

Boards and Commissions Annual Report to City Council

Today's date: January 1, 2026

Name of board or commission: Citizen Advisory Board

Board chair or designee: Roger C. Effron

Date of presentation to City Council: January 13, 2026

1. Past year's achievements:

- a. Completed the development and presentation to Council of a very comprehensive Post Hurricane Report.
 - i. *Completed 6/24/2025: Assign the Citizen Advisory Board the task of an after-action report to City Council of the recent hurricanes to determine what was done well and what could be done better. (Leg. Ref: 10/22/2024 #25-0264)*
- b. Recommended approval of the placement of John Nolan statue in Centennial Park.
- c. Recommended to City Council approval of 1220 Pinebrook Road nomination for the County Parkland Program.
- d. Completed recommendation to Council approval of the renaming of City Hall Park to the Lavallee Municipal Campus.
 - i. *Completed 6/24/2025: Assigned the Citizen Advisory Board the task to vet and make recommendations to Council on the renaming of City Hall Park to the Lavallee Municipal Campus including the incorporation of the Lord Higel House into the campus. (Leg. Ref: 5/13/2025 # 25-0196)*
- e. Received report on the City's Bike Level to Gold in this ongoing legislative referral project.
 - i. *Assigned the Citizen Advisory Board the task to research and achieve becoming a gold level bicycle friendly community. (Leg Ref: 4/9/2024 #24-0147)*
- f. Commenced study to recommend improvements to the City's website in this ongoing legislative referral project.
 - i. *Assigned the Citizen Advisory Board the task of evaluating and recommending improvements as it relates to the City's website by identifying citizen preferences and expectations and by performing a comparative analysis of other city websites. This evaluation report should be provided to City Council for review which then could be provided to staff for the City's website project in FY26. (Leg. Ref: 9/9/2025 #25-0333)*
- g. Received briefing on the City's Park Master Plan and the potential involvement of the CAB in this ongoing legislative referral project.
 - i. *Assigned the Citizen Advisory Board the task of holding a joint meeting with the Plan Commission after the Interlocal Parks Agreement with Sarasota County has been solidified, in order to begin discussion on a Parks Master Plan. (Leg. Ref: 4/9/2024 #24-0197)*
- h. Recommended denial to City Council for the citizen submitted application renaming of Maxine Barritt Park to Robert and Susan Vedder Park.
- i. Received information and guidance from council and staff liaisons; Mayor Pachota and City Manager Ed Lavallee (former) and now James Clinch at each meeting; also received timely support from other city staff as needed.
- j. Selected Chair to replace outgoing Chair Weed.

2. Proposed agenda of priorities for the coming year:

Standing Priorities Set by Ordinance 2023-48:

- 1) Public education programs as directed by Council.
- 2) Serve as the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- 3) Make recommendations to Council on matters pertaining to Parks, Public Spaces, and Recreational Systems.
- 4) When directed by Council, make recommendations on Environmental Sustainability and Pollution Prevention as it pertains to public spaces.
- 5) Make recommendations to Council regarding approval and placement of public art in public spaces.
- 6) Make recommendations to Council regarding approval and placement of donated amenities, memorials, and proposed improvements on public spaces.

2026 Agenda Priorities held over from 2025, and ongoing Legislative Referrals as noted in a-c, below:

- a. Elevate the City's Bicycle level to Gold.
 - i. *Research and achieve becoming a gold level bicycle friendly community. (Leg. Ref: 4/9/2024 #24-0147)*
- b. Continue work on the Parks Master Plan.
 - i. *Hold a joint meeting with Planning Commission after the Interlocal Park Agreement with Sarasota County has been solidified, in order to begin discussions on a Parks Master Plan. (Leg. Ref: 4/9/2024 #24-0147)*
- c. City's Website Evaluation and Recommendations.
 - i. *Evaluation and recommendations to City Council for user improvement of the City's Website by identifying citizen preferences and expectations and by performing comparative analysis of other city websites. (Leg. Ref: 9/9/2025 #25-0333)*
- d. ~~Review and assist with the WCIND land acquisition.~~ (Make recommendations to City Council for lands that would be suitable for protection or acquisition under Sarasota County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program and Neighborhood Parkland Acquisition Program ESLPP)
 - i. *One of two WCIND parcels has been acquired by the county. This priority that was held over from 2025 has been restated for clarification purposes as the activity pertained to the county's ESLPP program. The activity is covered under the standing priorities identified in #2 (3) above, therefore going forward it will be carried out as requested under standing orders of business.*
- e. ~~Conduct environmental reviews of City Capital Improvement Projects.~~ (Make recommendations to City Council on Environmental Sustainability and Pollution Prevention pertaining to city capital projects.)
 - i. *This priority that was held over from 2025 has been restated for clarification purposes as it pertains to the standing priorities identified under #2 (4) above and therefore going forward it will be carried out as requested under standing orders of business.*
- f. Conduct a study of the impact on the City's resources due to the City's growth.
 - i. *This priority seems more suitable for internal departments with a historical analysis of the city budgets. If council would like this priority held over from 2025, we respectfully request it be restated with a narrowed scope to pinpoint pertinent details such as growth timeline, internal staff directive for assistive information, and expectations for a CAB generated study.*
- g. Review of Venice Code Sec. 46-5 regarding the policy for naming or renaming a city-owned facility or park to make recommendations to improve process.

3. **A) What goal in the City's strategic plan does your proposed agenda for the coming year support and B) describe how your proposed agenda will support that goal:**
- A) Goal Six: Preserve the Venice Quality of Life through Planning.
 - B) Practically all topics discussed at the CAB, such as the Bike Program and City Website, directly impact the quality of life for city residents.
4. **Areas of concern:** Perhaps the major concern related to the City's CAB are the necessary restrictions of the Sunshine law preventing the creation of ongoing collaborative relationships amongst members especially in completing comprehensive reports to Council.
5. **Activities/Tasks/Goals:**
- a. Continue making progress on the proposed agenda of priorities.
 - b. Provide user recommendations to support the City's website upgrade project.
 - c. Encourage increased public engagement at meetings.
 - e. Enlist the resources and advice of city staff as appropriate.
 - f. Provide legislative referrals to council as needed.
 - g. Progress on assignments directed by City Council.
 - h. Continue excellent attendance and participation of CAB members.

Date board members attended annual Sunshine and Public Records Law training:

December 8, 2025

Note: As of the date of submitting the report, all members but two have completed training. The remaining two members are working with staff to certify they've completed the replay of the recorded training session as required.