

Community Forum II
1-09-2019 Start Time: 6:00 PM
Bellevue Inn-25 Bellevue Blvd, Belleair

Consultants: Mari Rains-University of Central Florida, Raphael Montalvo-University of Central Florida, Angela Crist-University of South Florida, Robyn Obdegard-University of South Florida
Board and Commission Members: Karla Rettstatt, Deputy Mayor; Tom Kurey, Commissioner; Tom Shelly, Commissioner; Dan Hartshorne, Finance Board; Nancy Hartshorne, Park & Tree Board; Tom Olson, Finance Board; Nancy Reardon, Historic Preservation Board
Staff: JP Murphy, Stefan Massol, Ricky Allison, Keith Bodeker, Cathy DeKarz, Ashley Bernal, Christine Torok
Press: Brian Goff (Belleair Bee)

JP Murphy-Town Manager-Welcomed residents and introduced consultants.

Mari Rains-Discussed project overview and approach; phase 1 comprising of work plan, stakeholder views, community forums, resident and employee surveys; phase II will have two leadership forums; final project report presentation in April. Briefly overviewed agenda for the evening.

Mr. Murphy provided a brief statistical overview discussing geography, infrastructure, population, property types; town budget expenditures and revenues, crime statistics, need for resident input for moving forward.

Angela Crist-Provided some guidelines for later group discussion.

Raphael Montalvo-Discussed results of stakeholder interviews; findings were: high level of satisfaction with quality of life, frequent concerns with infrastructure, high level of satisfaction with public safety and the the police department, a desire for more opportunities to come together as a community, Hallet Park stabilization discussion, possibility for synergy between Belleair and surrounding communities. Also discussed prior forum activities; stakeholder interviews were consistent with items discussed at previous forum; presented results of a draft vision statement.

Ms. Crist also discussed resident survey results; 193 respondents; key issues were infrastructure, public safety, the bluffs/Hallet Park, community life, parks, other city services, character development.

Residents were separated into focus groups and assigned above topics to discuss; purpose is to assist with developing desired outcomes.

A spokesperson from each group shared the issues and desired outcomes identified in their discussion:

Group 1-Infrastructure/Roadways-Streetlighting on all roadways, bike markings for bikers, pedestrian warning lights near Hunter Park on IRR, repair existing sidewalks, speed bumps in select areas, directions for roundabout navigation, vegetation trimming for visibility.

Group 2-Infrastructure/Water Supply-Bonds for water plant investment, safe potable water in each home, irrigation with reclaimed water for all parks.

Group 3-Infrastructure/Utilities-Underground power for safety and aesthetic, continuity and quality of service, quality of streetlights-bulbs.

Group 4-Public Safety-Importance of maintaining current police department, reviewing shared services with Pinellas county; registration of security cameras with PD, implement a neighborhood watch, security lighting, addition of access point cameras (town entryways), consequences of lowering of fencing along trail, width of roadways-parking along narrow streets is issue for emergency vehicle access.

Group 5-Hallet Park/the bluff-Public safety after sunset, potential for PD to check frequently; resident vs nonresident permits for parking along Bayview Dr; maintain view of park and stabilization, maintenance of park.

Group 6-Community Life-No group discussed topic.

Group 7-Parks-Hallet Park; remodeling parks as adjacent roadway projects are done; ensuring community involvement in decisions regarding park development and amenities in parks; consistent maintenance of parks; potential for Adopt a Park program to work with town for maintenance and clean-up of parks.

Group 8-Character and Development-Keeping small town charm, child friendly, encouraging maintenance of homes and yards; distinct labeling of town boundaries; maintaining mature landscape and greenspace; maintaining limited commercial enterprise; development in residential areas.

Ms. Crist thanked residents for identifying priorities; presenters compiled desired outcomes with common themes; distributed worksheets to each resident and requested they identify their top 5 priorities from the list of desired outcomes; worksheets to be collected for analyzation.

Ms. Rains announced meeting on January 24th for Hallet Park discussion; thanked residents for attending.

Adjourned at 8:04 PM