

Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2018 ~ 6:00 PM

The meeting was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 in the Crown Buick /GMC Dealership Training Room, 5237 – 34th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33714.

1. Call to Order (Steve Cleveland)

Chairman Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members: Steve Cleveland; Cheryl DiCicco; Enoch Nicholson; Gary Grooms; Brian Ellis

Absent Members: Dwayne Hawkins; Danielle Barber

County Staff: Rachel Booth, Ryan Brinson; Caroline Lanford; Rebecca Stonefield; Alexandra Keen
Joan M. Rice & Marcella Faucette

Kimley Horn Consultants: Jared Schneider; Kelly Fearon

Public: Eric Schleich; Laura Rogers; Wendy Nicholson; Jennifer Webb; Scarlett Amey-Wyns

3. Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2017 Meeting

As there was no quorum, there was no vote regarding the Approval of Minutes for the December 12, 2017 meeting.

The Approval of Minutes will be revisited at the February 27, 2018 meeting.

4. Administrative Business

- New Committee Members & Officer Election discussion (tentatively scheduled for February 27, 2018 meeting.)

The Advisory Committee is comprised of nine (9) members. The advisory committee service terms for Mr. Enoch Nicholson, Mr. James Roberto and Mr. Sean Ingber expired on December 31, 2017.

Mr. Nicholson has re-applied for another term of service. Both Mr. Ingber and Mr. Roberto, however, elected not to reapply. Several interested candidates have submitted applications. New members will be selected by the BBC during the February 6, 2017 Board Meeting.

5. Old Business

- CRA program applications

Ms. Booth informed the Committee that the applications and guidelines had been updated and were ready to go. She further added that they had been posted on the website. A copy of both were provided to the Committee. During the Committee's review, a couple of errors were identified. Ms. Booth stated that the website versions would be updated quickly and to ensure, if giving them out, that the versions from the website are used.

Mr. Cleveland informed the Committee that he and his team have been assisting the residents in filling out the applications. He also inquired if notaries from the community could be used. Ms. Booth responded affirmatively. In response to an inquiry regarding hardcopy submittals, Ms. Booth stated that the applications could be turned in to her, Mr. Brinson, or code enforcement. She also added that there would be a 48 hour turn around approval period.

In response to an inquiry regarding code enforcement inspections, Mr. Brinson explained that code enforcement inspections would only concern itself with the issue at hand and would not be used as an intrusive, investigative tool.

6. New Business

- 2018 CRA legislation overview

Mr. Cleveland gave a brief overview of **House Bills #6a-2018-HB-17C1/SB 432**, two House Bills that directly impact CRAs across the state of Florida. He provided copies of the letter that he wrote in his role as Executive Director of the Florida Dream Center to Chris Sprowls, a member of the Florida House of Representatives, expressing how detrimental these two bills would be to the

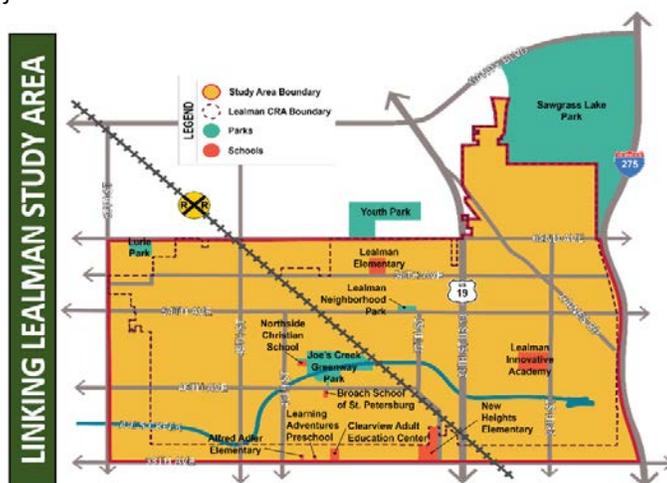
Lealman and City of St. Petersburg CRAs, should the Bills pass. Several Committee Members expressed disappointment that they were not made aware that the Bills existed, as they too, would have liked the opportunity to write letters and/or start a petition. They asked to be kept in the loop regarding anything affecting the CRA.

- **Consultant presentation**

Kimley Horn Consultant, Jared Schneider, presented a PowerPoint presentation and conducted an interactive activity to obtain the attendees' perspective on existing conditions in order to better identify challenges and opportunities in the Lealman area.

The January 2018 edition of the Linking Lealman Newsletter was also provided detailing the Linking Lealman Plan. The Plan is a study that will focus on improving transportation in Lealman whether by car, bicycle, bus, mobility device or by foot. The study will also identify challenges and opportunities, look at alternative improvements, and result in a plan that can be implemented through the Pinellas County Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

Mr. Schneider pointed out that the study area is larger than the Lealman CRA boundary and includes more of the surrounding transportation network. Improvements to 62nd Avenue North between 49th and 38th Streets North is an existing CIP project. An evaluation of potential "complete streets" improvements on 54th Avenue between 49th and 38th Streets North is an initial Linking Lealman project.



Mr. Schneider explained that the concept "Complete Streets" is important for **safety** (reduction of crashes); **equity** (balanced transportation systems); **choice** (provision of transportation options); **health** (opportunity to increase activity); **wealth** (improved connectivity between where people live, work, play).

Some of projects that are being considered to develop a more balanced and safe transportation network in Lealman include: sidewalks, multiuse paths, signs, bicycle lanes, street connections, public art, turning lanes, signals, bicycle racks, medians, lighting, benches, crosswalks, safety improvements, and greenways. The plan is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2018.



- **New meeting location discussion**

Ms. Booth indicated that the County's closing on the Lealman Community Campus, formerly the Windsor School, would be taking place on January 31, 2018 and that future meetings could be held at the new location. The Lealman Community Campus is located adjacent to Joe's Creek Greenway park (5175 – 45th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33714). The committee members that were in attendance were very receptive to a change in location.

Ms. Booth went on to explain that the Campus would be advantageous for Community Meetings; Workshops & Mentor Programs; Adult Education; Workforce Training; After-School Programs; Youth Empowerment; Small Business & Networking; Arts & Recreation; County Extension Offices; Co-working & Touchdown Space.

Ms. Booth indicated that County staff would soon occupy the Campus to present a County presence.

Ms. Booth further expressed the County's plan to host an Open House event on February 24, 2018 at the Lealman Community Campus. She stated that more information would be provided about the open house closer to the event date.

7. Comments

- Mr. Cleveland informed the Committee that there were going to be people in Lealman conducting the Homeless Count.
- There was concern that since Mr. James Roberto was no longer a part of the Advisory Committee that there was no longer a representative to attend the LCDS Meeting. Ms. Booth stated that keeping the sunshine in mind, that anyone can attend the meeting, not as a representative, but as a resident. She also stated that someone from the LCDS Board could come and speak at one of the Committee meetings or someone could just obtain a copy of the LCDS meeting minutes.

8. Citizen Input

- Ms. Jennifer Webb indicated that she went to Tallahassee to advocate for CRAs
- All of those in attendance participated in the interactive activity conducted by Mr. Schneider to obtain the attendees' perspective on existing conditions in order to better identify challenges and opportunities in the Lealman area.
The following challenges were identified:
 - Narrow sidewalks
 - Missing or disconnected sidewalks
 - Insufficient lighting
 - Pot holes (*Ms. Joan Rice, Public Works, informed the attendees that the County has a resurfacing program*)
 - No bike lanes
 - Poor intersection layouts
- Suggestions were made for wayfinding signs, midblock crossings, speed control, painted intersection crosswalks, medians and bus stop re-locations
- In response to an inquiry regarding improvements for arterials verses local streets, Ms. Caroline Lanford stated that local streets would not necessarily be left out as there is a toolbox of improvements that could be done on local streets.
- After a request for updates, Ms. Booth stated:
 - A Park concept plan is being developed for Joe's Creek Greenway Park.
 - There are future plans for the Lealman Heights Administrative building to come down and eventually be the site for a redevelopment project.

9. Next Meeting Date and Items for Next Agenda (Tentative)

- February 27, 2018

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.