

SSHCA General Meeting Agenda

Seminole Heights Library

Wednesday, October 16th, 2019 6:30 pm

I. Call to Order:

II. Guest Speakers:

a. Paul Dial – Director of Tampa Parks and Recreation

- Explained that a Master Plan for all of the city parks is coming. There will be public forums and opportunities for the public to provide input throughout the process. A consultant is being charged with this task specifically.
- Paul acknowledged that the Docks are currently not safe and are fenced off for safety. Several docks and boat ramps in the city are in serious need of repair. His office is currently working on the Lowry Park boat ramp which should be finished this year. River Crest park docks are next. If there are any funds left in the budget, from the Lowry Park, the docks will start immediately after, if not they will have to wait for FY21 submission acceptance of budget to begin. In River Crest, the docks will be removed and a much longer floating dock will be added. The permitting process for this requires leaving the current docks in place. If they remove them they will have a much more difficult process to replace them. Doing the entire project at once makes permitting easier. Davis Island has needs as well and all projects are being done in phases in order to keep facilities available.

Eric Muecke – Urban Forestry Manager

- Eric “the Tree Guy,” has extensive experience in urban forestry management. He worked across the US including places like Chicago, Green Bay, N.C.
- He created a comprehensive plan for River Crest park at the request of SSHCA. His methodology for parks is heritage, large trees and identity. The first part of that plan was to walk the park. He determined that River Crest park is rich in all three components and has 51 tree coverage which is great for an urban park and good for any park. Now is time to start re-doing it.
- Next his Planning and Design team created the map that we currently have using I-Suite. The considerations that go into the plan are how much space is there above and below; avoiding underplanting; locating trees as to not impact the use of the park; using a healthy diversity of species; caution regarding invasive species both plants and insects, especially because we have an international port.
- In regards to planting, he discussed partnering with volunteers like Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful and association like ours. Volunteers must use smaller trees for practical purposes. Larger trees require contractors.
- He explained the different departments that deal with trees **I DID NOT GET THEM ALL** and the new state legislation that is being challenged by the Gandy tree removal which goes to magistrate on 10/25. **INSERT RULE HERE**

Questions:

- Is there any way to get irrigation in RC park to maintain the grass?
 - City must balance costs and needs and all projects are based on the money that is available. Irrigation needs would be lower than a new play ground needed.
- Is there a way to get space between side walk and poles (along Boulevard I think, I was not sure).
 - Transportation would need to review that. Paul making a note of cars going into the park because of this. That is considered grounds to do something, not necessarily paving for parking though.

- How is the health of the iconic oak near the Gazebo?
 - Eric did not see anything alarming about it. Branches touching the ground are very low risk.
- Is there a plan to resurface the path (did not get where)?
 - Part of what they are exploring is a pavement management plan to cover paths. That is a site to improve in the future.
- Is any of this funded?
 - FY21 is requested. Future years are not locked in until the budget is approved. Cannot give confirmation.
- In the Tremendous Tree Program, can trees go anywhere now or only in easements?
 - The ordinance says that if the easement is not wide enough then trees can go into yards. But only if there is enough planting space.
- Another request to review the large oak by the gazebo.
 - They will get out there.
- Can real fencing be put around the docks? Kids are tearing it down.
 - They will evaluate and shore up as needed.
- Where is the money for the docks? What is going on?
 - They have seen the condition and money is in the budget. They requested \$350K for FY21. They appreciate the communities frustration and are moving in the direction of repair.
- What is the future for Linear Park?
 - No plan has been done. They will review.
- Are there invasive trees in Rivercrest Park?
 - No, but please be aware that we are an international port of entry and at risk for invasive seeds and insects.
- What is the timeline for planning the tree project and what is the cost?
 - The timeline is unknown, there will be a consultant and community involvement period. What they can do will be based on budgeted dollars. Approximately \$200-\$300 for 30Gallon trees; \$600-\$800 for 5"-6" ones and they must be installed by a contractor.
- What is the lifespan of the trees that are being considered for installation?
 - The goal is 60 years for large canopy trees and 25 years for showy ones.

b. Pavan Patel – Owner of Duckweed Grocery

- Pavan explained that they are a small family run operation that started with 1 store and now they have three. Channelside, Downtown and Seminole Heights. In Seminole Heights they plan to carry vegan/non-vegan items and craft beer. They are partnering with Avenue Lofts on parking. Pavan would like to differentiate his small grocery from the other options on Florida by also having a small Liquor Store.
- There was already a City Council meeting about approval for the liquor store and it concluded without a decision either way and the option for him to resubmit.
- David H. from the management group of the building spoke on behalf of the residents at this meeting and they are for the project.
- The main concerns that were raised at the city council meeting were about, 1. Trash; There are two full time grounds keepers during the day and night maintenance for evenings and weekends 2. Parking; there are 96 parking spaces for residents and customers. The businesses will have a few designated spaces and resident parking will be open to the businesses during operating hours. The garage will be secured after business hours. The property management group is sensitive to residents needs and 3. Homeless; at the current locations, Duckweed strictly enforces the city ordinances and have had zero complaints about cleanliness or harassment inside or outside the stores.

- The property manager added that Avenue Lofts is a 15 million dollar investment that they intend to protect. They have advanced security and cooperation from the police department. Their entire job is to protect the property, residences and businesses.
 - How much total parking will be available?
 - Cannot say exactly at this time because final business tenant is not confirmed, but parking is a continuous thought.
 - How much bike parking will there be?
 - Currently 30-40 covered bike spots.
 - Is this your third Duckweed location? Do they all have the same configuration?
 - Yes. Channelside has a liquor store, Downtown does not because of direct competition with the Hub.
 - Resident thanked Pavan for bringing what Seminole Heights has been asking for.
 - What is the size of the liquor store?
 - 500-600 sqft
 - What kind of beer will be offered?
 - Craft beer starting at \$10.99, singles will be offered but no low end beers.
 - Will there be a vegan grill?
 - That is the goal, but there is no permit for a hood yet and a hood is needed.
 - Will you sell minis?
 - He doesn't think so and will respond to community input.
 - How much total retail is planned in the building?
 - 2 retailers now and working on a 3rd
 - Parking will be based on the needs of the retailers and there will be some designated spaces.
 - Do you need the liquor store in order for the grocery portion to open?
 - In order for the finances to work out, yes.
 - Is Circle K your competition?
 - Not directly, but Circle K and Dollar Tree are consumer options.
 - When is the next City Council meeting for this?
 - It has not been scheduled and notices will go out as usual.
 - Is there anything that the residents can do to help?
 - Write letters and email council members.
 - What will the hours be?
 - 11 am to 10 pm/11 pm weekends.
 - Will there be delivery options? Will that include alcohol delivery?
 - He is working on that.
 - Once a liquor store is approved on the site, will it always be a liquor store?
 - Potentially, but they would need a new permit and license for their concept.
 - What are the other retailers? Is there food?
 - Grass Roots Kava is confirmed, cannot legally reveal the third retailer because they are in negotiations.

III. Committee Updates:

a. Beautification

- Beautification Award – awarded to Julia and Alan
 - How old does a home have to be to qualify?
 - 20 years
 - Can there be a yard of the month award for anyone sprucing up their yard then?
 - Kim volunteered to head this initiative

b. Communications – Nicki McKiernan – The Banner is low on advertising, please reach out to advertise and let people know it is an option. We will also be recording meetings live now. We are still looking for a Neighborhood Watch Chair if anyone is interested.

c. Events –

- Halloween at Rivercrest Park – 10/31; TPD will be there with something fun for the children 6-8pm; you can just show up with a table and hang out.
- Holiday Concert at Rivercrest Park – TBD; there will be a band and santa
- Looking for Porch Party hosts

d. Heights Unites

- Date set for 2/22/20 – Cameron is the chair again

e. Land Use/Transportation

- Highland/Violet Ave Updates – Jordan explained that they are reconfiguring the road, adding signage, the yellow stripes. The yellow side is not a bike lane. It is for more sight for cars crossing and turning onto Highland
 - Will there be follow up and enforcement of people using the yellow striped side as a lane?
 - We assume yes.
- Hart and FDOT are in a transit project process and we will continue to communicate with FDOT
- Coast Bikes has officially moved north to Seminole Heights; they are not connected with the Scooters
 - What about the wetland project on River with Domain? Will they be filling the wetlands in? What is the board's position on this?
 - We don't know if they will follow the rules and we have no position.
 - Is the light still being installed on Wilder and Florida?
 - Yes.

f. Neighborhood Watch

- TPD to attend Halloween event
- Uptick in car break ins, lock your doors!

IV. Executive Board Updates:

a. Delegates

- Brian
 - SSHCA is funding the first semester of the reading program for the 4th grade at Broward. We will be fundraising for the second semester.
 - Bookfair 21st – 25th
 - Fall Fest 10/25 from 5:30-7:30 pm (Trunk or Treat)
 - Father's Breakfast 10/30 from 7:10 am – 7:30 am
 - Sidewalk Stompers walk to school event happens 1 x per week; partner with St. Joe's Hospital, attendance low and word getting out.
 - Great American Teach-In 11/21; District Forms need to be completed
 - Are there any ideas about where the students will come from to feed into Broward when Robles Park closes?
 - No idea

- How much money is needed for the remainder of the books?
 - \$2200 for the entire year.
- Do we have a Go Fund me account? (Discussion about online giving, encouragement of ideas and general brainstorming)
 - David Harrington
 - Kisha Linebaugh
- b. Secretary – Sharlene Hartford
- c. Treasurer – Dawn Dayringer-report was given by Sharlene; report included
- d. Vice President – Steve Swiger
- e. President – Stephen Lytle

V. Resident Forum (2 min each)

- Can there be signage to make MLK & Highland intersection safer? People still try to turn incorrectly.
 - FDOT has been reviewing and will continue to evaluate.
- Resident spoke about recent car break-ins and shared tip of alarm sounding when car handle is opened.
- Resident from Hillsborough High School announced the T-shirt Fundraiser for the crew team to compete in Chattanooga, TN.
- Brian Curry discussed his hand-out to his neighbors concerning Duckweed and his thoughts
- Herman installed stained glass in front of his house on Frierson and invited people to see it. He may potentially host a porch party.
- David discussed questions concerning the by-laws and pulling social media out and into policy; **CURRENT BYLAWS HERE**
- Resident asked about the status of the shoreline restoration. They were also interested in the drainage from Giddens stormwater project. Follow up with: Steveandaliceericson@gmail.com
- Resident inquired about the usability of the sidewalks near him and concerns about the city neglecting elderly residents in regards to weeds and overgrowth. Area near Osborne and Curtis. Follow up with: Matt at stutzperson@gmail.com

VI. Closing

SSHCA By-Laws, Article VII, Duties of Office: In general: All officers shall attend general membership meetings and the executive board meetings. Failure to attend three consecutive meetings without prior notice shall constitute resignation. Notice of anticipated absences shall be given to the presiding officer of the meeting to be missed.