



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, April 28, 2016

8:30 AM

Village on the Isle

Strategic Planning

CALL TO ORDER

A Strategic Planning workshop of the City Council was held this date at Village on the Isle. Betsy Steiner served as facilitator. The meeting began at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels, Council Member Deborah Anderson, Council Member Richard Cautero and Council Member Fred Fraize

Also Present

City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, and Betsy Steiner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge was led by Betsy Steiner.

NEW BUSINESS

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Rules of Procedure

Mr. McKeon reported the planning commission will be requesting a joint meeting on the comprehensive plan.

Ms. Steiner provided an overview of the agenda, objectives for these meetings, and rules of procedure.

Discussion ensued on council's role in the strategic planning process, not meeting all of the goals, strategic vs. tactical, not completing more than 50% of the projects, budgeting for strategic goals, and allocation of staff.

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Think Tank Reflection

Council members shared their impressions from the Think Tank, including workforce housing, hotel, traffic/parking issues, students' needs, not diminishing what exists, small town ambiance, challenges of

a growing city, managing special events, budget, input from residents vs. businesses, and variety of input.

Discussion followed on the growth of Venice and different perspectives on the community.

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Goals Overview

Ms. Steiner provided an overview of the six goals in the strategic plan.

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Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2016 Recent Initiatives

Mr. Lavallee discussed the initiatives, staff's priorities and time needed to accomplish these initiatives.

Discussion ensued on improving the process, informal meetings preferred more often, council members' interaction with staff, and individual requests going before council for discussion and approval with the exception of life safety issues.

Discussion followed on the working relationship with Sarasota County.

Mr. Lavallee requested to understand the measurement of staff's accomplishments and to make sure staff is meeting council's needs.

Discussion followed on staff being overloaded with assignments and tasks, purchasing the AJAX property to include conflicting views on the use of the property, rezoning, comprehensive plan, public input, and a portion of the property to be used by Utilities and possibly Public Works, and freeing up space in the Seaboard area, the Hamilton Condominium Complex to include future uses and the city's lead on this project for the new library, city involvement in the real estate business, managing the property, and safety issue with the Venetian Waterway Park, the public safety pension liability, bond issues for road restoration and public safety complex, contingency plan if the bond referendum fails, and police department staffing and attrition to include the recommendation to allocate more funding for more officers, special district funding, union contracts, turnover, budget guidelines and partnerships on public safety.

Mr. Lavallee noted all of the items have associated costs and will affect the budgeting process.

Recess was taken from 10:24 a.m. until 10:37 a.m.

Discussion continued on the South Jetty, the Venice Library, Museum and Archives to include designating a city lead person as liaison with Sarasota County, and developing an action plan to improve the relationship with Sarasota County, airport festival grounds to include needed upgrades, determine location of festival grounds, Federal

Aviation Administration (FAA) approval, and frustration of event holders, the post office relocation being a federal priority by city council, relocating the distribution center, replacement of the historic hotel, purchasing the land, fair market value for the property, and the concern for the environment when the new location is determined.

Discussion ensued on fleet and facility depreciation, parking expansion, trolley service, northeast corridor development to include impending development, comprehensive plan discussions by neighborhood, future agenda item to hire a city planner, wildlife corridors, sidewalks, bike lanes, buffer zones, Sarasota County partnership, gated communities, John Nolen plan may not be desired in this area, input from residents in the area being important, and type and location of growth and businesses, street light restoration, maintenance and fire department facility relocation, and parks and recreational areas to include the master parks plan, whether Sarasota County or the city should manage the regional recreational areas, cost of improvements, park needs off the island, need for an award winning sports complex, impact on budget, financial relief, lack of city staff to manage programs, and revisiting this issue with Sarasota County.

Council members listed initiatives not included in the strategic plan or on the initiatives list, including conservation, green space, environment, wildlife, preserving water quality, fire and police department's strategic plan, i.e. facilities, personnel costs, maximize funding process, procedures, and alternatives, hire, retain, recognize and reward employees and be competitive, workforce housing, engaging the youth, finance model to receive monies due the city, integrate Caspersen Beach into beach plan, formal process for handling constituent concerns, establishing a partnership with Sarasota County on a Community Redevelopment Area for the Seaboard area, including the three bridges, synchronization of bridge closings/openings, hurricane preparation for public safety and funding needed in the event of a hurricane, being conscious of public safety for elderly, terrorism, and planning for tornadoes.

With no objection, unless there is a life safety issue, individual council requests will require council approval.

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Review Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2016 Strategic Plan Status Report (Scorecard)

Council members continued the list of initiatives including goal 6 regarding quality of life through planning being too narrow, establishing a level of service agreement with Sarasota County, traffic, managing infrastructure, citizen feedback on how the city is doing, council members being involved in resolving citizen issues, and relationships with all agencies.

Discussion continued on managing special events, events being held at the same time, event calendar, need for additional information including size of event, location, return on investment, plan to control traffic, coordination with Sarasota County, including public safety agencies.

There was consensus to not hold major events at the same time.

Recess was taken from 12:00 p.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Discussion continued on for profit vs. non-profit event holders, community benefit and value, safety issues, road closures, application process, business vitality, and matrix for scoring events.

Ms. Steiner reviewed the scorecard and council members discussed items of concern to include Keep Venice Beautiful and Eco-friendly Objective 2 regarding gateways and the intensive use of staff time, refinement, and the need to highlight advocating for Caspersen Beach renourishment, Objective 4 regarding Florida Power and Light (FPL) funding other cities' LED conversions, investment return on energy conversion, and the need to rezone Wellfield Park and designate Pinebrook Park, Objective 5 regarding the need for a city arborist, creating an ordinance for tree protection, and staff bringing back to council what would be involved if the city took over tree protection.

There was consensus to remove Task 2. for Airport and Objective 6 for Legacy Park.

Discussion continued on objective 7 regarding a traffic management plan, citizen frustration during season, need for a traffic expert, breakdown by city, county, state, and FDOT, and use of the Traffic Advisory Task Force.

There was agreement to remove tasks 7 and 8 from goal 1 objective 7.

Discussion ensued regarding hiring a traffic expert, impact on projects already implemented by FDOT and Sarasota County, working with FDOT on such a project, and use of the trolley for elderly citizens and students.

Recess was taken from 2:15 p.m. until 2:25 p.m.

Discussion took place on goal 2 regarding the need for a finance director and financial model, objective 1 regarding hiring a bike/ped coordinator, goal 3, objective regarding staff presenting a budget without use of reserves, fire service fee not possible for the upcoming budget, pension deficit impacting the budget, and legal issues with use of extraordinary mitigation fees, completion of goal 3, task 3 to consolidate police dispatch, pension costs, and the need to litigate extraordinary mitigation fees.

There was agreement to remove goal 4, objective 3 tasks 1 and 2.

Discussion took place on modifying the special events calendar and removing and moving items that have been marked completed to a separate sheet.

There was agreement to remove goal 4 objectives 4 and 6.

Mr. Lavallee explained the development of marketing plans, and Visit Sarasota's activities, and stated a dedicated effort may not be needed by the city.

There was agreement to remove goal 5 objective 2 and to add "residents" to goal 6 objective 1 task 1.

Discussion followed regarding concern with developers being included in the comprehensive plan update objective.

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Create Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2017 Strategic Plan

This item was not discussed during this session.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No one signed up to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor - City of Venice

City Clerk