

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING

August 2, 2021

4:30 pm

This Commission Meeting was conducted utilizing Communications Media Technology. Some Staff members were present in the Bradenton Area Convention Center, Longboat Key Room, while others were present via the Zoom application to respect the social distancing guidelines.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor

Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3

Sheldon Jones, Commissioner-at-Large 1

Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1 (Not Present)

Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2 (Entered meeting at 4:37 p.m.)

Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2

STAFF PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney

Mohammed Rayan, Public Works Director

Scott Tyler, Chief of Police

Jim Freeman, City Clerk

Cheryl Miller, Finance Director

Kera Hill, Planning Analyst

Jeff Burton, CRA Director

Xavier Colon, Assistant CRA Director

Penny Johnston, Executive Assistant

Vanessa Cochran, Assistant City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:

Todd Williams, Information Technology (IT) Consultant

Mayor Bryant opened the meeting at 4:35 p.m. and the order of the items to discuss were switched. FY 2022 Budget was presented first, and Lamb and Sutton Park Upgrades followed.

1. FY 2022 BUDGET (J. Freeman)

Mr. Freeman, City Clerk, gave an update on FY 2022 Version 1 and stated that at this time there were no changes. Once the health insurance and Salary Study numbers are finalized, they will be presented to the Board for a decision.

He proposed that a Budget Workshop Meeting and Special CRA Meeting be scheduled for August 16th. After discussing the time options, the Board agreed to have the Budget Workshop Meeting at 5:30 p.m. and the Special CRA Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on August 16th.

In regards to the Electronic Gateway Sign, Mr. Freeman made reference to the questions raised by the Board at the July 19th meeting. He reported that the sign was installed 7 years ago, and there was a 5 year warranty on the unit. He added that after speaking with the vendor, it was suggested for longevity to install timers to turn the sign off from midnight to 6:00 a.m. A brief question and answer period ensued regarding the sign's proposed cost, the various advertising uses, proposed locations, and the revenue generated from vendors/businesses that utilized the sign. Next, Mr. Freeman gave a recap of the upcoming Commission meetings.

City Commission Workshop Meeting

August 2, 2021

Page 2 of 3

2. LAMB AND SUTTON PARK UPGRADES (J. Burton)

Mr. Burton, CRA Director, made a presentation on the potential upgrades for the Lamb and Sutton Parks, and the presentation is a part of the minutes.

The following points were discussed regarding the upgrades to the Parks:

- Relocate the Pavilion stage to face the commercial area instead of the residential area to lessen sounds.
- Add elevated covered pickle ball and new basketball courts at the location of the current Women's Club parking area.
- Replace Celebration Center with a new Family Center and choose a name for the new center.
- Create diagonal parking around the park area, which will produce about 200 to 300 new parking spaces.
- Reconstruct historic fountain in Lamb Park.
- Build walking/jogging trails around the parks - part paver for walkers and part rubberized for joggers.

LAMB AND SUTTON PARK UPGRADES DISCUSSION

Commissioners Williams and Cornwell addressed parking concerns in regards to various large events held at the Parks.

Commissioner Varnadore preferred a plaque instead of the proposed statue and favored the fountain suggestion. She recommended to keep Lamb Park as a green area for the Women's Club since the venue is frequently rented for events and have the activities such as the pickle ball and basketball courts in Sutton Park near the restrooms.

Commissioner Williams pointed out the possibility of the Parks becoming smaller after parking is installed, and emphasized the maintenance and care to sustain a fountain. He requested that another meeting be scheduled to discuss the project further.

Commissioner Jones agreed with Commissioner Varnadore on the activities in one area especially near the restrooms, and the venue for events in one area. He expressed that the Board is ready to move forward after more discussions.

In response to Commissioner Williams' request, Mr. Burton replied that when he sends the CRA Weekly Updates, he will include a clean version of the Sutton and Lamb Park drawing, so the Board can write in their suggestions.

Mr. Freeman reported that the Sutton Park playground equipment replacement will arrive within a few weeks and responded to Commissioner Varnadore that the playground flooring will be a hard rubberized surface, which is ADA compliance and similar to Hydrant Park.

City Commission Workshop Meeting

August 2, 2021

Page 3 of 3

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

JAMES R. FREEMAN

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CITY CLERK