

## Neighborhood Council Meeting

November 15, 2021

[Video of the meeting](#)

**Attendees:** Randy Herman and Linda Palmer, Zone 1; Jonas Rodenberry and Sandra Sovinski, Zone 2; Shy Morris, Robert Johnson, and Timothy Washington, Zone 4. Ray Seifert Zone 3 was absent

### Public Participation:

A resident asked the City to review the Comprehensive Plan and LDR using the same process as the recent Charter review. No discussion.

### New Business:

**The Approval of the [conceptual drawing](#) and location of mural-** Irma Terry, Resource Coordinator, introduced Bethany Bennett, an ACA community artist. Ms. Bennett explained that an extensive process of community meetings and input resulted in the concert for the proposed mural. Randy Herman read a letter from a citizen expressing concern over its proposed location and maintenance, and Ms. Bennett reiterated to the Council that the location proposed is the north side of the City Gym and explained that the mural would continue to include community participation with the quilt squares being individually done by community members and the flowers will be handprints. The meaning of the mural is a subtle representation and celebration of both community and diversity. After some discussion regarding maintenance, Ms. Bennett confirmed that special paints and sealer would be used to help preserve the artwork. Phil Veski, Public Information Officer, added that Parks and Recreation would be maintaining the mural.

**The mural and location were unanimously approved by the Council with Shy Morris abstaining from the vote.**

**Landscape Buffers in the Beachside Mixed-Use District-** Randy Herman explained that the purpose of this item was to explore possibilities for additional landscaping as a buffer between residential and non-residential property. As Flagler Avenue and other areas become busier, nearby homeowners are being affected by the traffic and noise level. Jake Baker responded that it would be difficult to impose new requirements on already existing businesses, but he will bring the issue to the Planning Department where more buffering can be explored while reviewing the LDR. Jake will report back at the next Neighborhood Council meeting in February.

**[City of New Smyrna Beach Economic Development Strategic Plan Workshop-](#)** Chris Edwards, Economic Director, presented a brief review of the workshop. He stated it was attended by 70 people and very successful. A final report will be available soon, and he will bring it to the next Neighborhood Council meeting.

### Unfinished Business:

**Review of Parks-** Randy Herman stated that a review of parks had been requested, but that the committee had not received any communication regarding this matter. Mr. Herman explained that of particular interest to the committee was park maintenance and expansion, particularly as it pertains to the West Side. Phil Veski stated that the Assistant City Manager had resigned, and the position was vacant, leading to reassignment of areas of responsibility. He also stated that the Parks Masterplan is being completed by David Ray and may be presented at the next Neighborhood Council meeting.

**Board Comments:**

**Timothy Washington** shared that the New Smyrna Beach Coastal Throwdown was a great success. There are plans to make this an annual event.

**Robert Johnson** stated that the Venetian Bay is nearing finalization on a license plate reader project.

**Shy Morris** expressed concerns over flooding on the West Side. She stated it was very bad after last week's storm. Randy Herman agreed and added that Ester Park has an area of significant erosion. Phil Veski responded that a Stormwater Assessment is in progress and will report back to the council. Ms. Morris also expressed concern over Greenlawn Manor residents who had to relocate due to the construction. Some are finding it difficult to find adequate housing and some have had to sign leases which may make it difficult for them to move back to Greenlawn as new units become available.

**Sandra Sovinski** extended kudos to the City for swift and efficient cleanup after the recent storm.

Next Neighborhood Council Meeting will be held on February 21 at 6pm in the Commission Chambers.