

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Lincolville Community Redevelopment Area Steering Committee
May 1, 2017

The Lincolville Community Redevelopment Steering Committee met in formal session at 7:00 P.M., Monday, May 1, 2017, at the Willie Galimore Center. The meeting was called to order by Nicholas Noloboff, Chairman, and the following were present:

1. **ROLL CALL**
- Nicholas Noloboff
Nathan Baer
Carolyn Wright
Reverend Rory Hermann
Theresa Segal

Staff Present: Erin Minnigan, Historic Preservation & Community Development Planner
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Reuben Franklin, Mobility Program Manager

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
(April 3, 2016)

MOTION

Rev. Hermann moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Wright seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

3. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Madeline Wise asked about the grant for Civil Rights Sites.

Ms. Minnigan responded that the City had received a grant from the State Division of Historical Resources to nominate to the National Register of Historic Places sites in and around St. Augustine associated with the Civil Rights Movement.

4. **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

4. **(a) New Sidewalks in Lincolville.**

Ms. Minnigan said a portion of the LCRA Budget had been dedicated to sidewalk two fiscal years in a row, meaning that money needed to be spent by the end of the next fiscal year, September 30, 2018. She said this meeting was to get the conversation started about where new sidewalks should be constructed in Lincolville. She clarified the LCRA would not pay for repairs or routine maintenance for existing sidewalks. She introduced the Mobility Program Manager, Reuben Franklin.

Mr. Franklin gave a presentation about city mobility initiatives. He said:

- He recently led a neighborhood walk with Lincolville Residents where mobility solutions were discussed.

- Constructing a continuous sidewalk along South Street had proved difficult due to large trees.
- South Street traffic lanes could be narrowed to 9ft. to allow for a 4-5ft. pedestrian lane. He said studies showed that narrowing streets slowed down traffic.
- A permeable sidewalk or boardwalk would need to be designed to go around the large trees at Blanco Street. Staff met with a licensed arborist who agreed a path around the trees was feasible.

Mr. Franklin recommended a temporary pedestrian lane with painted lines and plastic delineators at the intersections. He said staff would monitor how the lane worked and if it was liked by the residents, then a more permanent lane could be constructed.

Ms. Wise asked about bicycles.

Mr. Franklin said bicycles would travel in the street because traffic speeds were low enough to accommodate bicycles.

Deltra Long asked if the vertical delineators would look like the ones at King and Cordova Streets.

Mr. Franklin said yes, and that they would only be installed at the intersections along South Street between Riberia and Washington Streets. He emphasized the pedestrian lane with delineators would only be installed on a trial basis.

Marilynn Hermann said she was concerned about safety. She said drivers may not observe the painted pedestrian lane line.

Mr. Baer said the pedestrian lane would help retrain how people drove down the street to accommodate pedestrians.

Ms. Minnigan said money had previously been allocated to a sidewalk on South Street, and through a public forum and further conversations with the residents, it was discovered that the sidewalk was opposed. She said however that pedestrian safety was still an issue, so the pedestrian lane would be temporary and the LCRA could pay for a permanent lane with more decorative features if it was desired.

Ms. Long asked about money dedicated to sidewalks.

Ms. Minnigan said there was approximately \$90,000 left in the account for sidewalks and infrastructure.

A question was asked about how the pedestrian lane would affect parking along South Street.

Mr. Franklin said the plan was to leave curbs along South Street as they were now to see how parking functioned with the pedestrian lane.

Ms. Wright asked about the cost of the project.

Mr. Franklin said the cost would be minimal, but he had not done a cost

estimate yet. He said his recommendation would be to move forward with the temporary pedestrian lane for a 60-day period and evaluate if a more permanent lane should be constructed.

Ms. Segal asked what process happened where the decision was made to abandon the South Street Sidewalk.

Mr. Franklin said a consensus could not be reached over which side of the street the sidewalk should go on. He said he hoped the pedestrian lane would help avoid impacts to the South Street residents while also calming traffic speeds with narrower lanes.

Ms. Hermann asked about issues caused by people parking in the pedestrian lane.

Mr. Franklin agreed but reiterated the lane is temporary and if a more permanent lane were to be constructed, parking would be addressed. He said South Street did not experience a lot of on-street parking already.

Ms. Wise asked why the City didn't go ahead and construct a sidewalk in the right-of-way. She said the pedestrian lane did not seem safe.

Mr. Franklin said the goal would be to construct a raised curb between the lane and street, if a permanent solution was desired.

Maxine Fleming asked about the existing sidewalk sections on South Street.

Mr. Franklin said they would remain in the interim, but he envisioned removing any existing sections of sidewalk to construct a continuous lane down South Street and create room for landscaping.

Ms. Segal said the boardwalk over the Lake Maria Sanchez Bridge should be constructed.

Mr. Baer pointed out the timeframe for spending the LCRA money on sidewalks and questioned if the trial period would be cutting into the time needed to construct the permanent pathway.

Ms. Minnigan said she thought incorporating a trial period was feasible, since they LCRA had until September 2018 to spend the money.

Rev. Hermann asked about other steps in the approval process for the pedestrian lane and how long it would take to construct.

Mr. Franklin said the temporary lane would take approximately a week. He recommended to allow staff some time to put together a more formal proposal and come back to the Steering Committee.

A question was asked about how residents would be surveyed on whether they wanted a more permanent lane on South Street.

Mr. Franklin said a blanket survey of the neighborhood could be done, but staff would ultimately be looking for direction from the Steering Committee.

Mr. Franklin said Sanford Street was another area where a new sidewalk could be constructed.

Ms. Long asked if 60 days was a reasonable amount of time to get feedback from residents.

Mr. Franklin said ideally the trial period would be 90 days, but if there was a crunch for time 60 days would work.

Mr. Noloboff was concerned about the safety of the pedestrian lane.

Mr. Franklin said staff time was limited, so he suggested hiring a consultant to create plans for the pedestrian lane and a traditional sidewalk.

Mr. Noloboff said more time would be needed for the Steering Committee to consider this proposal.

Mr. Franklin agreed and reiterated the current discussion was to just introduce the idea to the Steering Committee.

BJ Kaladi said she understood that South Street was going to be raised to mitigate flooding.

Mr. Franklin said Lake Maria Sanchez had long been a source of flooding. He said the federal government allocated funding for mitigation after disasters, and flood mitigation for Lake Maria

Sanchez was the number one ranked project in St. Johns County for that funding. He said the project included raising a low-point in South Street at Lake Maria Sanchez to 7ft. and installing a pumping station to control flooding.

Ms. Kaladi asked if this project would interfere with the pedestrian lane or sidewalk on South Street.

Mr. Franklin said the project should only affect South Street up to Washington Street, and that section of sidewalk would have to be redesigned to fit within the flood mitigation improvements.

Mr. Franklin said two things that came out of the mobility walk that the LCRA could pay for were new sidewalks on Sanford Street and neighborhood lighting.

Mr. Noloboff asked where lighting was needed.

Mr. Franklin said south Blanco Street, and Pomar and Moore Streets.

Mr. Franklin said the City was also moving forward with a residential parking program. He asked if the LCRA could pay for costs associated with implementing the program, such as signage.

Ms. Lopez said yes, as long as it was not something identified in the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

Ms. Minnigan stated that the money in the sidewalk and infrastructure fund had to be spent by September 2018, and if not, it would go back to the City and County General Funds. She suggested the Steering Committee consider moving forward with the temporary lane to better understand if the money should be spent on a permanent lane, and in the meantime identify other streets in Lincolnton that could benefit from sidewalks.

Ms. Long suggested a trial period of 90-days.

Ms. Segal said Lincolnton had a special character and a pedestrian lane was not in keeping with that character. She said she did not like the proposal. She said she preferred constructing sidewalks back of curb.

Mr. Franklin said he recommended would be to hire a consultant to put together a plan for a pedestrian lane and sidewalk that fit the character of the neighborhood.

Ms. Wright asked what would happen if the consultant put plans together and the residents still opposed a pedestrian lane or sidewalk.

Mr. Franklin said staff would look to the Steering Committee for a recommendation.

Ms. Lopez asked if the pedestrian lane could be designed to look like a sidewalk.

Mr. Franklin said yes.

Mr. Noloboff asked what Mr. Franklin needed from the Steering Committee that evening.

Mr. Franklin said he only intended to introduce the concept of the pedestrian lane to the Steering Committee, and would come back at a future meeting with a cost estimate and plan for gathering public input.

5. CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

None.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6. (a) Officer Elections

Rev. Hermann motioned to nominate Mr. Noloboff as Chairman. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Wright motioned to nominate Mr. Baer as Vice-Chairman. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Minnigan announced that the 2016 LCRA Annual Report was completed and available online at citystaugcra.com.

7. ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Nicholas Noloboff, Chairman

Erin Minnigan, Historic Preservation &
Community Development Planner