

# CITY OF LARGO CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION

March 12, 2019  
Minutes

**COMMISSION PRESENT:** Commissioners Smith, Fenger, Holmes, Robinson, Holck, Mayor Brown

**COMMISSION ABSENT:** Vice Mayor Carroll

**PARTICIPATING STAFF PRESENT:** City Mgr. Schubert, Deputy City Clerk Fogarty, Eco. Dev. Coord. Rojas-Norton, Senior Eng. Westmark, Community Dev. Dir. Stricklin, Eco. Dev. Mgr. Teresa Brydon, Eng. Dir. Woloszynski

The Work Session began at 4:01 pm.

## **BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

### **BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT – DISTRICT DANCE ACADEMY**

District Dance Academy is located at 14100 US Highway 19, Largo, FL 33764 in the Oakwood Center off of US Highway 19. The business is owned by professional dancers, Hugo Miguez and Stacy Kay. The partners are renowned, internationally, for their precision, variety, and teaching methods within West Coast Swing. The partners travel worldwide as competitors, judges and choreographers. After teaching all over the world, the partners decided to open in Largo, Florida, since the area is a popular destination for dance instruction and Pinellas County is their home.

The business opened in 2019 and specializes in social dance, private dance lessons, yoga classes, fitness classes, and event rentals. Their instructors provide many opportunities for dancers of all levels to try out various dance styles at their free beginner boot camps such as West Coast Swing, Vintage Swing, Urban Tap and Ballet, Hustle, Fitness classes, Feldenkrais', Ballroom and more. For more information, visit [DistrictDanceAcademy.com](http://DistrictDanceAcademy.com)

Discussion:

Ms. Rojas-Norton introduced Hugo Miguez, Stacy Kay, and Bruce Park. Mr. Park discussed where he first met Mr. Miguez and Ms. Kay. He assisted them in starting their business. Mr. Miguez noted that they started with 10 people in their classes but now they have over 100 people attending. He noted teaching gave them a fulfillment they were not getting through competitions. Mr. Miguez noted the main challenge they have is just needing more bodies to assist and due to being in a shopping complex, people get lost trying to find their location. Mr. Miguez noted that the City can assist in signage and help advertise their services. They received permission from Duke to put in streetlights, or possibly solar streetlights.

Commissioner Holmes arrived at 4:07 pm.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **PINELLAS GATEWAY MID-COUNTY AREA MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Forward Pinellas is leading a study to develop a Master Plan for the Gateway/Mid-County area to examine transportation and land use concerns for this vital economic area. The project will create a physical master plan and infrastructure analysis with a supporting policy framework that will guide future development, redevelopment and multimodal connectivity in the area and regionally. Forward Pinellas is partnering with Pinellas County and the cities of Largo, Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg to fund and guide the study, as well as advance its recommendations upon completion. The Largo City Commission approved the Interlocal Agreement in March

2018 and committed \$100,000 to fund the study. The City Commission was previously updated at the Work Session in September 2018.

The consulting firm, WRT, will present an update of the progress on the project to date including the Master Plan framework and Implementation Strategy.

Discussion:

Ms. Saoji gave the presentation. There were no questions from the City Commission.

Commissioner Smith left the room at 4:25 pm and returned at 4:27 pm.

City Commission Direction:

No direction given

### **DOWNTOWN MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE**

The West Bay Drive corridor is the signature roadway and a Community Street that traverses the core downtown area of Largo. Improvements to the West Bay Drive corridor between Clearwater-Largo Road and Missouri Avenue are important to the City and the future growth of the downtown. Redevelopment has begun along this corridor that is creating, and will continue to create, a pedestrian friendly environment with a mixture of residential and commercial uses.

The Downtown Multimodal Improvements project is at the 30% design phase, and award for construction is expected later in FY 2019. Improvements will include replacement of damaged sidewalk on both sides of West Bay Drive, repair and rehabilitation of curb ramps and driveway/business entrance aprons, sidewalk/crosswalk realignment, ADA ramps, and constructing two mid-block crossings. Pavement repair and rehabilitation consists of mill, resurface, and re-stripe of approximately 1/2 mile of existing roadway pavement. Design and construction are being coordinated with the developers of the West Bay Lofts project on the 500 and 600 block of West Bay Drive.

Access to subsurface conduit during sidewalk replacement creates a rare opportunity to improve existing roadway and pedestrian lighting and positively enhance the image of the corridor. Staff and the design consultant therefore evaluated three lighting alternatives: (1) retain existing lighting, (2) lighting enhancements offered by Duke Energy, and (3) lighting enhancements provided by a private pole and lighting manufacturer, using nine guiding parameters provided by executive leadership on the Downtown Coordination Committee. The latter two alternatives require funds not currently in the project's budget.

Staff is seeking guidance and direction to move forward with a lighting alternative consistent with the long term downtown vision.

Discussion:

Mr. Westmark presented the scope of work. Commissioner Holmes questioned the maintenance to the light poles. If the City purchases for Duke Energy, they would maintain them. If the City purchases them privately, then the agreement with Pinellas County will continue and they will maintain the lights. Commissioner Robinson agreed the light poles need to come down in height, he noted that you can't see the banners due to tree coverage either. Commissioner Robinson asked if there was a solar option on the lights. It was noted that due to storm chances in Florida, the solar panels are a high risk. Mayor Brown asked if someone wanted to put the 5G technology in the poles, does it go on the inside or outside. Mr. Woloszynski noted it would be a box on the top

of the pole. Commissioner Holmes questioned the sidewalk widening by the railroad tracks. It was confirmed they would have to go through the railroad company to make any changes in that area. It was also confirmed that the City has funds in the downtown budget to cover the changes.

Commissioner Holmes left the meeting at 5:05 pm.

City Commission Direction:

Consensus to support moving forward with the 18ft poles.

**BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Forward Pinellas – Vice Mayor Smith – Meeting will be held tomorrow. They will be voting on the City's request for a Planning and Place Making Grant Pilot Program.

Homeless Leadership Board – Commissioner Holck - Had nothing new to report.

North Pinellas Cultural Alliance – Commissioner Robinson – Stated they formed two committees, one on membership and growth and the other will be coordinating an art symposium. He noted they were a sponsor of the Dunedin international film festival, which turned out good, and are looking to expand.

Suncoast League of Cities – Commissioner Robinson filled in by responding for Commissioner Carroll - Florida League of Cities is holding a Legislative Action Day. He has been asked to run for the second Vice President of Florida league of Cities and has the intention to move forward with that.

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority – Commissioner Fenger – Stated Ms. Frick has been forwarding information to other Commissioners that she felt was a good source.

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council – Mayor Brown – He noted an expert spoke to them regarding floodplain insurance ratings. He saw that the City of Largo was rated a 7, the highest score being a 1 and no city in the country meets that. The Port of Tampa is looking to do some dredging and filling, he wrote a letter noting the concerns with the project.

Area Agency on Aging – Commissioner Fenger – Stated Ms. Frick forwarded an invite to their Annual Luncheon that will be held in April and will be a great networking opportunity.

**ITEMS FROM COMMISSION, MAYOR, CITY MANAGER**

Commissioner Smith spoke to a Largo High Student who is trying to start a program. Mr. Schubert and Commissioner Robinson stated they have also spoken to him and directed him to Police Chief Undestad. Commissioner Smith noted there have been many complaints regarding trash cans being full at bus stops. He also noted there was a great turnout at the Largo Library for the Largo Reads event.

Commissioner Robinson noted he found out HB-9, regarding CRA's, is under attack again. It has passed the committee and will probably go to the legislative floor soon.

Commissioner Holck had nothing to report.

Commissioner Fenger noted a realty magazine with an article pertaining to opportunity zones that she will pass on to Shirley to distribute. She stated that officer suicides are outranking the on the job deaths that occur while on duty. She questioned what the City could do to help first responders.

Mayor Brown thanked Largo Staff and Forward Pinellas for putting on the bike event. He noted about 65 people showed up to bike from Largo Central Park to Southwest Recreation and back.

Mr. Schubert discussed the current standing in the hiring of the new Public Works Director.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Commissioner Smith asked staff to research solar streetlights for the right-of-way in front of the District Dance Academy.

Commissioner Smith asked staff to provide the District Dance Academy information regarding transit and the Employee Discount Program.

Commissioner Robinson asked staff to look into creating an Ordinance regarding 5G pole locations and design standards specific to the downtown.

Mayor Brown asked staff to research putting LED up-lighting on some of the trees in the Downtown Core.

Mayor Brown asked staff to look into changing the crosswalk design in the Downtown Core.

Commissioner Robinson asked that the drainage under the sidewalks in the Downtown Core be looked at.

Commissioner Robinson asked staff to research ways to make the sidewalks outside of our property line match the improvements presented in the Downtown Core.

Mayor Brown asked staff research our flood rating and ways we can receive a better rating.

Commissioner Fenger asked staff to provide information regarding our programs for first responders' mental health.

Commissioner Holck asked staff to check if our insurance covers the 30 day program for first responders that is held in North Carolina.

Commissioner Smith asked staff to provide a report on the Criminal Diversion Program.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.