PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2024 4:00PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Tiffany Secka, Chair Tom DeYampert, Vice Chair (via Zoom) Sam Angelides, Jr., Member David Hubbard, Member Susan Konczal
STAFF PRESENT:	Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer Ginny Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk Brandon Berry, Senior Planner

Chair Secka called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. <u>Approval of the Agenda</u> – Chief Operating Officer Jennifer McMahon announced that this would be Chair Secka's last meeting for the Planning Board and thanked her for her many years of service. Shawn Rae will be the new member; an election of Chair and Vice Chair will be on the next agenda.

Motion: Member Hubbard moved, and Member Angelides seconded to approve the July 15, 2024 agenda as presented: the motion passed unanimously.

2. <u>Audience Comments</u> –

None.

3. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – March 18th and May 20th, 2024

Member Konczal referred to punctuational corrections to be made by the Clerk.

Motion: Member Hubbard moved, and Member Angelides seconded, to approve the March 18 and May 20, 2024, minutes as presented: the motion passed unanimously.

4. <u>Discussion Items</u> –

a. Coastal Resiliency Planning

Brandon Berry, Senior Planner, made a presentation to the Board of a high-level review of resiliency planning efforts focusing on coastal protection, flood mitigation, and stormwater management. His presentation is part of the meeting record. Mr. Berry reviewed the short and long-term recommendations from the St. Pete Beach Vulnerability Report and Resilient Pinellas Action Plan from 2023, as well as the Resilient Pinellas Goals and Policies. He went on to define and describe SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analyses and how they are used by businesses and communities as a starting point for identifying existing resources and those needed in the future. He asked the Board for general SWOT input on resilience in the community.

Chief Operating Officer Jennifer McMahon explained that the City Commission directed staff to begin the process with this Board, then possibly an outside committee with professional experience along with community meetings with businesses, residents and the Commission, with the goal of a creating scope of work to put out to bid for a firm for a master plan to include dollar amounts. This is a first step, although some studies have been completed. Assistant City Attorney Matthew McConnell added that resiliency is a broad umbrella, and a future plan may entail a phased, 10-year (or more) plan.

Public Works Director Mike Clarke was present to answer questions. Board discussion ensued:

- Most of data in reports is hard data; infrastructure has not changed, but nature does
- Brief overview of the districts and Gulf Blvd. during recent storms
- How to create infrastructure for storm and flood mitigation
- Difference between inland rainwater and rise over seawalls
- The City is working on two potential preventatives – tidal check valves and chimney structure/s to allow water to rise and fall
- Collaborating with other communities on innovative ideas
- Sea level rise and budgeting
- Public Works/Engineer adding sustainability review to all projects
- Potential of reconfiguration of the internal drainage system connecting the storm water basins, interconnecting watersheds
- Public property vs. private residences (seawalls)
- Industry standard every six years for cleaning of water and sanitary pipes
- Estimate of $22-25,000 per household cost for undergrounding – Duke and Spectrum do some on their own; potential underground strikes of other utilities
- Funding priorities are discussed as the budget is built - "worst first"
- Flooding at intersections
- Public Works is currently managing six grants and always looking for others

Following the discussion, Ms. McMahon reviewed the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats that were identified during Board discussion and asked for any additions.

Strengths: Some repetitive data has already been collected on structure, undergrounding already completed in Pass-A-Grille and Gulf Blvd., putting resiliency in existing projects, the identification of watersheds, the ability to clean and televise pipes, numerous studies have been completed, the Adopt-a-Drain Program.

Weaknesses: Stormwater, high check valves in some locations, pipe cleaning out of date, utility breaks (uncertainty of utility locations), lack of plan for District 1.

Opportunities: District 1, high check valve maintenance and protection, innovation (new technology), grant funding, millage rate, special assessment, intersections identification, connecting watersheds underneath, undergrounding in neighborhoods, prioritizing, Boca Ciega Project, seawall heights, elevating residences, more pervious surfaces older properties and shell removal, outfall system check, more inlets per outfall.

Threats: Money, budget, sea level rise. Balancing the change in level of service, blocked pipes (storm, sewer, etc.), utilities underground (can be months before damage is realized).

Ms. McMahon will summarize the findings and distribute them to the Board through the Clerk's Office.

b. Right-of-Way Application for Marine Contractors & Commercial Operators

Mr. Berry provided an update on the expected cost for the permits as discussed at the May 2024 meeting, where consensus was to base costs on the number of vessels. Staff researched other jurisdictions and the standard is $125 to $150 per vessel. Ms. McMahon indicated that this is a similar price structure to business tax receipts. Per suggestion, the City can ask for input from owner/operators prior to moving forward. Ways to monitoring for permits was discussed.

Following that discussion, Attorney McConnell added his gratitude to Chair Secka for her service to the Board and City over the years. He also reminded the members that this is the only Board meeting at 4:00pm; the Historic Preservation Board moved to an earlier time; the Board may change their meeting time by a majority vote if desired. Members Hubbard and Angelides were content with the current start time.

6. Adjournment –

There being no further business, Chair Secka adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.

These minutes were approved at the September 16, 2024 meeting of the Planning Board.