



City of Venice

401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
www.venicegov.com

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, March 31, 2016

9:00 AM Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Avenue

Joint Meeting with Sarasota Board of County Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

A joint meeting was held between the Venice City Council and Sarasota Board of County Commissioners at the Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Avenue South, Venice, to discuss items of mutual concern. Mayor Holic called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sheriff Deputy George Alec led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENT

City of Venice: Mayor John Holic, Vice Mayor Kit McKeon, Council members Rich Cautero, Bob Daniels, Fred Fraize and Jeanette Gates, City Manager Ed Lavallee, City Attorney Dave Persson and City Clerk Lori Stelzer. Deborah Anderson was absent.

Sarasota County: Chair Alan Maio, Vice Chair Paul Caragiulo, Commissioners Carolyn Mason, Christine Robinson, Charles Hines, County Administrator Tom Harmer, County Attorney Steve DeMarsh, and Deputy Clerks Charlie Maloney and Andrea Greer, Historical Resources Director Sarabeth Kalajian, Public Works Director Isaac Brownman, Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Director Carolyn Brown, Planning and Development Services Director Tom Polk, Emergency Services Director Richard Collins and Emergency Services Fire Chief Michael Regnier.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

LueAnne Wood spoke on the Hamilton building being used for the library, including inspections and the roof report.

Janine Joyner requested the residents get the library back and not to waste money on a temporary building but rather fix the current building.

Jackie Mineo spoke on the Hamilton building report being incomplete.

Randy Mineo reported on the history of closing the library and finding nothing to back up the health department issues and asked to have the facts before making decisions.

Kathleen Castellano spoke on the fire department being a city asset, asked that the department remain independent and noted letters from Holiday Apartments against consolidation.

John Abom commented on the Hamilton building roof repair, expenses the same for remediation for the existing library building as repairs for the Hamilton building, traffic light may be necessary and dissatisfaction with speaker time limits.

Mike Debitetto commented on left turn signals, influx of building and new construction, River Road needing attention, beach renourishment, and Carlton Reserve.

Roger Effron noted that the fire department issue would not be a merger since Venice would be removed from vehicles, spoke on his preference of local control with the Venice Fire Department, cited the example that the library concerns are being referred to the county and he is willing to pay more to keep fire services.

John Densler spoke on the library and Hamilton building, roof report, mold concerns, posting information on the website, litigation fears and determining who was responsible for the situation.

Bruce Dillon gave his support to consolidate the fire departments and asked to get the library done.

II. JOINT DISCUSSION ITEMS

[16-1903](#)

Update and Discussion on City/County Partnerships

Ms. Gates read Mr. Lavallee's memorandum and noted the value of personal partnerships and suggested face to face communication and treating each other with respect. Discussion followed on existing partnerships, positive relationships, touring the Emergency Operations Center, call center standards, saving taxpayer money, and learning from mistakes.

[16-1904](#)

Update and Discussion on Venice Public Library

Mr. Harmer reported on the addition of the capital project for the new library at the county's budget workshop held yesterday. Ms. Kalajian provided an update, progress on repairing the Hamilton building, and planning progress on the new library, services at the Venice Community Center, transportation to the Jacaranda Library, temporary building

reports on air quality and roof, staff collaboration on parking, ingress, egress, architectural plans, library planning sessions, geotechnical test and communication efforts.

Mr. Brownman reported on the indoor air quality report, why only five units were tested, sampling, roof report and the work noted in the report not being necessary, and the asbestos report.

Discussion ensued on removal of the topsoil, HVAC system at the Hamilton building, timeline for renovation, public affairs protocol, combination of the library, archives and museum, soil sampling, and location considerations.

Ms. Kalajian noted the county is listening to comments received, site selection being next, and demolition concerns. Discussion followed on information being shared with the city, involving the public and doing it right going forward.

[16-1905](#)

Update and Discussion Regarding an Interlocal Agreement for Parks Services

Mr. Daniels reported on the history of the ILA, county's responsibilities, capital expenses, \$5,000 cap, maintenance, Englewood Sports Complex agreement, the need for specialized equipment and staff, considering another model for the ILA, and the city's budget.

The meeting was in recess from 10:36 a.m. to 10:46 a.m.

Ms. Brown reported on the history of the ILA, similar agreements with North Port and Sarasota, expense analysis, net cost of ILA for the county being \$1.3 million, and park impact fees not to be used for renovations and repair.

Discussion followed on the need for more parks, repairing city fields, breakdown of \$1.3 million, use of parks by county and city residents, county having daily costs while the city experiences one-time costs, working collaboratively on parks master plans, sports complex needed in Venice, improvements done at Wellfield, environmental lands, funding, prioritizing maintenance issues, joint quarterly reports being on schedule, impact fees, revisiting city council's advisory role, mobility fee, collaboration, updating the ILA, defining and improving the process, and use of impact fees.

Discussion ensued on previous collaborative efforts, capital improvements being done without consideration of maintenance costs, capital being deferred, possibly raising the millage rate, level of service in parks, city and county standards, receiving the same level of service as other communities, fencing, notifying the city of changes, turning over

certain parks to the county, parks master plan timeline, considering other models, i.e. regional parks, and scheduling a joint meeting.

Ms. Gates moved that a joint meeting be held when the consultants are finished with the parks master plan. Seconded by Mr. Fraize. The motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

Mr. Caragiulo moved to have a joint meeting after the consultants are finished with the parks master plan. Seconded by Mr. Hines.

Ms. Brown noted the county's final report timeline is scheduled for completion in June and Mr. Veneziano noted the city's report is due by the end of September.

The motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

Discussion followed on impact fee term vs. park facility district fund and the need for clarification on the fund, and impact fees collected in the city and county.

Mr. Polk explained the collection of impact fees pursuant to the ILA.

Discussion continued on the fund title, description and process, new mobility fee for roads, non-profits putting money into many of the parks, working with the school board, city's timing on the parks master plan, timeline and use of park impact fees,

The meeting was in recess from 11:58 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

16-1906

Venice Fire Services

Mr. Collins provided a history of merger discussions and actions to date, feasibility, interlocal agreement (ILA), staff working together over the past year, list of key concepts to consider in the ILA, charter change required, and discussions on equipment and facilities.

Council members discussed their positions on the merger, having facts to present to the citizens, City of Sarasota ILA, Venice's position, capital outlay, and whether there will be savings to city residents.

Discussion continued on the safety of citizens before money savings, "as is" clause, city withholding contributions to capital pending the outcome, use of fire impact fees, boundaries for public safety, replacement of vehicles and equipment, city's decision, city costs, pensions, and operational budget.

The negotiation points from Mr. Lavalley's letter were discussed including the fire inspector and fire fee assessment, non-ad valorem vs ad valorem taxes, spreading out the capital costs for equipment, fire station site location process and referendum requirement.

Mr. DeMarsh and Mr. Persson explained the referendum question. Mr. Harmer and Mr. Lavallee explained the figures and how they were applied to the city fleet.

Chief Regnier discussed the process for fire station site selection.

Mr. Hines moved that the county administrator continue communications with the city regarding the fire services merger and accept negotiations in regards to payments over time relating to the equipment and fire stations. Seconded by Mr. Caragiulo. The motion carried on voice vote unanimously.

Mr. Daniels moved to extend the deadline for the fire merger of April 30, 2016 to mid-May. Seconded by Ms. Gates. The motion carried on voice vote unanimously.

The meeting was in recess from 2:40 p.m. to 2:51 p.m.

[16-1907](#)

Discussion on a Potential City/County Partnership to Revitalize the Seaboard Area

Mayor Holic described the area under consideration from US 41 ByPass to the Intracoastal Waterway and KMI Bridge to Circus Bridge, described the impact of the expansion of ByPass 41 on the area, finding of necessity report, Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), lack of funding, joint responsibility, redevelopment, being a neglected area, and funding mechanisms.

Discussion followed on the conditions at the time of the finding of necessity report, tax incremental financing (TIF), community reinvestment plan, transparency when funds are being spent, underutilized area, tax contributions, recategorizing, meeting the area's potential, zoning, support for this project, partnering, and funding options.

Chair Maio noted the county commission is amenable to some type of cooperation on this topic.

Discussion continued on the impact to the business owners in this area.

[16-1908](#)

Update on the Legacy Trail Extension, North and South, Including Edmondson Road

Mr. Brownman provided the background of the existing trail, north extension from Culver House Nature Park to Payne Park in Sarasota, including rails to trails option, short term next steps, potential long term funding sources, and Legacy Trail south connector.

Discussion followed on completion of Edmondson Road, an alternate route, current route the most attainable, and the county's request for letters of support from the city.

Mr. Harmer noted the North Port connector bridge ground breaking will be held on April 30.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Bruce Dillon commented on Legacy Trail and the revitalization of the Seaboard area.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk
