



PENSACOLA BEACH
SANTA ROSA ISLAND AUTHORITY

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W. A. "Buck" Lee
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Authority Members
FROM: Executive Director
DATE: February 2, 2011
RE: Minutes of February 1, 2011 Palm Tree Sub-Committee Meeting

A Palm Tree Sub - Committee Meeting was held on Monday, February 1, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.

Committee Members present were as follows:

- Ms. Tammy Bohannon
- Mr. Robert Rinke
- Ms. Gwen Fontenot
- Ms. Susan Hoover arrived at 12:25 p.m.

Ms. Amy Martin could not attend the meeting.

Ms. Lila Cox, as a member of the SRIA Trolley Sub – Committee, wished to suggest to the Palm Tree Sub - Committee that a combined effort could be very beneficial. She stated that a couple of attractive trolley stations that included bike racks, some form of shelter and attractive landscaping might accomplish both purposes. She wished to inform the Sub – Committee that she would discuss her ideas with her fellow Trolley Sub – Committee members at the next meeting.

At this time the Sub – Committee members heard presentations from three landscape specialists who allotted 30 minutes each

The first presentation was from Mr. Steve Black, Green Procedures.

Mr. Black gave a "preliminary proposed concept and pricing" for Via De Luna and Ft. Pickens Rd. He stated that his concept would be a corridor effect with some base plantings, native grasses and palm trees which perform the best because of their ability to handle the harsh winds on Pensacola Beach.

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Mr. Black stated that sabal palms would be better on the private leasehold properties and that he would personally meet with each individual homeowner on Via De Luna to see if they would allow the palm tree to be planted on their leasehold property and be responsible for the maintenance. He stated that budgets for this project would depend greatly on the landscaper's ability to "sell" the idea of the free palms to the leaseholders.

Ms. Bohannon asked if Mr. Black agreed that focusing on the medians would be more bang for the buck and create the wow factor that is wanted. She also stated that the medians would be the best way to start and get others on board for the project.

Mr. Black suggested a mixture of heights and the palms as the focal point.

Additional discussion followed including types of palm trees and reclaimed water.

The second presentation was from Mr. Charles Bland, Operations Manager, and Mr. Danny Wilcox, Valley Crest Landscape Maintenance.

Mr. Bland and Mr. Wilcox stated that focusing of the medians was a very important part of the project and that any landscaping in those areas would have to meet D.O.T. requirements. They felt the medians would draw the attention away from either side of Via De Luna and went over a handout that was passed out to the Sub – Committee members.

Mr. Bland stated that packets would be mailed out to all homeowners on Via De Luna explaining the palm tree project and then set up individual meeting with each individual homeowner to see if they would allow the palm tree to be planted on their leasehold property and be responsible for the maintenance.

Ms. Fontenot questioned if the maintenance of the proposed median landscaping would transfer to the SRIA easily.

Ms. Hoover shared the same concerns and asked if the more lavish median landscaping could be utilized in the first and the last medians in consideration of the limitations of the SRIA maintenance Department.

It was stated that there are 24 medians total on Via De Luna.

Ms. Bohannon stated that the goal of the committee is to make sure the Sub – Committee wants to do this project, what is wanted and to take the recommendation to the SRIA Board to move forward with an RFP.

Mr. Rinke stated that the medians would be easily done and felt that the Sub – Committee should move forward with the entire project, North and South, right of ways and private leaseholds on Via De Luna and Ft. Pickens Rd.

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The third presentation was from Mr. Tim Adkison, Tim Adkison Landscaping and Nursery.

Mr. Adkison stated that he had been business for many years and had planted thousands of palm trees on Pensacola Beach. He stated that he did not think many homeowners would be open to allowing the palm trees to be planted on their leaseholds and that the medians would be the first way to go.

Mr. Adkison show pictures of phoenix sylvester palms that he had available and suggested that they would be a good choice for the medians. He mentioned several types of plantings that work very well also.

Ms. Bohannon wished to move for the Sub – Committee with a recommendation to the SRIA Board of going forward with the RFP for palm trees/ landscaping on Via De Luna and Ft Pickens Rd; with the following criteria:

- 1) 80% of the palms dedicated to Via De Luna and 20 % to Ft. Pickens Rd.
- 2) Focus on the medians first, meeting D.O.T guidelines and using feature palm trees.
- 3) Right of ways and private leaseholds on North and South side of Via De Luna and selected areas on Ft. Pickens Rd to follow.
- 4) Moderate to low level of maintenance in medians with a budgeted amount to provide landscaping for the first year.
- 5) Using a local landscaper for the project.
- 6) B.D.I. assistance in preparation of the RFP.
- 7) Specify grade and warranty for plants and use primarily sabal, pendo and phoenix sylvester palms.
- 8) Allowing the Palm Tree Sub – Committee to be included in the selection process.
- 9) Budget not to exceed \$600,000.00

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



W. A. "Buck" Lee
Executive Director

WAL:mb

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