

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2019 10:00 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Boeringer, Burnt Store Isles; Julia Bowser, District 3; Tom Cavanaugh, Team Punta Gorda; Kelly Gaylord, District 2; Sherry Danko for Jay Gile, Burnt Store Meadows; Melissa Lockhart, District 5; John Miller, Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association; Gene Murtha, History Center; John Peterman, District 1; Bob Sifrit, Historic District Homeowners Association; Robert Toth, Seminole Lakes; John Welsh, Boaters Alliance; John Wright, Punta Gorda Chamber

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Harbour, Visual Arts Center; Don Sabatini, District 4

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Debby Carey, City Councilmember; City Manager Howard Kunik; Melissa Reichert, Communications Manager

Ms. Melissa Reichert called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She had members provide brief introductions.

Recording Secretary Sara Welch explained the Committee was subject to both Florida's Sunshine Law and Public Records Law as it was convened by City Council, emphasizing discussion of Committee business between members was prohibited outside of a public meeting.

Ms. Reichert explained members would evaluate projects proposed for funding through extension of the Local Option Sales Tax proposed for the November 2020 ballot, estimating the City's share would be approximately \$2.45 million annually for six years. She outlined the process by which members would rank and recommend projects, requesting members' input on the proposed criteria for scoring included in the agenda material.

Discussion ensued with consensus of the Committee to approve the criteria for scoring at the next meeting.

Ms. Reichert provided a list of previous local sales tax projects and the 2020 preliminary project list.

Discussion ensued regarding the details of proposed projects, with members requesting information related to initial and ongoing costs and other potential funding sources.

Mr. Wright questioned whether any funds remained from the current sales tax cycle.

City Manager Kunik replied costs of the projects in progress were estimated, explaining actual costs had been higher than anticipated; therefore, no funds would remain from the current sales tax cycle. He pointed out new sales tax projects should be funded solely through the proposed sales tax, stating proposed projects might not have other funding sources allocated at this time.

Ms. Reichert confirmed members desired more information on the projects in progress, including official project names, previous cost estimates, new cost estimates and details regarding any shortfalls.

Mr. Welsh inquired as to the creation of a process for members and the community to suggest projects.

Ms. Gaylord spoke in favor of mirroring Charlotte County's process for recommending projects, which would be presented to the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners the following week.

Mr. Welsh pointed out some organizations would not reconvene until September 2019 or October 2019, recommending same be considered when seeking community input.

Consensus of the Committee was to consider establishment of a process for members and the community to recommend projects at the next meeting.

Ms. Reichert stated the City's Finance Director and other staff associated with each project would attend the next meeting to answer members' questions.

Ms. Gaylord requested the Capital Improvement Project title be used in the list of potential sales tax projects.

Mr. Peterman confirmed the Committee could make suggestions regarding the timing of projects.

Mr. Welsh inquired as to the use of representatives in place of approved Committee members.

Ms. Reichert replied representatives could not vote but could provide their organization's view and report back to the Committee member. She then stated she would contact members to schedule additional meetings.

City Manager Kunik requested members ensure the projects they recommended were supported by the community, drawing attention to two occasions when projects funded through sales tax met with significant community opposition.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Communications Manager

Recording Secretary