

Lori Stelzer

From: Jeanette Gates
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Edward Lavalley; Lori Stelzer; David Persson <dpersson@sarasotalawfirm.com>; John Holic; Emilio Carlesimo; James Bennett; Kit McKeon; Robert Daniels; David Sherman; Jeanette Gates
Subject: Advisory Board presentations.

All,
I am not sure when it became policy for a member of the Venice City Council to make presentations to advisory boards but for the second time this month I find myself on the receiving end of a presenting Council member to the Economic Development Advisory Board. The City has advisory boards in place so they, the Advisory boards can advise City Council not individual members of City Council advising or swaying advisory boards. The paragraph below is posted on the EDAB City of Venice website page.

Economic Development Advisory Board advises the city council about issues pertaining to business and economic development in the city of Venice. The board may review economic development issues, gather information and ideas, coordinate business development activities with other similar organizations around Sarasota County, and assist in marketing the city as a desirable location for clean light industry and commercial uses.

Clearly this new procedure goes against the existing system or procedure. While at the same time devalues City advisory boards, boards this Council have worked so very hard to include in our process.

Council members in the past have been admonished for acting singularly before such boards as the County Commission without prior approval of The Mayor and Council.

I am hopeful that this new procedure has been done purely in an over zealous excitement for their topic and not as an act or going around the existing policy.

I am asking that the current special meeting with the EDAB be cancelled until Mayor and Council can have the opportunity to discuss this new unorthodox procedure of Council members presenting to advisory boards.

I look forward to having the opportunity to discuss this with you all.

Regards,

Jeanette

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