



City of Venice

401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
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Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

[21-5146](#)

Pat Neal, Neal Communities: Update on the Laurel Road Expansion Project with Proposed Next Steps (20 min.) (Fiedler)

Pat Neal, Neal Communities, provided a presentation and spoke to vendor savings on project costs, project scope, presenting an estimated budget to council by September 1, 2021, standards for roadway lighting and landscaping, signalized intersection at Laurel Road and Jacaranda Boulevard, shared use ponds as an alternative to right-of-way acquisition, initiating eminent domain, public park option, linear public park and multi-use recreational trail (MURT), importance of a shovel-ready project, goals and next steps, and responded to council questions regarding eminent domain.

Discussion followed regarding estimated costs and funding sources, establishing an action plan with next steps and a timeline, the city's role on project, Sarasota County Commissioners support of project, adopting a resolution endorsing project, using Florida Friendly mulching at the median and rain gardens for drainage, Mr. Neal's acquisition of properties, concern with the city's responsibility over the road, Laurel Road's level of service (LOS), property for the linear park, and the term "shovel-ready".

A motion was made by Dr. Neunder, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, to accept Mr. Neal's status report as recommended, to direct legal staff to work with Mr. Neal's recommended eminent domain attorneys, and request the Northeast Venice Park Stakeholder's Work Group and staff to incorporate Mr. Neal's recommended park site proposal on Laurel Road.

Discussion ensued on Mr. Neal providing next steps and responsibilities involved.

Mr. Lavalley commented on eminent domain process, developing a resolution endorsing project, and obtaining clarification from the county on the city's role.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero, Ms. Moore, Mr. Pachota, Dr. Neunder, Mr. Kelly and Dr. Fiedler