

# Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### October 24, 2017 ~ 6:00 PM

The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 in the Crown Buick /GMC Dealership Training Room, 5237 – 34<sup>th</sup> Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33714.

#### 1. Call to Order (Steve Cleveland, Chair)

Chairman Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

#### 2. Roll Call

**Members:** Steve Cleveland (Chair); Cheryl DiCicco; Dwayne Hawkins; James Roberto; Gary Grooms; Sean Ingber; and Enoch Nicholson

**Absent Members:** Danielle Barber and Brian Ellis

**County Staff:** Chris Young, Rachel Booth, Ryan Brinson, Caroline Lanford & Marcella Faucette

**Public:** Kayla Petrak; Eric Schleich; Scarlett Amey-Wyns; Kat O'Brien; Jere Anderson; Wendy Nicholson; Michael Mead; Mike Plott; Greg Schmidt and Sandra Sultaner

#### 3. Approval of Minutes – (August 22, 2017)

***Upon motion by Mr. Sean Ingber, seconded by Ms. Cheryl DiCicco, the minutes of the meeting of August 22, 2017 were unanimously approved.***

Several attendees commented that the CRA website had not been updated since 2016.

Mr. Young and Ms. Booth explained that the CRA Agency and CRA Advisory Committee meeting minutes are located in different website areas. Mr. Young will be working on a resolution. The group suggested website redirection features.

#### 4. Old Business

##### • Little library update

Mr. Young informed the Committee that the tiny library stands had been dropped off to all of the schools who had expressed an interest in the project. Fender Blenders donated time and materials to clean up and prime the stands for distribution. Mr. Brinson added that Home Depot (specifically the stores located on Florida State Road 60 and US HW19 & Curlew) donated paint and paintbrushes for the project. Ms. DiCicco stated that she has several boxes of donated books that she will deliver to Mr. Young at his Lealman office location. She then asked if there was a plan in place for the library boxes after they were stuffed as someone in Dunedin would like to adopt a box. Mr. Young responded that box adoption requires checking the boxes to ensure sufficient stocking of books and appropriate reading materials and touching base with him if additional books are needed or if there are any issues. Ms. Booth and Mr. Young are optimistic that the little library boxes will become a community group effort. Mr. Eric Schleich, a Lealman resident, volunteered to "adopt" the box if it is located in his neighborhood. Ms. Booth reminded the group that, as Lealman residents, they are paying into the library cooperative fund so she will reach out to the library to see the best model for maintaining projects such as this.

A few of the residents that were attending the LCRAAC meeting for the first time were not familiar with the Little Library Project. Mr. Young and Ms. DiCicco gave a brief overview of the project. Mr. Young added that there was also an attempt to provide books in other languages, specifically for the Asian residents in the Lealman community. In response to a question regarding the location of the little libraries, Mr. Young stated that he would provide a map of the little library locations to the Committee at the next meeting.

- **CRA programs update**

Mr. Young stated that there are 3 grant applications going through the finalized phase of the County review process that will soon be ready for roll out (*Residential Improvement Program, The Non-Residential Improvement program and the Business Recruitment and Retention program*). Mr. Young recapped the programs for the new attendees. He stated that both the Residential Improvement Program and the Non-Residential Improvement programs provided financial assistance in the form of a grant intended to reduce or eliminate the costs associated with the repair, rehabilitation, and enhancement of structures and that the improvements paid for by the CRA must be permanent and stay with the building. The distinction between the two is that one is beneficial to owner/tenant occupied residential properties for the improvement to the appearance, quality, and safety of the existing residential housing stock; while the other is a matching grant beneficial for business owners with new or existing businesses for the improvement to the appearance, quality, and functionality of the existing non-residential building stock and to attract new construction, while creating a more consistent and friendly public realm.

Lastly, he stated that the Business Recruitment and Retention program is designed to retain and attract businesses to the Lealman CRA and that it offers marketing, planning, and financial support to new or existing businesses that expand or relocate within the CRA. He further stated that the intent of this program is to improve the quality of jobs and businesses in the CRA by attracting and promoting entrepreneurs who are committed to workforce expansion and quality job creation.

- **Door hanger/flyer update**

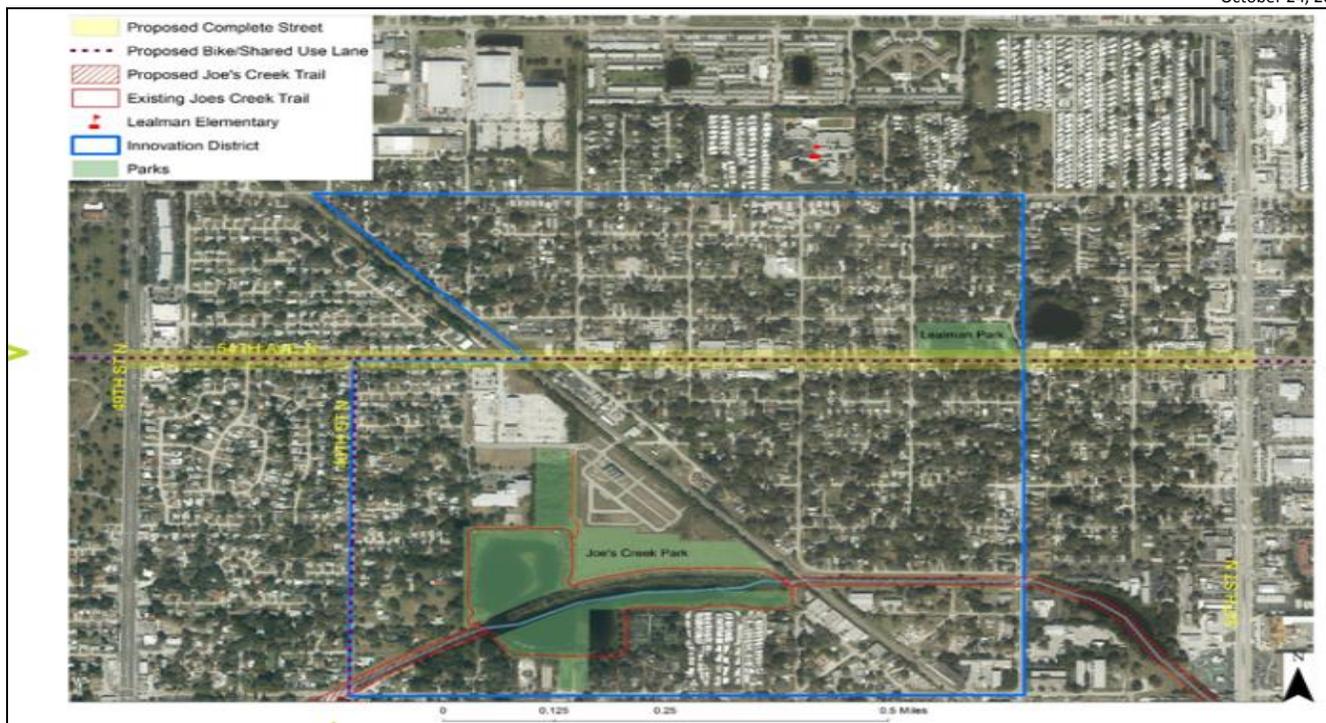
Mr. Young provided an example of the door hanger draft for review and comment. The Committee was in agreement with Mr. Grooms that the background should be simplified and that it should contain no more than three (3) pictures with boundaries. The template is capable of being printed as a flyer to be used for handouts that could be passed out or emailed.

## **5. New Business**

- **Complete Streets Update (Caroline Lanford)**

Mr. Young informed the attendees that as previously indicated, he would invite other County staff to the LCRAAC meetings when the agenda permits, to speak about something of interest to the CRA Community. He then introduced Caroline Lanford, Long Range Transportation Principal Planner.

Ms. Lanford gave a synopsis of the Complete Streets grant that she and Ms. Booth worked on with Forward Pinellas. She explained that Pinellas County Planning requested \$50,000 in Forward Pinellas Complete Streets Program matching funds for concept planning on the 54th Avenue east-west corridor within the Lealman CRA. The study corridor is specifically located on 54th Avenue North (54th Ave. N) between 49th Street North (49th St. N) to the west and US 19 (34th St. N) to the east.



Ms. Lanford continued that the purpose of the project is intended to explore complete streets concepts to enhance safety and increase the level of service for all modes of transportation including motor vehicle, bike, public transit, and pedestrians. Additionally, the study would look at the enhancement of recreational amenities like Joe's Creek Greenway Park, the Pinellas Trail east-west extension, and proposed pedestrian improvements along 40th Street North, between 58th Avenue North and 54th Avenue North.

Ms. Lanford further explained that the conceptual plans created during this phase of the project will create opportunities for more accessible and efficient connections between residences, schools, parks and recreation facilities, public transportation, and a growing local commercial presence. This application is anticipated to be the first of a multi-phase (Design and Construction) project, with the second phase to commence during FY2018/2019, following an estimated 6 month planning period.

It is anticipated that development of a concept plan could be accomplished in approximately six (6) months. If the concept plan is approved by the Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas County would begin the design process. Depending on the complexity of the concept plan, anticipated design and engineering timelines could vary between six (6) and 24 months. Pinellas County would then seek to start construction. The construction timeline is dependent upon a number of variables including: complexity of design, construction sequencing, and availability of funds.

- **Hurricane Irma update**

Mr. Young informed the attendees that Pinellas County was continuing with debris pickup. He encouraged the use of See-Click-Fix for reporting issues in the neighborhood.

- **CRA Agency logo/website update (Lealman CRA logo concept)**

Ms. Booth informed the Committee that the CRA Agency was working on the selection of a logo. When questioned by the Committee about selecting yet another logo, Ms. Booth explained that there was a distinction between the CRA Agency and the CRA Advisory Committee, and the Agency was interested in the Committee's opinion.

The Committee selected the following:



Ms. Booth additionally stated that in an effort to maximize consulting dollars she requested several additional examples of a potential Lealman CRA logos. She presented the logos to the committee for discussion and to determine if there was any interest to reevaluate the current Lealman CRA logo. She indicated that several of the CRA Agency members had reservations concerning the logo and its similarity to the the Pinellas County logo. After several minutes of discussion Gary Grooms motioned to keep the current Lealman CRA logo, the motion was seconded by Cheryl DiCicco.

- **CRA Advisory member terms ending in December**

Mr. Young informed the Committee that Mr. James Roberto, Mr. Enoch Nicholson and Mr. Sean Ingber's terms were expiring in December and that they were welcome to reapply. The application would be available in November.

- **Holiday meeting schedule/Next year meeting schedule (monthly/bi-monthly)**

Mr. Young asked the Committee their preference for meeting in the months of November and December. The Committee voted 6-1, to not meet during the month of November and scheduled the next CRA meeting for December 12, 2017. Mr. Nicholson commented he would like to meet both months for citizen support. Mr. Young assured Mr. Nicholson that he would attend the community meetings to answer questions and provide updates when applicable. Ms. Booth stated that she would send out an email once the door hangers were available online.

***Upon motion by Mr. Gary Grooms, seconded by Ms. Cheryl DiCicco, the Advisory Committee will not meet in the month of November, but will meet on December 12, 2017 was approved 6-1.***

***Upon motion by Mr. Sean Ingber, seconded by Mr. Enoch Nicholson, the Advisory Committee will meet monthly in 2018, at least through March 2018, was unanimously approved.***

## 6. Comments

- The committee members provided the time and locations of the monthly community meetings to the new attendees

## 7. Citizen Input

- An inquiry was made regarding the Brewery that recently opened in Lealman. Ms. Booth stated that the Brewery was not a direct result of CRA efforts; however, reinvestment interest in Lealman has increased.

## **8. Next Meeting Date and Items for Next Agenda (Tentative)**

- December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Gary Grooms made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Dwayne Hawkins. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.