

**MINUTES
HARBOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT
AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 12, 2023 - 5:30 PM
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2023, in the Destin City Hall Council Chambers.

2. ROLL CALL & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Present

Sandy Trammell
James Green
Casey Jones
Christian Myers
Mike Buckingham

Members Absent

Ian Blaise
Jan Best

Staff Present

Rey Bailey City Clerk
Steven O'Connor Principal Planner
Rachel Hoag, Planner
Krystal Strickland, Finance Director
Michael Burgess, PW Director

3. MINUTES: None

4. OLD BUSINESS:

➤ **None**

5. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Development Reports – March 2023**

Committee member Green asked for the update on the Royal Melvin Heritage Park. According to Committee member Buckingham, since the Council released the contractor, city staff has been installing the irrigation system and when that is finished, the sod can be installed. Committee member Buckingham also provided the members with the status of the stormwater for the project.

The City Attorney provided the members with the latest status for the acquisition of the last property for the Cross Town Connector.

Committee member Trammell asked for an update on the parking for Zerbe Street and if they would include LSV parking there. Mr. O'Connor provided the members with the current information.

Chairman Green asked about the status of the plan to take the boardwalk under the bridge.

According to Mr. O'Connor, because the Marler Bridge is now part of a FDOT 5-year

PD&E study, the State is not interested in any kind of project to go under it at this time if in the near future, it may have to be replaced.

Committee member Buckingham, spoke of how he is shocked that FDOT is now not interested in going underneath the bridge. Mr. O'Connor added that it may have something to do with the high powered gas line that runs under the bridge.

➤ **Financial Update – Long-term Planning – Krystal Strickland**

Ms. Strickland explained to the members the projections they have before them extend to the sunset of the committee in 2043. She then referred the members to the 110-Fund for their Fund Balance information. Additionally, she explained that part Florida Power & Light (FPL) Electrical Franchise Agreement, was to start the undergrounding project which is to begin this coming Fall and a Request for Proposal will be put out sometime in July. She explained she should have a binding cost estimate from FPL by the end of May to early June timeframe with the project starting sometime in October. She then informed the member of the upfront financing she will need for the project. Also, keep in mind that it's long-term for the next 20 years and staff will be working on the finances for the project, that will include grant opportunities.

Ms. Strickland also informed the members of the fee increases for parking and how staff is bringing before Council a nonresident parking fee sticker program that businesses can purchase for their staff to place on their vehicles to help their workers to help offset the increase on their employees that need to park off site of the businesses they work for.

Chairman Green asked why the city would want to increase the fees 400% for parking on properties that public funds were used to purchase.

Mr. O'Connor explained that how public parking is a huge drain on municipalities and spoke how they would never be able to recoup the costs to build and maintain them. He also spoke of how the fee of \$5.00 a day was probably the lowest public parking fee in the State, and compared it to toll roads, and the person has a choice to take a toll road or not and if they choose to take the toll road, they made the choice to pay the toll, he compared it to a user tax. Same goes with paying to park, there are other options for people to park or not bring a vehicle at all.

Ms. Strickland explained the increase would help offset the wear and tear on the infrastructure from the population increase to the city, that is not from residents who live here full time.

Mr. Burgess mentioned that this nonresident parking pass is for anyone that comes to the city often who could use the program to park while in town. Committee member Buckingham suggested having a parking pass program for anyone to use to park anywhere in the city and not just the Harbor District.

➤ **Holiday Decorations – Michael Burgess**

Mr. Burgess explained that there are limitations to where the decorations can be placed because FPL will not approve of anything to be mounted on their lighted fixtures that has to get power from a secondary source or if it has any gear on it they won't allow those to have anything mounted on them either. Additionally, with the upcoming undergrounding project, once the poles are removed, there will not be any for decorations. He also spoke of the availability of limited median space for any ground decorations and the lack of power available along them. He then spoke of the fixture that was always put up at the corner of Main Street and Hwy 98 quit working but spoke of how there are companies that will create custom fixtures similar to it, and with enough lead time there are companies to create them to any specifications.

Committee member Buckingham asked the following questions:

Is there an opportunity to have more power made available to the medians once the underground project starts and, is there be some kind of incentive to allow property owners to install matching poles at their property line, along the highway at the right-of-way. That way at different times of the year, things can be attached to them similar to how the Town Center does.

In the long term outlook of the Financials, Mr. O'Connor referred to the members to the bottom number, and how 10-years out, \$1.3M is what is projected for economic development and pointed out for them to keep in mind that if they continue in this direction for holiday decorations, every year, their earmarked funds is being dwindled from the very contentious debate they've had for parking structures.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding how to encourage businesses to decorate for the holidays and ways to decorate city owned property.

Motion by Trammell to leave the decorations as planned last year to have the red and white strings on the poles going down Royal Melvin and the tree on the deck and the blue lights around the rails, Committee member Jones provided the second, the motion passed 5-0.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS:

➤ **Vice Chair Trammell – Nothing**

➤ **Committee member Jones – Nothing**

➤ **Committee member Myers – Nothing**

➤ **Committee member Buckingham – Nothing**

➤ **Committee member Trammell -** Questioned what the historical overlay is for the

harbor district that may not be included in the current zoning. Mr. O'Connor explained that the South Harbor Mixed Use District and the North Harbor Mixed Use District are two distinct districts, and how the planning areas that were identified are not the same as the zoning districts. Additionally, staff is working on recommendations for design standards and best practices to bring back to the CRA Advisory Committees for discussion to be implemented in the Design Manual for the Land Development Code.

➤ **Chairman Green – Made the following motions:**

Motion by Chairman Green, seconded by Committee member Jones to recommend to the City Council to request the city engage the TDC on funding opportunities to improve parking and roadways in the Harbor CRA District to address the parking deficit with bed tax money. The motion passed 5-0.

Motion to recommend the City Council to direct staff to research and reach out to the County to find a solution for used motor oil disposal for all businesses and residents of Destin. Committee member Buckingham provided the second. In discussion, Chairman Green spoke of how there is no longer a business in Destin that is willing to take in more than 5 gallons at a time and with the city's initiative for clean water in the harbor, he feels that the city should provide the service and spoke of grants that are available through the County from the State to help with building such a facility. Mr. Burgess mentioned that they do have a company scheduled that comes and picks up their used motor oil they store in metal drums.

Motion by Chairman Green, seconded by Committee member Jones to recommend that City Council to have a moratorium on all speed tables or speed bumps in the Harbor CRA along with the entire city. With Committee member Jones providing the second.

Committee member Jones stated the money being spent on speed table should be put towards parking.

Committee member Buckingham commented he's a fan of them and they work.

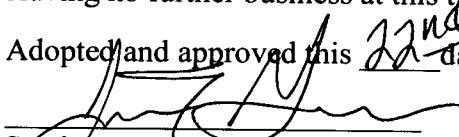
Chairman Green stated that the people that don't speed should not be the ones that have to deal with them and how now it's like a snowball effect where they're being requested all over the city now. He then stated that he agrees that it makes sense to have them near schools and parks but if there is a speeding problem, then that is an enforcement issue. Adding that he has them on the street he lives on and all they do is slow down emergency services time to getting to their destination, and people will slow down to go over one then speed up to the next one and mentioned they are counterintuitive to what it is they are supposed to do.

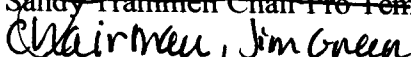
Committee member Trammell spoke out how Council can make the decision to have them installed without following the guidelines any other citizen would have to follow and amended the motion to add, **Council should not be able to circumvent the process. Committee member Jones provided the second. The motion passed 4-1 with Committee member Buckingham dissenting.**

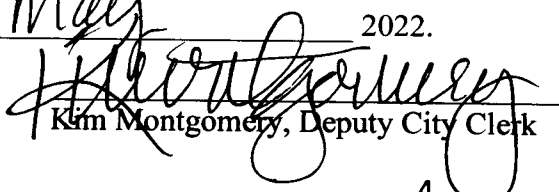
7. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Adopted and approved this 22nd day of May 2022.


Sandy Trammell Chair Pro Tem


Chairman, Jim Green


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk