



Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Lealman Exchange, 5175 45th St N, St. Petersburg 33714
June 26, 2019, 6:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Steve Cleveland, Enoch Nicholson, Oscar Seguban, Cheryl DiCicco, Father Carlos Rojas

Members Absent: Brian Ellis, Art O'Hara, Marsha McCoy, Gary Grooms

County Staff Present: David Sadowsky, Chris Moore, Tanya Kurtin, Teri Hasbrouck, Rhonda Bowman, Mike Meidel

I. Call to Order (Steve Cleveland)

Chairman Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Advisory Committee and Staff Introductions

Advisory Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

III. Approval of the April 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April 24, 2019 meeting were approved as corrected by consensus vote.

IV. Lealman Economic Development Update

- **EPA Brownfields Grant Award:** Teri Hasbrouck, Pinellas County Environmental Program Coordinator, announced the County secured a \$300,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 assessments on sites located within the Lealman CRA boundaries. The EPA defines a brownfield as a property on which redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Assessment Grants provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, conduct a range of planning activities, develop site-specific cleanup plans, and conduct community involvement related to brownfield sites. The performance period for this grant is three years. While no specific sites in the Lealman CRA have been identified as contaminated, the assessment grant can be used by the County or private developers to assess whether certain sites may have contamination. Ms. Hasbrouck indicated these grants can spur redevelopment in part because the assessment process can be a tool to remove stigmas associated with properties believed to be contaminated but are not.
- **Regional Stormwater Facility Study:** Rhonda Bowman, Pinellas County Stormwater Engineer, presented on a regional stormwater that has recently begun. The general scope of this project is to identify and assess opportunities for regional stormwater retention for the Lealman CRA and develop a stormwater credit system for the area. The project will identify regional stormwater management opportunities within the Lealman CRA to provide stormwater attenuation and treatment for new development and redevelopment, and to improve flooding level of service and water quality. A regional stormwater system can directly benefit business owners by allowing them to not have to provide attenuation and treatment on their site, as is normally required, and therefore allowing them to use more of their property for business expansion purposes.
- **Economic Development Staff at the Lealman Exchange:** Mike Meidel, Pinellas County



Economic Development Director, announced an economic development staff person will now be located at the Lealman Exchange on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. This staff member will serve as a business consultant providing direct services to small business owners. Consultants can assist entrepreneurs in a variety of business areas, including: marketing, business certification, capital access, market diversification, developing strategic business plans, export services, and web optimization. For more information or to schedule a consultant you can go to: www.sbdctampabay.com/pinellas/.

- **Apprenticeship Program Discussion:** Mr. Meidel gave a presentation on apprenticeship programs at the local, state and federal level. Mr. Meidel's presentation included information on how apprenticeships are defined at the federal level, how the state administers programs and examples of local programs currently being implemented. Staff will continue to explore opportunities to use CRA funds to leverage these opportunities for Lealman residents, either by creating a new apprenticeship program specific to the CRA or by expanding opportunities for Lealman residents to access existing programs provided by established apprenticeship entities.

V. CRA Grant Programs Updates

- **Residential and Non-Residential Improvement Grants:** Mr. Moore presented on the status of the residential and non-residential improvement grant programs. Staff continues to work with applicants who have applied for residential grants. Most applicants have indicated they have experienced challenges finding contractors to perform the work. County staff continues to work with applicants on a case by case basis to alleviate this challenge. The non-residential grant program has had multiple applicants who have begun work or have completed work and submitted for reimbursement.
- **Community Arts & Culture Program:** Mr. Moore provided an update on the creation of an Arts and Culture grant program that the Advisory Committee had previously allocated \$100,000 in TIF funding. Staff has continued working with Advisory Committee member Father Carlos Rojas and Barbara St. Clair, executive director of Creative Pinellas. Ms. St. Clair presented on a pilot program Creative Pinellas is launching that partners with local arts organizations to establish satellite offices within existing community centers to more proactively bring arts programming to underserved communities. The benefit of this model is that these arts organizations already have curriculum, trained arts teachers, and existing programs that are tried and true. Examples of the types of programming that could be brought to the Lealman Exchange include theatre and dance, jewelry and pottery making, creative writing, and musical programming, among many others. Ms. St. Clair pointed out that arts programming can address challenges present in low income communities such as employment and mental health. Ms. St. Clair shared that arts programming can be viewed in the same context as the economic and workforce development discussion earlier in the meeting as, based on previous Pinellas County Economic Development Department research, the creative industries account for approximately 16,500 jobs in Pinellas County, which is about 3.6% of the total workforce and 5.8% of all of the companies in the county, while paying higher than average wages. As an example of how art can address mental health, Ms. St. Clair introduced Paula Parish with the Morean Arts Center who presented on a program they offer called Operation Art of Valor, which is a glass blowing program specifically created for Veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Staff stated a more detailed proposal breaking down the budgeted funds will be provided at the next meeting.



VI. Advisory Committee Member Comments: No members had comments.

VII. Citizen Input: One resident commented they found the meeting very informative and stressed the importance of providing programming for children at the Lealman Exchange to improve their chances for success.

VIII. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM