

# Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### March 28, 2017 ~ 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 in the Central Lealman Target area, in the Duval Park clubhouse, a Pinellas County affordable multi-family housing project primarily for veterans, located at 5025 Duval Circle, St. Petersburg, FL 33714.

#### 1. Call to Order (James Roberto-co-chair)

The meeting opened at 6:15 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

**Members:** Gary Grooms; Jorge Mercado; Cheryl DiCicco, Dwayne Hawkins; Steve Cleveland Danielle Barber; Brian Ellis and James Roberto.

**Absent Members:** Sean Ingber

**County Staff:** Jacob Stowers; David Sadowsky, Esq.; Rachel Booth, Chris Young and Marcella Faucette

**Forward Pinellas Staff:** Rodney Chatman; Alicia Parinello

**Public:** Eric Schleich- Lealman Resident

Jessica Soleyn- AECOM

Nick Myers – AECOM

#### 3. Approval of Minutes – February 28, 2017 Meeting

*Upon motion by Mr. Jorge Mercado, seconded by Mr. Gary Grooms, the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2017 were unanimously approved.*

#### 4. Old Business

- **Committee memberships/Sunshine- Mr. David Sadowsky, Esq.**

Assistant County Administrator, Jake Stowers and Sr. Assistant County Attorney, David Sadowsky attended the meeting to address questions or concerns the committee/board members had regarding Florida's Sunshine Law. Clarification of the law was requested due to the fact that four CRA Advisory Board members are also voting members on the Board of Directors for the Lealman Community District Services, Inc. (LCDS), a nonprofit 501c 3. Mr. Stowers and Mr. Sadowsky explained that having two or more voting members on multiple boards with a similar vision/purpose can potentially cause situations that could violate the Sunshine Law. Mr. Mercado expressed that the number of individuals willing to get involved to bring about change and improvement within the Lealman community is very limited; and as a direct result, the same people are often approached to participate on numerous committees and boards. Both Mr. Stowers and Mr. Sadowsky were in agreement with Mr. Mercado's statement; however, they reiterated the importance of not violating the Sunshine Law while attempting to serve the community. They further clarified that having one member attend a variety of community meetings as a non-voting representative, or simply as a Lealman resident, however, would not present an issue.

Ms. Booth stated that it is very likely that grants submitted by various entities for funding for services and/or improvement projects in Lealman will come before both the LCRAAC and the LCDS for recommendations/votes which could create a potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Stowers, Mr. Sadowsky and Ms. Booth advised the Members to think about their roles on the committee/board and where they believed they could be the most effective. They stressed their availability for questions and guidance.

Ms. DiCicco decided to withdraw from the LCDS as the representative for the LCRAAC. She stated that she would officially send her decision in writing to Mr. Neil Brickfield.

Mr. Mercado stated, that he was resigning from the LCRAAC effective immediately and that he would send his resignation letter to Ms. Booth and Mr. Young. He thanked the membership and left the meeting.

After addressing the remaining comments and questions of the Committee, Mr. Stowers and Mr. Sadowsky left the meeting. They assured the Committee that they would make themselves available should additional concerns/questions arise.

Ms. Booth asked the Members to submit updated affiliation forms to her or Mr. Young. She additionally requested that they also let her or Mr. Young know if anyone is considering resigning from the Committee so that they will know how many seats need to be filled. The plan for the next meeting is to elect Chair /Co-chair positions.

- **Little Library public art project update**

Ms. Booth gave kudos to Ms. Cheryl DiCicco and Mr. Ryan Brinson, the newest member of the CRA/ Redevelopment Section, for their involvement in the Little Library project. The project utilizes surplus newspaper vending machines as book exchanges for residents (both adults and children) in Lealman. Mr. Brinson was instrumental in obtaining the newspaper vending machines from the St. Petersburg Times for the project. The machines will be strategically located throughout the Lealman CRA. Ms. DiCicco has volunteered to work on the project, working with other retired teachers to stock the vending machines with books and monitor their book supply. Ms. DiCicco is working with a variety of art organizations (i.e. the Arts Honor Society) to decorate the vending machines. The Arts Honor Society participates with the Bright Futures program and allows high school students to volunteer in order to get the required volunteer hours. Students will be able to assist with the project and receive volunteer hours for their time.

- **Strategic Action Plan – Approval Process Timeline**

Ms. Booth gave a brief update of regarding the timeline of the Action Plan's approval process. The plan will initially be heard by the Local Planning Agency (LPA). It will then be presented to the Board. The goal is to move quickly to utilize the funds quickly in the most efficient way.

- **Public Art-mural project discussion**

Ms. Booth stated that she has been communicating with a local artist regarding a mural project on a side of a building on US 19, preferably on a corner. The artist, however, suggested a building that belongs to her brother that is in need of an uplift. If his building is used for the project, the artist would be willing to offset the cost where it may only include the cost of the paint. She typically charges \$30-\$35 per square foot in addition to the cost of the paint. The building that the artist is proposing is not on a corner and would want to put the mural on the front of the building.

Ms. Booth asked if the committee was interested in moving forward with such a project. Ms. Booth explained that public art is in the Plan and that it technically could be considered a facade improvement.

Mr. Grooms commented, with agreement from the Members, that there are numerous other local artists out in the community that may present the same or better arrangements with more building options, but just need to know the process. He further stated that widening the pool would allow for a more competitive process.

- **Joe's Creek Greenway Park recreation improvements public engagement update**

Ms. Booth informed the Committee that there are dedicated funds with preliminary plans for a soccer field and a smaller multipurpose field. However, the Board of County Commissioners is concerned about public input on the project. In order to gauge community interest a public engagement process has been recommended. Staff is currently working on a questionnaire for the public to have the opportunity to weigh in on the decision. Mr. Young will send out an announcement letting the committee know when the survey is finished and available. The public will be notified via newspaper announcement, flyers and postcards. The survey will be available for public feedback for approximately one month.

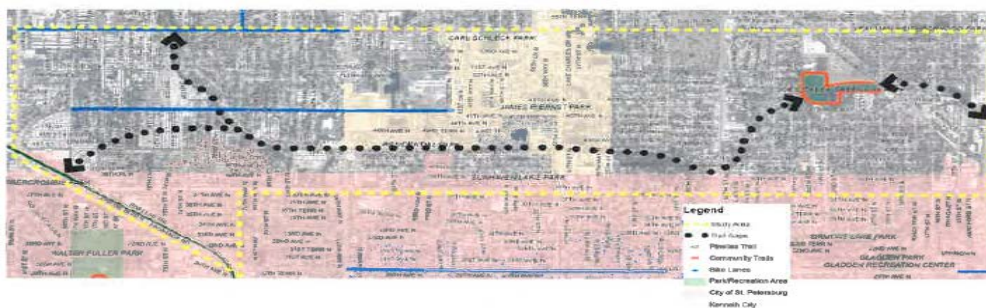
- **Forward Pinellas/AECOM Presentation – Joe's Creek Trail Alignment Study**

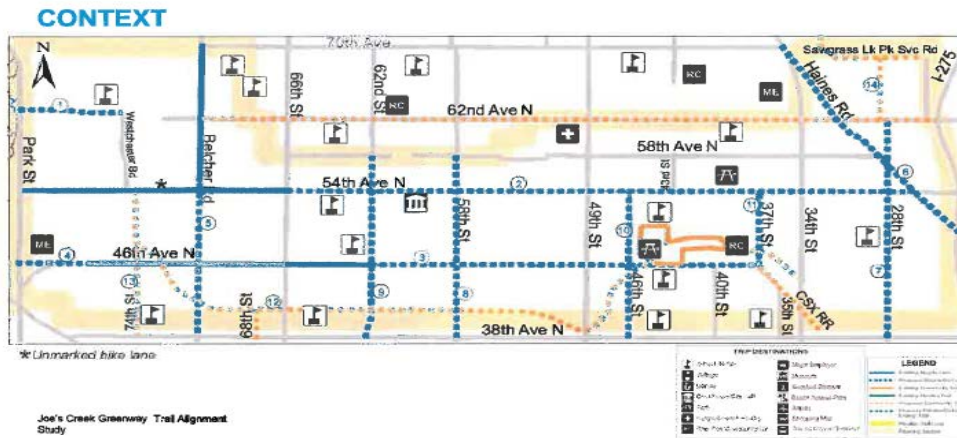
A presentation was presented by representatives of AECOM that explained a feasibility study that is currently being conducted to determine/identify potential routes and associated costs of a pedestrian trail expansion east-west from St Pete, 34<sup>th</sup> Ave N. to Park street incorporating Joe's Creek Greenway Park's current trail system. (In total approximately 4 miles)

## OVERVIEW

- **Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) grant program**
  - Funds through the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County
  - Projects designed to encourage more active lifestyles
- **Study to determine preferred alignment for Joe's Creek Greenway Trail as identified in the Forward Pinellas Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan**
  - Integral part of multimodal transportation planning process
  - Aims to achieve a healthy and safe route for bicycle and pedestrian travel from Joe's Creek Neighborhood Greenway to the Pinellas Trail and surrounding communities
- **In coordination with the Pinellas County Planning Department**
  - Contributing nearly \$35,000 in funding
  - Total project cost about \$88,000
- **Scheduled to be completed by May 31, 2017.**

## STUDY AREA





### GOALS

- Connect Joe's Creek Greenway Park to the Pinellas Trail and 54<sup>th</sup> Ave N
- Provide connections to Lealman CRA projects
- Connection to adjacent municipalities – St. Petersburg and Kenneth City
- Consistent with 2040 LRTP and Bike/Ped Master Plan
- Provide a route that utilizes a 12' multi-use trail
- Provide links to PSTA facilities
- Connect Joe's Creek Greenway Park to 34<sup>th</sup> Street (US 19) and future City of St. Petersburg facilities



Joe's Creek Greenway Trail Alignment Study



### 5. Comments

None

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

- a. April 25, 2017
- b. Elect chair/co-chair positions

*Upon motion by Mr. Steve Cleveland, seconded by Mr. Brian Ellis, the next meeting date, scheduled for April 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., at the Crown Buick/GMC Dealership location, was unanimously approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.