we didn't have sufficient information on the question at this time to take a position
 - The Bay Park TIFF Board: The 4 members of the Board (2 City Commissioners and 2 County Commissioners) are accepting applications for the 5th seat. RDA Board believes that some expenditures should be made in the Rosemary portion of the TIFF district, and hope the 5th seat will be filled with someone who will advocate for that. Josh had indicated that he has applied for the seat and would appreciate our support. Anand mentioned Jon Thaxton as another possible candidate for the 5th seat. Anand made the following motion, seconded by David and passed unanimously:
 - If Josh Weiner submits an application for the Bay Park Improvement Board, the RDA should unanimously support him with letters of support to the 4 commissioners involved in the selection.

Anand was asked to follow up with Josh and to draft the letter of support.

- Impact Fees: David wants the Board to be aware that the City has not discussed using Multimodal Impact Fees for the BotA and 10th St Streetscape projects. Because of the size of these projects, not using all monies available should be concerning. David is not recommending any action at this time.
8. No Board actions recommended at this time by David.
9. Development Update:
- Dawnyelle reported the Lofts on Lemon is running into construction delays. They're now looking at Feb-Apr, 2022, for leasing and move-ins to begin on the 128 units.
 - Jim indicated that the Citrus Square developer is planning a similar development across the street.
10. Preparation for Board Nominating Period:
- Suggestions of what information potential Board Members need included: attend a Community Meeting and a Board Meeting; receive a list of current issues before the Board and active projects; know how to get started/involved. Qualifications: time and passion; desire to do the job; serve on an RDA committee; require attending a Board Meeting beforehand. Anand advocated for having a strategic plan for who we'd invite to join the Board, as Gulf Coast Community Foundation does.
 - This topic was deemed so important that the Board decided to hold a Special Meeting on it (via Zoom) on Tuesday, September 28 at 5:15.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm

Special Meeting scheduled: Tuesday, September 28 at 5:15–6:45 pm

Next Board meeting: Tuesday, Oct 12 at 5:15–6:45 pm