

**MINUTES
TOWN CENTER COMMUNITY
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING
APRIL 19, 2023 - 5:30 PM
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wernet called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at the Destin City Hall Annex Council Chambers with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

TC Members Present

Lockwood Wernet
Michele Sandstead
Delores Morrell
Dorothy Robinson
Joshua Cowsert
Nikki Johnson

Member Absent

Staff Present

Kim Montgomery Deputy Clerk
Steven O'Connor
Ryan Scott City Engineer

3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: NONE

4. OLD BUSINESS:

There was a brief discussion regarding the Linear Park and the status of the members' comments. Mr. O'Connor explained to the members with an update and how it is scheduled to go before City Council for their consideration.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Development Projects & City Projects**

Committee member Sandstead mentioned that for years they have been discussing the Linear Park at these committee meeting and there was never mentioned a roadway being installed and asked at what point did it become a priority to install a road instead of the park. vacant

According to Mr. O'Connor, to be clear, staff is not prioritizing or recommending a road over the park. Accordingly, he spoke of how he cannot speak to what past staff may have said, nor why the roadway was never mentioned, or the policies of the Comprehensive Plan, the Town Center CRA Master Plan, the Master Pathways Plan or the Land Development Code, that clearly states that a roadway should go through there. Additionally, the lack of connectivity through the immediate area is recognized as a blight. He emphasized that is in no way recommending the road over the park however, they cannot design one without the other and currently they are only

now at the design phase, and it only makes sense to have them both designed at the same time for cost saving reasons for the future.

Mr. Scott added that for grant purposes, FDOT has said time and again that a “shelf ready” project that is completely designed out, those will always be prioritized for grant funding.

There was a brief discussion regarding what utility would be installed for future use if any and how the transmission lines and distribution lines that run the length of FPL’s easement are critical for power and how most likely FPL will not allow anything else through the area.

Committee member Sandstead questioned the location of the Valiant Townhomes. Mr. O'Connor indicated they're located on the north side of Airport Road in a small section on the north side of Airport Road next to the Church on the property with the tall trees and it is within the boundaries of the Town Center District.

➤ **Financial Update for Long-Term Planning**

Ms. Strickland explained that FPL will be bringing their binding cost estimates to Council in the June timeframe and then afterwards staff will be putting out a Request for Proposals for the contractor.

The members discussed the two bids that are out for the Town Center Master Conceptual Planning and the Linear Park Design, and how the Master Plan mechanism comes into play with regard to redevelopment of areas within the district.

Chairman Wernet questioned the \$250k that is budgeted that seems very low in comparison to the numbers budgeted out for the following years.

➤ **Holiday Decorations – Michael Burgess**

Ms. Strickland informed the members that Mr. Burgess is unable to attend the meeting but provided the members with a brief detail of the funds set aside.

Mr. O'Connor asked the members to look over the information they were provided with in the meantime. Also, the city has 15 tall trees that they have used in the past couple of years and to decide areas of their district they’d like to have them installed and speak to Mr. Burgess of those locations.

Committee member Johnson spoke of how disappointing the quality of decorations was in the last few years on Main Street and there needs to be better preparation and planning of the installation going forward so it doesn’t look like it was decorated at the last minute.

Committee member Cowser spoke of the need to get the word out to the public about the Christmas Decoration Contest to get more people engaged to decorate the district. Mr. O'Connor informed him that the city has a PIO and he will ask if she can attend their next meeting to help them understand how she will push the information out.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Committee member Morrell spoke of the illegal activities that are taking place in the district and questioned if anything would be done about it. Mr. O'Connor explained the department has a new director and he would be who she should direct her complaints to.

Chairman Wernet asked staff to invite him to their next meeting so they can express their concerns to him. Mr. O'Connor stated that he would place both the PIO and the Code Compliance Director under their prospective names on the agenda. He then informed the members that their meeting in May will shift to a different date because of scheduling for 3TP staff to fly in for their presentation.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Adopted and approved 24 day of May 2023

Lockwood Wernet
Lockwood Wernet Chairman

Kim Montgomery
Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk