

**CITY OF PALMETTO  
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING  
October 10, 2016  
5:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Harold Smith, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2  
Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1  
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner Ward 2

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Jeff Burton, CRA Director  
Jim Freeman, City Clerk  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director  
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police  
Penny Johnston, Executive Assistant

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

No audio is available for this meeting, due to technical difficulties.

1. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA (USF) PRESENTATION

Dr. Theodore Trent Green, Professor for USF School of Architecture and Community Design, introduced the preliminary concepts for the municipal trail systems. Dr. Green and USF students mentioned that trail systems improve walkability, connectivity, sustainability, and health for our community. Trail systems can also create an identity and make an impression for residents and tourists. Each of the three presentations included 3D models designed by a team of students. Conceptual pictures are attached and made a part of these minutes.

#1) LINEAR SPINE PROPOSAL- presented by Monitha Vakati, Yao Yu, and Abdulrahman Alorabi. Features included a green trail in the midst of the urban high speed roads, connecting the historical district, commercial sector, residential areas, and the parks. Railroad right of ways can be consolidated to make room for trails, along with opportunity lots, nature areas, and parking properties which can be aligned for the trail system. Improvements may include historic, urban and nature digital images to coincide with the location; vertical art; and green walls along the factories. The team suggested a pedestrian landmark bridge at the entrance to Palmetto which will connect walkways. The team also suggested extending the marina to add seating and dining places.

#2) LOOPS URBAN TRAIL PROPOSAL- presented by Ginliane Hungane, Yi Liu and Lintany Zhang. Team 2 suggested trails connecting parks and stores and schools, libraries, churches and more. Loops allow walkers and bikers to continue forward without having to double back. Each path segment is less than 1 mile, allowing the grid to easily be used as an exercise or fitness track. Markers along the path would describe the features or history of the site. The team offered a school loop, downtown loop and train loop. Mr. Burton added a proposed waterfront loop. Features included street art to slow traffic mid-block and create awareness of pedestrians and cyclists; rain gardens and bioswales created to help with water runoff; pollinator corridor which attracts butterflies; solar powered lights; recycled ground cover; and rainwater harvesting to improve sustainability. Water towers or gateway markers can enhance the City. Storm water parks still function as retention ponds but by adding landscaping, lighting, emergency phones, etc., the enhanced area becomes waterfront property.

#3) PEARL NECKLACE TRAIL PROPOSAL- presented by Zeerak Nomani, Xin Liu, and Ziyaun Wang. Team 3 proposed a trail system linking the jewels in Palmetto together like the gems in a necklace. They suggest a Fitness Trail, Art Walk, Entertainment Quarter, Historic Marina Walk, and Nature Trail. Trails would have benches, lights, sidewalks, artwork, butterfly flowerbeds, and greenery to provide shade and safety buffers from traffic. Even bat houses were discussed to reduce mosquitos. Students pointed out again, that walkable cities are healthier and friendlier, citing physical, environmental, social and economic benefits.

All cities want to invite businesses and tourists, and all cities are competing for the same consumer dollar. Trails offer environmental benefits, so federal funding may be available, such as Rails to Trails, EPA grants, or Greenways & Blue ways funding. Commission may have a future opportunity to meet with student teams during an advertised meeting.

## 2. ORDINANCE 2016-08 AUTO REPAIR SHOP MORATORIUM (A. Tusing/D. Woithe)

The current moratorium is set to expire December 5, 2016. Time did not permit discussion on this issue.

Mayor Bryant adjourned meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes approved: November 7, 2016

*James R. Freeman*

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk