# MINUTES
# CITY OF COCOA

## BUDGET PRIORITIES & GOAL SETTING WORKSHOP

## April 19, 2022

A Budget Priorities and Goal Setting Workshop was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, in Cocoa City Hall, in City Council Chambers, located at 65 Stone Street, in Cocoa, Florida, 32922, as publicly noticed.

**I. Opening Matters:**

Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Mayor Blake noted that each person will have three minutes to speak and that they be constructive and conscientious of time. He has another obligation to attend after the workshop.

Former Deputy Mayor Whipple provided the invocation and Dr. Synthia Doakes led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The City Clerk took the roll. It was noted that the City Attorney was en route and would be a little late.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PRESENT: | Michael C. Blake | Mayor |
| | Lavander Hearn | Deputy Mayor |
| | Rip Dyal | Councilmember |
| | Alex Goins | Councilmember |
| | Lorraine Koss | Councilmember |
| | Anthony Garganese | City Attorney (arrived at 1:45 p.m.) |
| | Stockton Whitten | City Manager |
| | Carie Shealy | City Clerk |

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lorne Stinnett, HR Manager/ Acting Administrative Services Director; Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Charlene Neuterman, Interim Community Services Director; Evander Collier, Police Chief; Bryant Smith, Public Works Director; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Rob Beach, Chief Technology Officer; Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager/PIO; Ben Wenrich, Helpdesk Support Tech;

Pat Dovale, Police Commander; and Jeremy Ondo, Police Lieutenant; Lora Howell, Deputy Finance Director; and Colleen Campbell, Budget Analyst.

It was noted that Alicia Phillips will not be here until 1 p.m. as her husband is having surgery so she would like a time certain to speak at that time.

## I. Meeting Topics:

### 1. Planning and Priority Focus Areas

City Manager Whitten announced this was the Budget Priorities & Goal Setting Workshop and there were items for them to focus on today. He discussed the topics of discussion for the workshop.

It was noted that there will be another workshop held on May 26, 2022. He stressed this was not the final workshop.

A presentation[1] was provided and an updated SWOT Analysis was shown.

Councilmember Koss spoke about Threats and that she felt it would be more useful to describe what "climate change" means, such as sea level rise, heat events and storm events. She further noted that Image and Reputation were both listed under Weaknesses and Threats and she hoped that those were not overlooked.

In response, City Manager Whitten pointed out that Image and Reputation were also under Opportunities.

Additionally, the Lagoon is listed under Threats and it was recommended to add "health" of the Lagoon.

City Manager Whitten further mentioned that under Opportunities an incentive for employees to learn Spanish was listed but he felt it should also be to have a culturally diverse workforce. Mayor Blake endorsed that.

Ms. Senger further reviewed the Mission statement which was unchanged, as well as the Vision statement with the previous recommended changes.

Councilmember Koss mentioned that in regards to the Vision statement there were a few minor edits. She felt that by turning a few things around it could make more sense and she provided the following revised statement to Council:

*"We envision Cocoa as a safe, vibrant, and diverse city that values its rich history and environmental resources while promoting an engaged, inclusive community with ample employment, housing, recreational, and social opportunities for all."*

---

[1] Exhibit A: Budget Priorities & Goal Setting Workshop presentation

Mayor Blake was fine with the current Vision statement and stated that as time goes by it could be adjusted. He believes in staff and they should trust them.

Councilmember Dyal agreed with Mayor Blake and likes the statement as is.

* **MOTION by Councilmember Koss to make minor modifications to the Vision statement that she presented in order to make it make sense. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hearn for discussion.**

City Manager Whitten agreed that staff could go back and work on anything but he felt changes such as commas, etc. could change the context.

Mayor Blake asked if staff agreed to make modifications than why was a motion needed.

* **Councilmember Koss agreed if they want to come back that is fine and rescinded her Motion and Deputy Mayor Hearn rescinded his second.**

Ms. Senger discussed the Core Values and explained changes that were made due to suggestions at the last workshop.

Priority Areas were discussed and staff advised that the goal was to produce a quality of life and that we do this by each of the five main priorities. Further discussion was held on priorities and on how Cocoa's image is defined.

City Manager Whitten agreed that the priorities can be renamed or restructured. He reiterated this was the second time they have reviewed the Plan and it is an imperfect product that can be adjusted.

Ms. Senger advised all of the Priorities are on the website and as they get updated they will make those changes. They will also include projects under the bullets to keep everyone informed of what is going on in the City.

Alicia Phillips, representing Cocoa Youth Athletics, spoke about Stradley Park and encouraged upgrades to the facilities. They are the only youth football league without functioning restrooms. The field needs to be upgraded and they fear that there will not be a football team in the future if things are not upgraded. Additionally, the concession stand can only hold about three people at a time. She reiterated the need for help. They want to be a feeder program into high school and want kids to learn as they are proud to wear the orange and black.

Mayor Blake advised that $500,000 had been allocated towards the youth program. City Manager Whitten further advised that in addition to those funds, Brevard County Parks and Rec has recommended funding in the D4 taxing district.

Mayor Blake assured Ms. Phillips that her concerns were not falling on deaf ears and that people were aware. Safety is near and dear to his heart and they will continue to support the children.

Ms. Phillips noted that it was passion and they appreciate the funding received so far. The City Manager, Councilmember Koss and Deputy Mayor Hearn have been keeping her updated as well.

Councilmember Koss thanked Ms. Phillips for her passion and pointed out that she was alarmed at what she saw at the fields, as it was a public and safety risk.

Councilmember Goins mentioned that dealing with government can be frustrating but staff is working really hard to get these things done. He asked staff to keep her updated as well through email or text and also to keep Council apprised.

Councilmember Dyal noted that on opening day for Cocoa Little League the sidewalks were covered in water and fields were not mowed. That is the County and they seem like they do not want to do it.

City Manager Whitten advised that the parks system with the County was very complicated as it is sixty years old. City parks are operated by the County because that is how the citizens voted in 1962. He has a great relationship with the County and Mr. Smith is now the Chair of the District 4 Administrative Board.

**2. Parks and Recreation Discussion**

Mr. Smith provided an overview of parks and explained what staff has done in order to address issues. He spoke about the Parks Infrastructure Plan[2] which explains each park detail as well as plans for each park. City Manager Whitten added that there will ultimately be two documents, the open space plan and the infrastructure plan.

City Manager Whitten pointed out that the monies spent for the open space plan cannot be recouped but the focus is on the shorter term infrastructure needs of the park.

Brief discussion was held on the plans.

Mr. Smith provided a history of the D4 parks. He provided a timeline from 1986 to current times and noted he was not sure what happened between 1962 to 1986, as it was possibly a year-to-year agreement.

Councilmember Goins asked of the possibility of bringing a referendum back to the ballot. In response, City Manager Whitten stated he would need to speak with the City Attorney about the logistics of doing that.

Mr. Smith advised that at the end of the infrastructure plan there are some suggestions on how to move forward.

---

[2] EXHIBIT B: Parks Infrastructure Plan

City Manager noted the sooner they can get the agreement finalized things will get better, especially with the maintenance standards.

Councilmember Goins felt that they can have all of these things as a Council but what he sees is the mindset of the employees depending on what city they are in. For example, parks in Cocoa versus Merritt Island, the maintenance is not the same.

Deputy Mayor Hearn asked if there was an estimated time line on the agreement being finalized. City Manager Whitten advised the goal was to have it in place before the next fiscal year.

Mr. Smith discussed the revenue and expenses in the District 4 parks. Next, Mr. Smith provided a cost comparison of Parks and Recreation Departments across the state. He explained how staff broke out these statistics and explained their findings in detail.

In closing, he provided a summary of parks and where the City stands. He noted it was about a $2.9 million dollar budget with thirty employees. He further advised what it would cost if Leisure Services was removed. He further noted the capital outlay and what that would entail.

Ms. Bowman spoke on the cost of staff and the issue of having to find that recurring revenue to staff.

Mayor Blake believes that this new administration has done more in the last two years than the prior administration. There is manageable growth and they need to development more to increase the tax base. He reiterated what has been done in the last two years and noted that numbers do not lie.

City Manager Whitten further added that if they want to maintain the current level of services provided there is a base and a multiplier. Mr. Smith reiterated that if D4 revenue was passed through to the City, there would be an annual deficit of $2,206,261.

Lastly, Mr. Smith discussed staffs' recommendations for parks.

**3. Assigned Fund Balance/ARPA Projects**

Ms. Bowman presented information on Assigned Fund Balance/ARPA Projects and mentioned information provided at the last meeting. They were estimating three percent increases in several funds which would equate to about $730,169 increase in revenue.

She discussed the increase in expenses and what the FY 23 budget would encompass. There is an estimated shortfall of $545,744.

Councilmember Koss asked about the monies moved on January 11, 2022 into the General Fund and if this deficit was taking those into account. In response, Ms.

Bowman explained no and that they were occurring revenues that the City has every year. Those extra funds are put back into the fund balance.

Ms. Bowman discussed the Assigned Fund Balance and she pointed out some of the projects and the funds that are allocated to those.

City Manager Whitten advised that he may come back to Council to discuss Village parking as there are also funds set aside for that in the Cocoa CRA.

Ms. Bowman provided a breakdown of parks and how much funding was set aside for each for a total of $2,507,500.

Mr. Smith added an update on the parks and the status of each of the parks and where they are at. He feels that Stradley was probably the most complicated design, other than that they are basic designs. He advised prices are going up so purchase orders are having to be issued on the same day.

Mr. Smith reviewed the District 4 suggested improvements by the County. City Manager Whitten further explained that this list was approved and presented to the County Commissioners.

Councilmember Koss pointed out that Junny Rios has a really nice shaded area and felt it was a concern as Stradley Park has such needs.

It was confirmed that Junny Rios Park was approved for a shade structure and restroom. Shade structures are being done over playground equipment. It was decided that shade was needed and with the growth along the SR 524 corridor, those people will cross the highway and partake in the amenities of Junny Rios Park.

Discussion was held on the funding, as well as why design fees vary so much. In response to that those concerns, Mr. Smith mentioned that all of the costs are in the ten to fifteen percent range. Junny Rios Park has a little more electrical and utilities work involved.

It was clarified that these were recommendations from the District 4 Administrative Board to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mayor Blake further reiterated that this was special taxing district revenue and what the Administrative Board was funding for FY 2023. He liked the list as is.

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Councilmember Dyal, to approve the list for $640,000 as recommended by the District 4 Administrative Board to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners.**

The motion was opened for discussion. Deputy Mayor Hearn does not want to vote in favor of the $80,000 for Junny Rios Park as he feels it should go for the Carl Anderson Park.

Councilmember Dyal did not feel that any changes should be made when the County is giving money. He agreed that the shade was needed.

Councilmember Goins felt they should give the City Manager direction and that as a Council they need to be at these meetings to provide their input. He agreed with the Deputy Mayor about Junny Rios Park and that Gilmore was in more needs of the shade.

Further discussion was held on the recommendations.

* **Mayor Blake Amended his motion to add that any additional funds be carried forward for a shade structure at the Larry Gilmore Park. Councilman Dyal seconded the amendment.**

Councilmember Dyal noted that for twenty-six years District 3 has not gotten anything and feels tthat Carl Anderson Park should have shade but is concerned as the County is giving these funds. He worried that if this change was made the County would either accept it or squash the whole thing. In response, City Manager Whitten advised that this was the first time Council has seen what they are proposing to do.

Mayor Blake's concern was they would rescind funds already allocated.

Kristin Lortie, District 3, Cocoa resident, stated one of her biggest concerns was that the agenda stated that action could be taken and this is a large amount of money. She disagrees with this decision being made today. There are three people at the table who do not support the item and she is troubled as a resident and would like to see this tabled. She would like other citizens to have a opportunity to weigh in on this, as they are still complaining about what happened at the meetings last year. More deliberation needs held.[3]

City Manager Whitten assured everyone that staff has not recommended anything and reiterated this was brought forward from the District 4 Administrative Board. He stressed that the $640,000 is not in the Council's budget it is the County's budget.[4]

Linda Dolphin, lives in District 4, Cocoa, asked staff to contact Terry Lane. She feels that Provost Park needs a shade structure. She agreed that Junny Rios does not need it but there are three other parks that do.

Clarence Whipple, Jr., 1201 Counts Street, Cocoa, stated that he was the President of the Central Brevard NAACP and there are things going on that have raised the concerns of citizens. He was concerned with how they go forward and to remember their oaths in regards to service and he stated the oath. He further mentioned an event at the park this past weekend and that it raised the concerns

---

3 Councilmember Dyal left the meeting at 2:43 p.m. and returned at 2:45 p.m.

4 Deputy Mayor Hearn left the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

of the citizens. He texted the City Manager in regards to what was going on and does not know who came up with the event in Provost Park on Easter Sunday. Mr. Whipple further noted that he has an appointment with the City Manager regarding issues in Virginia Park as well as his other concerns. Lastly, he believes that a car wash at the corner of US 1 and SR 520 was not needed and encouraged Council to approve all of the amenities needed.

Steve Murphy, 3733 N. Sherwood Circle, Cocoa, spoke about property taxes. He advised estimates were based on a three percent increase and did not feel that was effective. He also noted the commercial properties are not affected by the three percent increase. He would like to see a better estimate next time. Lastly, he spoke about the lots that were recently purchased by the City and that the independent assessments were $15,000 per lot and the recommendation of Council was $65,000 per lot. He provided alternatives they could have used to negotiate a better price[5].

**The Vote on the Motion was:**

**AYES: Blake, Dyal**
**NAYES: Hearn, Goins, Koss**

**THE MOTION FAILED (2-3)**

City Manager Whitten advised that the County was in their budget process and he could recommend to them that Council has asked for a shade structure to be done at Larry Gilmore Park rather than Junny Rios Park.

* **MOTION by Councilmember Koss; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hearn, to recommend a shade structure at Larry Gilmore Park rather than Junny Rios Park.**

**AYES: Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss**
**NAYES: Blake**

**THE MOTION CARRIED (4-1)[6]**

City Manager Whitten advised that he has received repercussions on how he responds to citizens.

Councilmember Goins felt that the City Manager corrects citizens but does not disparage. Councilmember Koss explained how this comes across from the dias. She does not feel it is their place on the dias to ridicule people.

---

5 Deputy Mayor Hearn returned to the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

6 Deputy Mayor Hearn left the meeting at 2:57 p.m. and attended the remainder of the meeting via the phone.

Mayor Blake advised it was easy to cast arguments when facts are not there but sometimes when a person does not get their way they get upset. More has been done in two years than in the last four so something is being done right.

City Manager Whitten voiced his opinion on being dismissive or disparaging and he has never been either one. He has a professional and personal reputation in this community. He has been accused of being that way and he has not been.

Mayor Blake stands by him and wishes everyone would be honest and not hide behind their cloche or give people oxygen.

Ms. Bowman continued and spoke about the ARPA funding in detail and pointed out that as of April 1st they were in the final rules for this year. The funds come in two rounds. She provided funding recommendations and why they were determined as needed.

She further explained that there are certain terms and conditions they have to abide by as they are federal dollars with federal terms and conditions.

Bids for parks were mentioned and the City Manager noted that they have to reject bids and solicit new bids in order to be in compliance with the federal requirements in regards to restrooms at the parks. He noted that the current bids for restrooms were extended through May.

Councilmember Goins stated that there were issues at the Fern and Prospect Park with the restrooms and that there are infrastructure needs but was not sure if it was the right time for that.

Chief Collier believes that the needs at Prospect were to focus on crime and safety. Mayor Blake felt that things were getting better and that the current Chief is doing a great job as well as the former Chief.

Deputy Mayor Hearn did not discredit what Councilmember Goins stated but feels issues at Carl Anderson Park are going un-noticed. He still supports the restrooms at Carl Anderson Park.

Ms. Bowman stated that no final action was needed on the Final Rules for SLFRF (ARPA) but staff needed direction on the restrooms.

City Manager Whitten reminded Council about the fire training facility that Chief Lamm had previously spoke about and believed it to be a viable thing to spend money on.

Chief Lamm explained what ISO is and that one of the items he was tasked with when coming on board was to improve the ISO rating. He discussed things that can be done in order to increase their rating and that one thing was a need for two acres attached to a station to use as training grounds. They could strategically use the property near Fire Station #1. He further spoke about the truck given to the City by Punta Gorda which could be used for training as well; however, updates need to be done to it.

Ms. Bowman pointed out that under the Final Rules you have to relate everything that you did to Covid. They have also come up with a new rule for capital purchases.

* **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Hearn, to approve the funding for the updates to the training trailer.**

After a question was posed regarding the costs to update the trailer, Chief Lamm noted he does not know the costs and the soonest they can come back with information would be the middle of May. They have no way to ballpark an amount.

City Manager Whitten stated that a recommendation could be brought back to the May 26th workshop.

**Deputy Mayor Hearn rescinded his motion.** He knows it will benefit the City.

Councilmember Koss asked about the two acres of land and mentioned that a stormwater pond was supposed to be put in that area. In response, Mr. Smith stated he would have to research that and that information will be brought back as well.

Mr. Smith mentioned that if they moved money from Gilmore Park to Carl Anderson Park there would be additional contingency.

It was noted by the City Manager that no action was needed for staff to put out a re-bid. However, Ms. Bowman pointed out that the bid would expire. It would add about three months as it takes about that long to bid a project.

Discussion was held on the community garden and of the need for infrastructure, such as reclaimed or potable water. Councilmember Koss suggested setting up a rain barrel at the pavilion and it would be a sustainable project.

Discussion was held on the Joe Lee Smith Center RFP and City Manager Whitten explained the scope of services that were being requested as well as the term of the agreement, special conditions, requirements, etc.

Mayor Blake's recommendation would be like the Evan's Center or what Family Promise has done.

Councilmember Dyal was in support of healthcare related services and vocational training. Councilmember Koss was in favor of healthcare related services as well, but would support anything as she was in favor of using that building.

Councilmember Goins asked if there would be a certain dollar amount per year and in response, City Manager Whitten stated it would be similar to Family Promise. Councilmember Goins felt that all of those services mentioned were needed and was in support of that. There have also been requests to use it over the summer for basketball, etc. City Manager Whitten noted they could do the same thing they did with Emma Jewel in regards to utilizing the building.

Ms. Bowman added Purchasing would work with the City Attorney in regards to the bid. Additionally, Ms. Neuterman stated they have a draft RFP that they could manipulate to add those requirements.

Deputy Mayor Hearn would like to see a health and fitness center or a small business hub like in Melbourne, and to be used as an event center in the community.

* **CONSENSUS AMONG COUNCIL TO PUT OUT AN RFP FOR THE OLD JOE LEE SMITH CENTER.**

Ms. Bowman asked for clear direction on the bathrooms as it was originally to do two.

City Manager Whitten clarified that the bid expires on May 23rd and at the May 26th workshop Council would let them know if they were going to rebid one bathroom or two.

In closing, Ms. Bowman provided a budget calendar with upcoming meeting and workshop dates.

**4. Council Priorities**

City Manager Whitten provided a brief recap of discussion items in regards to Council's priorities. He advised he would like these by May 26th for the workshop and if a list is submitted he will provide them to all Council.

Chief Collier provided an update on the City's crime statistics from 2021. He mentioned that in 2020 crime was up 17.8% and has also been up in the last couple of years. Once he arrived he made significant changes and violent crime has gone down 18.7% which is huge. Property crime is down 9.6% and overall crime is down 9.6%.

Councilmember Koss brought up the earlier conversation about the dias and felt that it is how they relate to the public. It was not her intention to point anyone out but they need to keep a certain relationship with the public. She wants them to know that they have the right to speak and are welcome.

Mayor Blake stated that sometimes perception is reality and it is easy for people to take pop shots and it may be on the dias or in public. Council still has to face the public and he will show up to an event even when he is not wanted[7].

**5. Public Input/Citizen Participation**

---

[7] Mayor Blake left the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Kristin Lortie, Cocoa resident, District 3, felt this workshop has been chilling and that there have been moments that are chilling. She is concerned with the comments about having to get comments notarized in order to speak for someone and she will continue to speak about that. There has been a lot presented and she mentioned priorities on community outreach/engagement and felt that they were pretty light. They need more two way opportunities in the community and feels that citizens should be welcome and they feel they are not. She reiterated that this has felt very chilly and very heavy handed and is troubled by voting in workshops.

**III. Adjournment.**

* **MOTION by Councilmember Dyal; Seconded by Councilmember Goins, to adjourn the Budget Priorities & Goal Setting Workshop on April 19, 2022.**

**AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)**

**The Workshop adjourned at 4:15 pm**

Michael C. Blake

**Michael C. Blake, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

Carie Shealy

**Carie Shealy, MMC, City Clerk**

CITY OF COCOA SEAL

EXHIBIT A: Budget Priorities & Goal Setting Workshop Presentation

COCOA
FLORIDA

# BUDGET PRIORITIES AND GOAL SETTING WORKSHOP

4/19/22



# AGENDA

- Planning and Priority Focus Areas
- Parks and Recreation Discussion
  - Infrastructure Plan Review
  - Operating and Maintaining City Parks
- Assigned Fund Balance/ARPA Projects
- Council Priorities
- Public Input/Citizen Participation
- Next Session, 5/26/22

# WHERE WE ARE GOING

## PLANNING AND PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS




COCOA
FLORIDA

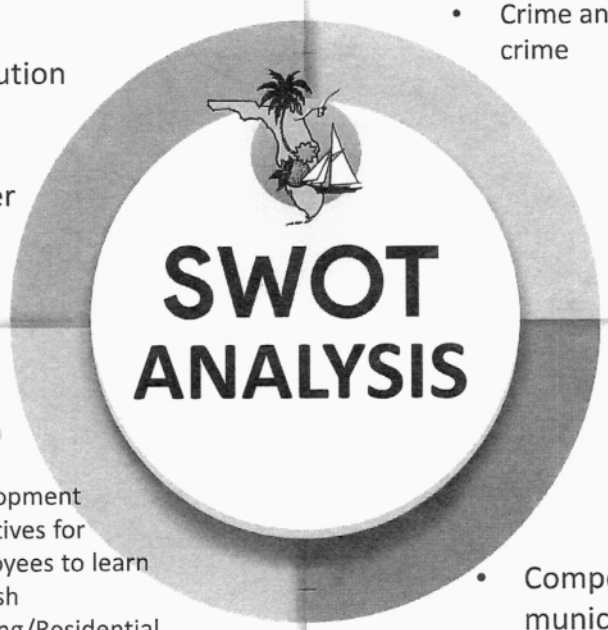
# 2022 SWOT ANALYSIS

## STRENGTHS

- Regional Water Utility
- Cocoa Village
- Employee Knowledge
- Location
- Financial Status
- Culturally Diverse
- Abundance of Churches/Non-profits
- Educational Hub
- Tree City USA
- Center for Distribution Centers
- Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center
- Diamond Square Community

## WEAKNESSES

- Cocoa's Image/Reputation
- Irregular City Boundaries
- Crime and the perception of crime
- Limited funding for improvements
- Limited control over our parks
- Affordable business space for entrepreneurs
- Incentives for City employees living in the City
- Representative of the population
- Sustainability



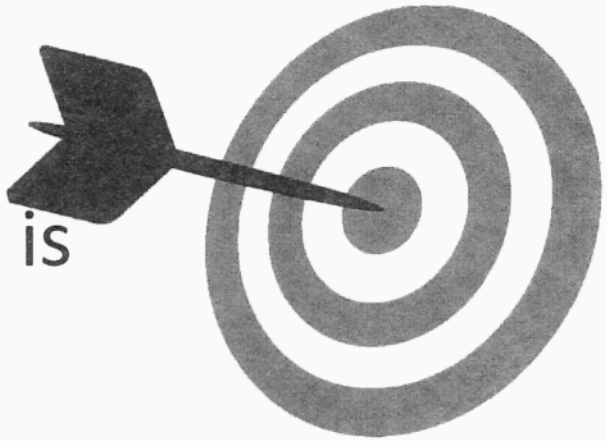

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Cocoa Village
- Use of City Facilities & Amenities
- Annexations
- Expansion of Water/Wastewater Utilities
- Industrial Areas
- Brightline Station
- Cocoa's Image/Reputation
- Tradeschools and partnership with STEM and CTE programs
- Diamond Square Community
- Eco tourism
- Grant Eligibility
- More connected pathways
- Low-impact development
- Incentives for employees to learn Spanish
- Building/Residential development
- Vacant commercial property
- Citizen participation/engagement

## THREATS

- Competition for municipal employees
- Cocoa's Image/Reputation
- Lack of service and healthcare businesses
- Condition of the Lagoon
- Lack of attainable workforce housing
- Homelessness
- Climate change
- Unmanaged growth
- Lack of civic engagement

# MISSION



The mission of Cocoa's government is

"To enrich the quality of life for our unique and diverse community by delivering Professional, Responsive, Innovative, Dedicated and Exceptional public services!"

***Serving our community with P.R.I.D.E.***

# VISION

We envision Cocoa as a safe, vibrant, environmentally conscious city that is diverse, rich in history, and promotes a creative and inclusive community with ample employment, housing, recreational, and social opportunities for all.

# CORE VALUES

**Integrity**

Conducting ourselves in a moral, ethical, and honest manner.

**Accountability**

Citizens, Staff and City Council taking ownership and responsibility to promote public trust.

**Community Engagement**

Encouraging community participation, inclusivity and awareness so that all residents feel they have an opportunity to participate in their city government.

**Professionalism**

Serving the community competently and efficiently with character and a positive attitude.

**Excellence**

Providing responsive and exceptional customer service.

**Respect**

Treating the public and one another with dignity, consideration and compassion.

*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!

# PRIORITY AREAS

COCOA
FLORIDA

*In order to produce an enhanced quality of life for our residents, business owners, and visitors where Cocoa achieves its vision for a safe, vibrant, environmentally conscious city that is diverse, rich in history, and promotes a creative and inclusive community with ample employment, housing, recreational, and social opportunities for all, the city must focus on these priority areas:*






**PUBLIC SAFETY & COMMUNITY STANDARDS**



PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE



ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT**



ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS



# PUBLIC SAFETY/COMMUNITY STANDARDS

*Provide effective and efficient public safety services that remains pro-active and allows for enhanced community relations and preparedness.*

- Implement pro-active, community-based solutions to build strong community relations.
- Proactively and consistently respond to shifting crime trends and emerging social problems.
- Attract and retain a skilled community-oriented and diverse sworn and civilian workforce.
- Ensure training and readiness of Public Safety employees.
- Enhance community disaster preparedness initiatives.
- Enhance community standard efforts while continuing to strive for voluntary compliance.

*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!



# INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

*Ensure safe and efficient public infrastructure that drives growth and development in an environmentally responsible manner.*

- Ensure the delivery of safe, clean drinking water to all utility customers.
- Enhance the City's transportation networks. (Train, Bicycle, Walk, Drive, Public Transit, Multi-modal Brightline Station)
- Invest in environmental stewardship.
- Support a safe, accessible, well-maintained network of parks, facilities and greenspace.
- Continually invest in parking solutions for Cocoa Village.

# ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*Enhance efforts to make the City of Cocoa a thriving and competitive economic driver along the Space Coast.*

- Enable growth through enhanced and modernized infrastructure.
- Maintain and attract new industry, jobs and investment through targeted marketing efforts, data collection and maintenance.
- Support education, training and job readiness programs.
- Improve residential development and rehabilitation programs to ensure a diversity of housing options.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

*Engage residents, business owners and visitors to participate in and be informed about their community.*

- Continue to find new ways to communicate and reach the entire community with the latest news and information.
- Engage residents in volunteer boards and committees through community outreach programs.
- Ensure branding standards are maintained.
- Encourage a diverse array of special events at city facilities that attract a diverse audience.



# ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

*Drive efficiency with impact focused workflow and attraction and development of a qualified workforce.*

- Enhance efforts to attract, develop and support a qualified and capable workforce reflective of the community.
- Leverage the latest technology to deliver efficient and effective public services to the community.
- Improve organization efficiency and effectiveness by analyzing workflow processes.
- Maintain the City's long-term fiscal sustainability.

# ONLINE DASHBOARD

- Check the progress of the priority areas with project updates online.

# PARKS AND RECREATION




COCOA
FLORIDA

# Overview

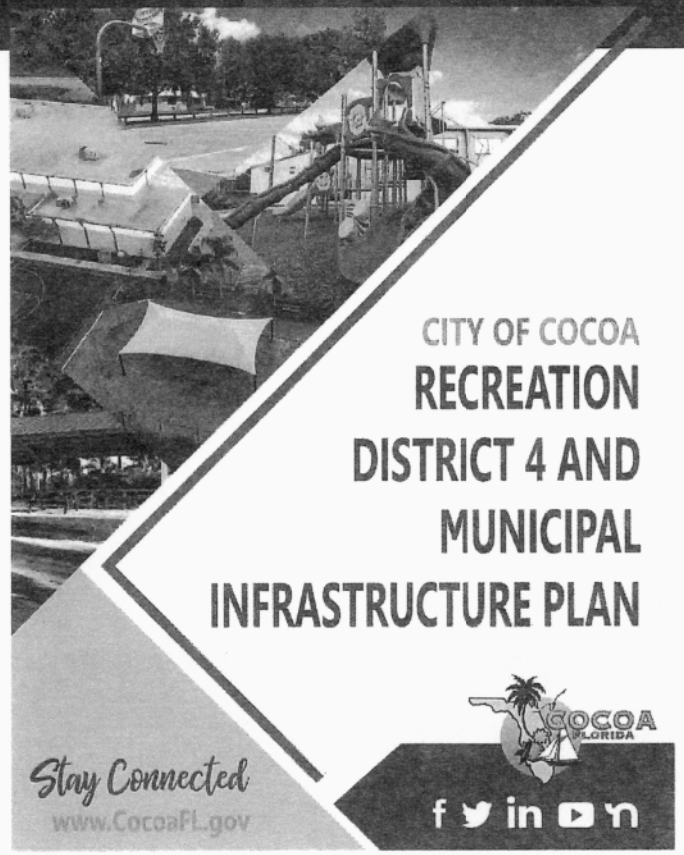
COCOA
FLORIDA

- In 2020, the City began a Parks and Open Space Master Plan study to provide future recommendations for parks around the City.
- The plan provided general information related to connectivity, tree canopy, additional park areas, and inventory with long term goals, but did not address the immediate needs within several parks around the City.
- Over the course of a year, City staff has performed site visits and interviewed several park end-users/stakeholders.
- This process helped define a short-term infrastructure basic functionality needs list specific to each park and its intended purpose.

# Parks Infrastructure Plan

COCOA
FLORIDA

The Parks Infrastructure Plan is a robust list of improvements ranging from building replacement/repairs to field improvements. The goal of these improvement recommendations is to allow these parks to operate at a satisfactory level of service.



# History of D4 Parks

COCOA
FLORIDA

- Pursuant to Chapter 61-1909, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1961, the Brevard County Recreation District Four was established to provide funding for recreational facilities and programs for the residents within the District.
- District Four encompasses portions of the City of Cocoa, City of Rockledge, and Unincorporated Brevard County.
- An election was held on November 6, 1962, to approve the formation of this district.
- Administrative board established to make recommendations to BC Board of County Commissioners related to the prioritization and spending of D4 assessment revenues. Comprised of the city or county manager for area or their alternatives.



# History of D4 Parks

COCOA
FLORIDA

**1986**

- City of Cocoa enters into a long-term maintenance and operations agreement with BC Parks and Recreation.
- This agreement expired in 2011.

**2000**

- Due to a lack of funding related to the maintenance, operations, and capital improvements of these parks, a referendum was placed on the ballot.
- Unfortunately, while a similar referendum passed in other districts in the county, it failed in District 4.

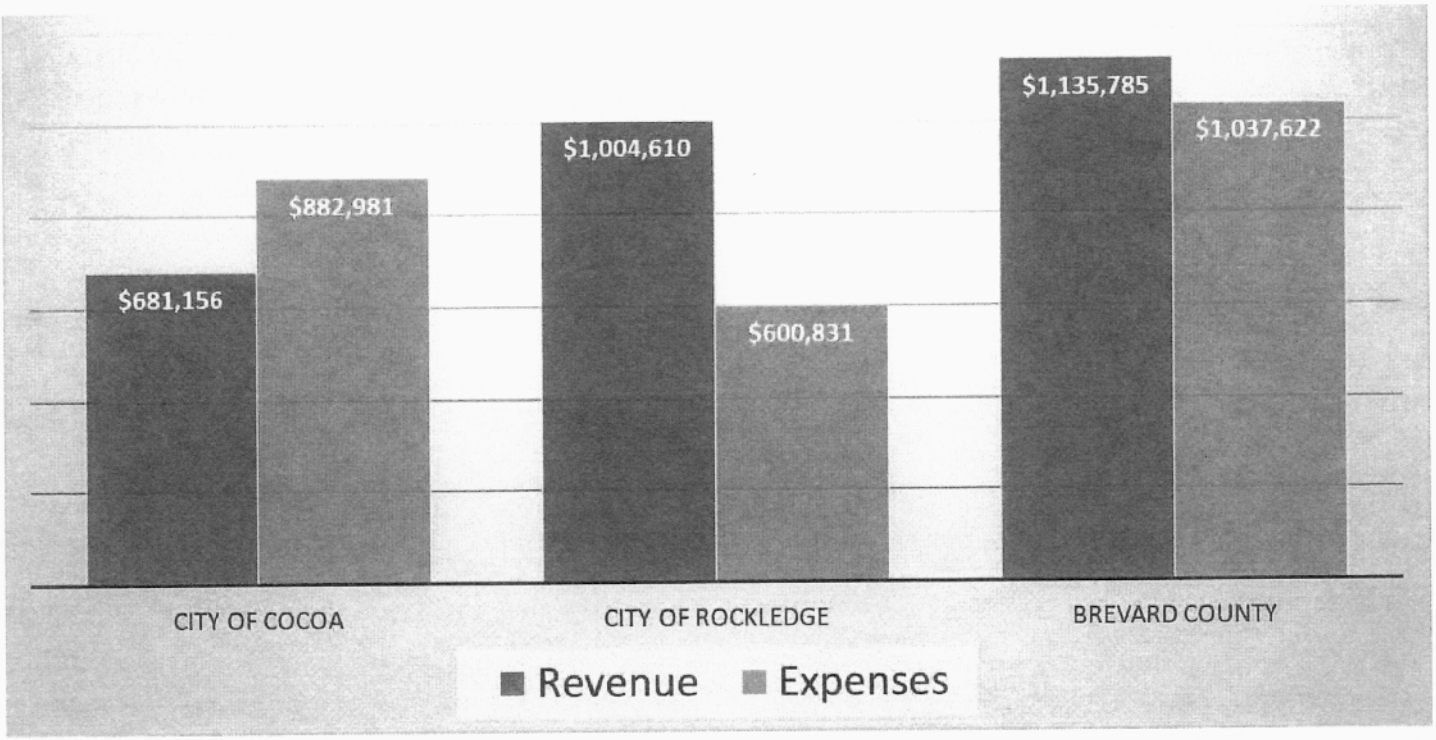
**Current**

- The City of Cocoa and County have continued to operate under the original expired maintenance and operations agreement.
- The City and County are currently negotiating a new interlocal agreement to address the maintenance and operations of these parks.

# D4 Revenue vs. Expenditures

COCOA
FLORIDA

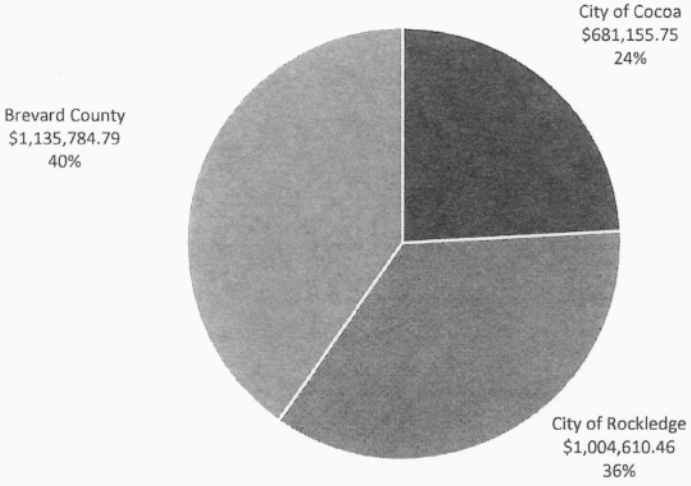
**Revenues vs. Expenses**



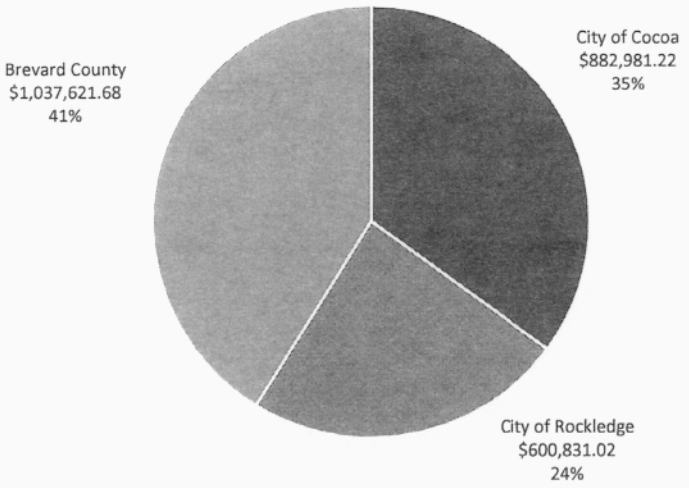
# D4 Revenue vs. Expenditures

COCOA
FLORIDA

**Revenue**




**Expenses**



# Parks and Recreation Department Cost Comparison

COCOA
FLORIDA

| City | Number of Parks | Population | Staff | | | | | Annual Budget | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Full | Part (0.5 FTE) | Seasonal (0.25 FTE) | Total | Emp/Park | Total Budget | Cost/Park |
| City of Margate | 18 | 58,023 | 33 | 24 | 48 | 57 | 3.17 | $5,280,574 | $293,365.22 |
| City of Lake Mary | 17 | 16,698 | 19 | 9 | 0 | 23.5 | 1.38 | $3,605,973 | $212,116.06 |
| City of Deland | 19 | 32,413 | 39 | 1 | 0 | 39.5 | 2.08 | $3,810,108 | $200,532.00 |
| City of Winter Springs | 12 | 36,342 | 13 | 10 | 0 | 18 | 1.50 | $2,389,039 | $199,086.58 |
| City of Oldsmar | 11 | 14,657 | 19 | 10 | 0 | 24 | 2.18 | $2,161,570 | $196,506.36 |
| City of Casselberry | 17 | 27,950 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 17.5 | 1.03 | $2,430,554 | $142,973.76 |
| City of Satellite Beach | 15 | 10,873 | 8 | 23 | 0 | 19.5 | 1.30 | $1,030,133 | $68,675.53 |
| City of Cocoa Beach | 19 | 11,619 | 4 | 49 | 0 | 28.5 | 1.50 | $1,245,759 | $65,566.26 |
| City of Crystal River | 6 | 3,129 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0.83 | $386,321 | $64,386.83 |
| City of Cocoa (HIGH) | 18 | 18,657 | 33.00 | 24.00 | 48.00 | 57.00 | 3.17 | $5,280,574 | $293,365.22 |
| City of Cocoa (AVG) | 18 | 18,657 | 20.78 | 15.66 | 5.33 | 29.95 | 1.66 | $2,886,417 | $160,356.51 |
| City of Cocoa (LOW) | 18 | 18,657 | 15.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15.00 | 0.83 | $1,158,963 | $64,386.83 |

# Summary

COCOA
FLORIDA

- The City of Cocoa contributes approximately 24% of the District 4 revenue.
- The City of Cocoa receives approximately 35% of the total revenue.
- Historically, the Brevard County BOCC has further contributed general fund dollars beyond what District 4 is able to fund.

# Summary (cont)

COCOA
FLORIDA

- Based on an average of the cities included in the Cost Comparison Chart, the City should seek to fund approximately 30 employees with an annual budget of $2,886,417. This would create a separate Parks and Recreation Department that would also absorb Leisure Services.
- Including the currently funded Leisure Services Staff (3 FTE and 5 PTE) a staffing need of 24.5 FTE is still needed. The Leisure Services Division is currently 37% vacant, even after citywide wage increases.
- The $2,886,417 does not include the initial capital outlay that would be needed.
- The equipment cost is estimated at $1.5-2.0M depending on the number of staff and there is an 18-24 month lead time on vehicles and equipment.

# Summary (cont)

COCOA
FLORIDA

- Comparing Cocoa to the least expensive listing (Crystal River), the City would still need 10 additional FTE staff members and ~$1.15M annually.
- This is not a comparable level because Cocoa has more facilities and parks.
- If the D4 Revenue was passed through to the City, there will be an annual deficit of $2,205,261

# Recommendations

COCOA
FLORIDA



- As quickly as possible meet the immediate needs of each park based on the Parks Infrastructure Plan.
- Negotiate and finalize the Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the County as soon as possible.
- Continue to explore ways to take over the operation of maintenance of City Parks within the District 4 Special Parks and Recreation Taxing District.

# BUDGET

## ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE/ARPA PROJECTS



COCOA
FLORIDA



*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!

# New Money (Estimates)

| FY23 Budget | |
|---|---|
| Property Tax Increase 3% (Current Millage Rate) | $229,480 |
| Fire Assessment | $87,000 |
| Utility/Stormwater Indirect Cost Allocations 3% | $214,681 |
| Utility Return on Investment (ROI) 3% | $264,008 |
| County (Lee Wenner Park) | ($65,000) |
| **Total Estimated Increase in Revenue:** | **$730,169** |



*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!

# Increased In Expense (Estimates)

| FY23 Budget | |
|---|---|
| General Fund (GF) Salary Increase 3% | $652,766 |
| General Fund Health Insurance Est. 10% Increase | $439,147 |
| (GF) Fuel (40% increase in Fuel since 10/21) | $134,000 |
| (GF) Utilities (Electric and Water/Sewer) 4% | $25,000 |
| Software | $25,000 |
| **Total Estimated Expense Increases:** | **$1,275,913** |
| | |
| **Estimated Shortfall** | **($545,744)** |

# Assigned Fund Balance



*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!

| Project | Amount |
|---|---|
| Parks | $2,507,500 |
| ERP System | $1,500,000 |
| Housing | $750,000 |
| Fire Pumper Truck | $634,500 |
| Additional Paving in Diamond Square | $600,000 |
| Fiske Grant Match | $560,000 |
| Police Headquarters | $559,000 |
| Economic Incentives | $500,000 |
| Village Parking | $372,728 |
| Purchase of Land for Village Parking | $327,272 |
| Fuel Tank Replacement | $310,500 |
| Donations(Brevard Museum and Cocoa High School) | $170,000 |
| Sustainability | $37,500 |
| Brevard Museum Alarm System | $35,000 |
| **Total Assigned Fund Balance** | **$8,864,000** |



*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!

# Assigned Fund Balance – Parks

| Park | Amount |
|---|---|
| Provost | $900,000 |
| Junny Rios Martinez | $710,000 |
| Don "Mo" Stradley | $575,000 |
| Bracco Pond | $82,500 |
| Carle E. Anderson | $82,500 |
| Gilmore Community | $82,500 |
| Other Park Improvements (Signs, misc. improvements) | $75,000 |
| **Total Parks** | **$2,507,500** |

# Parks Improvements – Provost

COCOA
FLORIDA

| Project | Status |
|---|---|
| Conversion of the existing softball field to a multi-use sports field | Anticipated to have 60% design completion in May 2022 |
| Resurfacing of the basketball court and tennis court area to become two basketball courts | |
| Lighting of the basketball courts | |
| Removal of the standalone full size basketball court | |
| General perimeter fencing | |
| Restroom renovations | |
| Picnic table replacement | |
| Renovation of the former Community Action Team Building to the Cocoa Police Community Engagement Center | Completed |

Design delays led to a change in engineering firms, delaying the project.

Design fees are $75,147, leaving $764,853 for the construction of improvements.

*$60,000 utilized for Community Engagement Center

# Parks Improvements – Junny Rios

COCOA
FLORIDA

| Project | Status |
| --- | --- |
| Installation of a splash pad<br>Additional pavilion | Design delays led to a change in engineering firms, further delaying the project. |

- Design fees are $95,859, leaving $614,141 for the construction of improvements
- Anticipated 60% design completion in May 2022

# Parks Improvements – Stradley

COCOA
FLORIDA

| Project | Status |
| --- | --- |
| Football field improvements | Currently in design |

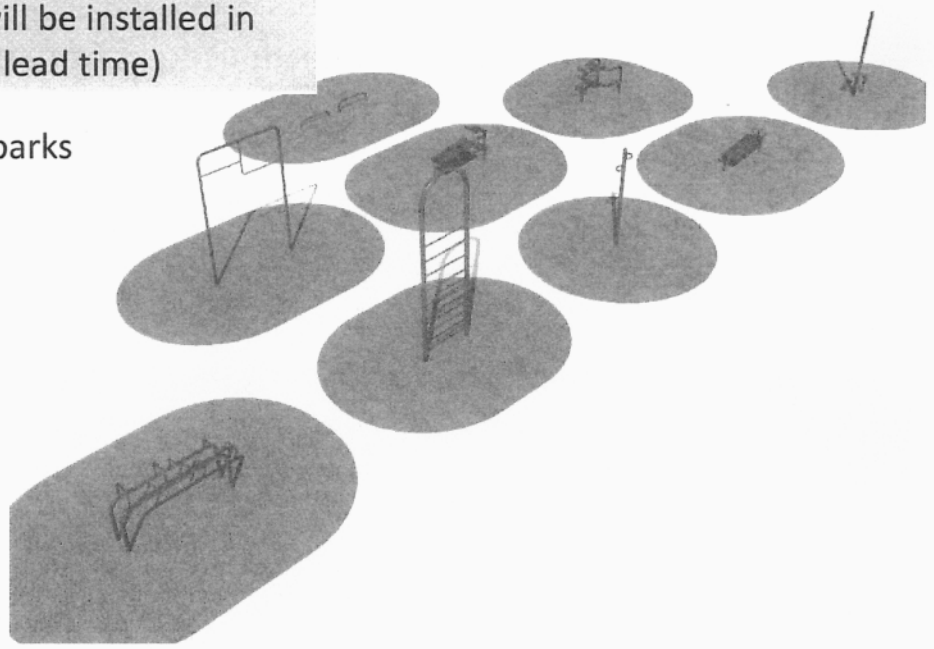
- Design fees are $53,074, leaving $521,926 for the construction of improvements
- Anticipated 60% design completion in May 2022

# Parks Improvements – Bracco

COCOA
FLORIDA

| Project | Status |
| --- | --- |
| Installation of a 9 static exercise stations | Purchase Order has been issued to Miracle Recreation Equipment for $37,896.02. Stations will be installed in September 2022 (long lead time) |

*Balance of $44,603.98 approved to use as contingency for other parks projects.



# Parks Improvements – Gilmore and Carl Anderson

COCOA
FLORIDA

| Project | Status |
| --- | --- |
| Installation of a single unisex restroom facility at each park | Design completed, reviewing received bids for the projects |

- Design fees were $7,884, leaving $157,116 for the construction of both facilities
- Lowest responsible and responsive bid was $227,000 for both restrooms.
- With a contingency (20%) for water/sewer impact fees and unforeseen issues (this could include rapid inflationary issues) an estimated amount of $272,400 is needed.
- This leaves a funding gap of $115,284.

# Brevard County
# Planned Capital Projects

COCOA
FLORIDA

The following projects will be recommended to the Brevard County Board Of County Commissioners by the District 4 Administrative Board:

| | |
|---|---|
| • Dr. Joe Lee Smith Playground Shade Structure | $ 80,000 |
| • Junny Rios Martinez Playground Shade Structure | $ 80,000 |
| • Travis Community Center Renovations | $200,000 |
| • Stradley Park Concession/Restroom Renovations | $200,000 |
| • Junny Rios Martinez Restroom Renovations | $ 80,000 |
| • Total Tentatively Planned Capital | $640,000 |



*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!

# SLFRF (ARPA)– Projects

| Project | Project Amount Remaining |
|---|---|
| Uncommitted | $1,369,300 |
| Replace HVAC on City Buildings | $936,005 |
| Server Replacement for the City | $283,264 |
| Retrofit HVAC on City Buildings | $277,200 |
| Finish the Fiber Ring / City Hall | $121,000 |
| Meals on Wheels | $100,000 |
| Laptops and WiFi for the Dr. Joe Lee Smith Center | $90,000 |
| Digitize City Records | $40,000 |
| Utility Payment Support - Cocoa Citizens | $29,106 |
| City Clinic Parking Lot | $15,000 |
| Save A Lot Grocery Store | $10,602 |
| Chromebooks for Teleworkers | $0 |
| **Total Remaining** | **$3,271,477** |

**Total Approved Projects : $2,528,700**
**Uncommitted SLFRF: $1,369,300**

**Total Funding : $3,898,000**

Serving our community with P.R.I.D.E!

# SLFRF (ARPA)– Reconsideration of Approved Projects

| Project | Project Amount Remaining |
|---|---|
| Replace HVAC on City Buildings | ($936,005) |
| Retrofit HVAC on City Buildings | ($277,200) |
| Meals on Wheels | ($100,000) |
| Utility Payment Support - Cocoa Citizens | ($29,106) |
| City Clinic Parking Lot | ($15,000) |

Reallocation: $1,357,311
Uncommitted : $1,369,300

**Total Available for New Projects $2,726,611**

# SLFRF (ARPA)– Final Rule



*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!

| Project | Amount |
|---|---|
| Parks Cost Overruns (40% Estimate) | $900,000 |
| Fire Pumper Truck | $634,500 |
| Stormwater Gradall | $483,097 |
| Stormwater Street Sweeper | $329,678 |
| Stormwater Dump Truck | $202,000 |
| Police SWAT Vehicle | $100,000 |
| Community Programs | $77,336 |
| **Total Available for New Projects** | **$2,726,611** |



*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!

# Unassigned Fund Balance

| | |
|---|---|
| FY 2021 Unassigned Fund Balance | $10,039,156 |
| Less: | |
| Open Purchase Orders and Budgeted Projects Rolled to FY22 | ($1,758,725) |
| Other Commitments (Grants) | ($2,157,416) |
| Total Budget Rolled to FY22 | ($3,916,141) |
| | |
| FY22 Use of Fund Balance | ($194,672) |
| FY22/23 Liquidity | ($5,000,000) |
| | |
| **Projected Unassigned Fund Balance:** | **$928,343** |

# FY 2023 Budget Calendar

*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!

**May 26/July 8, 2022**
- Budget Workshops

**July 26, 2022**
- Tentative Millage (TRIM)

**August 9, 2022**
- Preliminary Fire & Stormwater Assessment

**August 23, 2022**
- Final Fire & Stormwater Assessment Public Hearings

**September TBD, 2022**
- First Millage/Budget Hearing

**September TBD, 2022**
- Final Millage/Budget Hearing

# COCOA CITY COUNCIL

## PRIORITIES




COCOA
FLORIDA

# FY 2023 COUNCIL PRIORITIES ?

- Old Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center
- Museums
- Homeless Initiatives
- Additional Street Paving
- J & K Septic to Sewer Conversion (Discuss at May meeting)
- Capital Improvements within, Operating, and Maintaining City Parks
- Subsidized Bus Routes
- Trailheads at Cocoa Conservation Area
- Enhanced Law Enforcement
- Facilitation of a Brightline Train Station in Cocoa
- Facilitation of Attainable Workforce Housing



# FY 2023 COUNCIL/CRA PRIORITIES?

- Fishing Pier
- Civic Center Renovations
- Cocoa Village Parking
  - On Street
  - Parking Lots
  - Lee Wenner
- Mooring Field
- Harrison Street Streetscape
- Enhanced Law Enforcement

# PUBLIC INPUT

COCOA
FLORIDA



COCOA
FLORIDA



# QUESTIONS
# Next Session 5/26/22

# Dr. Joe L. Smith RFP



*Serving our community with* P.R.I.D.E!

**Scope of Services**

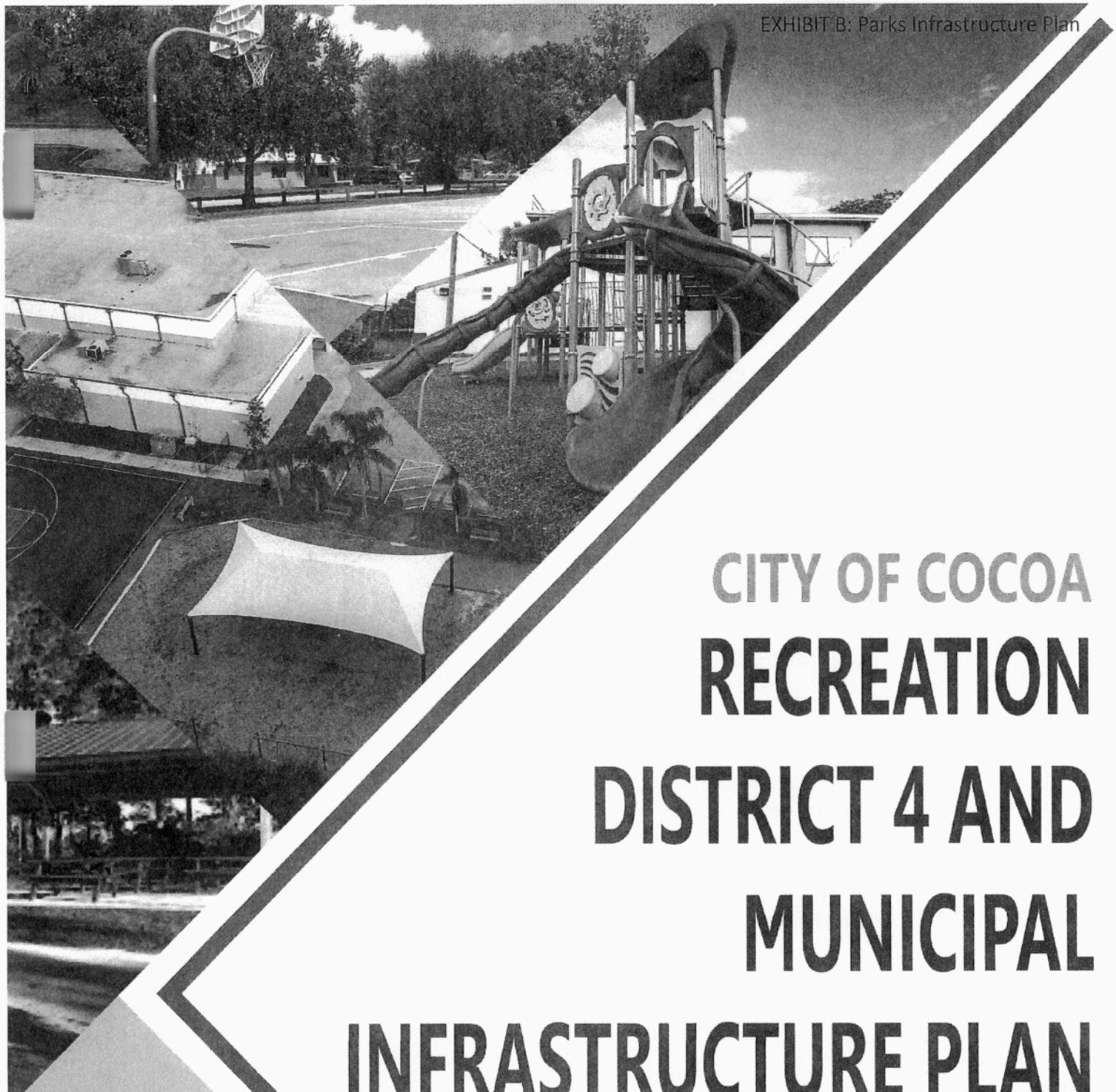
- Recreational Programs
- Youth Development
- Health Care Related Services
- Senior Citizen Services
- Vocational Services
- Small Business Development Services

**Term of Agreement**

- 5 years
- One 5 - year renewal

**Special Conditions/Requirements**

- 501(c)(3) Organization with an active status for 5 years
- 5 years of demonstrated experience running similar programs/services
- Responsible for all renovation, operating and maintenance costs
- Proof financial ability to renovate, operate and maintain



## CITY OF COCOA

# RECREATION DISTRICT 4 AND MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

COCOA FLORIDA

Stay Connected

www.CocoaFL.gov

# Table of Contents


Introduction ..... 3

History of Recreation District Four Parks ..... 3

Stakeholder Needs ..... 4

Short-Term Infrastructure Needs Listing ..... 4

Recreation District Four Parks ..... 5

**Provost Park** ..... 5

**Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center** ..... 6

**Gilmore Community Park** ..... 7

**Carl E. Anderson Park** ..... 8

**Don "Mo" Stradley Memorial Park** ..... 9

**Cocoa Manor / Autumn Marie Park** ..... 11

**Travis Park** ..... 12

**Junny Rios Martinez Park** ..... 13

Municipal Parks and Facilities ..... 14

**Leon and Jewel Collins Museum of African American History & Culture** ..... 14

**Taylor and Riverfront Park** ..... 15

**Lee Wenner Park** ..... 16

**Cocoa Civic Center** ..... 17

**Bracco Stormwater Park** ..... 18

**Cocoa Conservation Area** ..... 19

**Brevard Museum** ..... 22

**Johnny Johnson Nature Trails** ..... 23

Summary ..... 24

## Introduction




In 2020, the City of Cocoa embarked on a Parks and Open Space Master Plan to help evaluate and provide recommendations for future improvements around various parks within the City of Cocoa. This plan was created through a consultant with input from City Staff and a volunteer steering committee and was a very high level and long-term plan for city parks. This master plan provided useful information related to the connectivity, canopy, additional park areas, and inventory. However, the plan did not highlight the short-term immediate needs of the parks. Over the past year, City Staff worked with Brevard County Parks and Recreation and the various end-users of the parks, and performed walkthroughs of each park to help determine some of the immediate needs of these areas. What was found was that many of the parks within the City are lacking the basic essential amenities that are common to most parks. This infrastructure plan covers these immediate needs and is aimed at the parks located within the City of Cocoa portions of the Brevard County Recreation District Four and the current municipal parks and museums located within the jurisdictional limits of the City.

## History of Recreation District Four Parks




Pursuant to Chapter 61-1909, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1961, the Brevard County Recreation District Four was established to provide funding for recreational facilities and programs for the residents within the District. District Four encompasses portions of the City of Cocoa, City of Rockledge, and Unincorporated Brevard County. An election was held on November 6, 1962, to approve the formation of this district. As part of the formulation of this new Recreation District Four, an administrative board was established. This board is currently referred to as the Cocoa – Rockledge, Brevard County District Four Recreation and is composed of the City or County Managers (or their alternates) for each member. The intent of this Board is to provide recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners related to the prioritization and spending of the Recreation District Four assessment revenues.

Subsequent to the formation of this district, the City of Cocoa entered into a long-term maintenance and operations agreement with Brevard County Parks and Recreation. This agreement was established in April 1986 and expired in April 2011. The City of Cocoa and County have continued to operate under this agreement to continue the maintenance and operations of the District Four parks within the City of Cocoa.

The City of Cocoa and Brevard County are currently negotiating a new interlocal agreement to address the maintenance and operations of these parks.

In the late 1990s, it was determined that there was a lack of funding related to the maintenance, operations, and capital improvements of these parks. In an effort to close this funding gap, a referendum was placed on the ballot in 2000. Unfortunately, while a similar referendum passed in other districts of the County, it failed in District Four. The failed referendum equated to an immediate opportunity loss of approximately $15.7 million. In 2022, that would equate to about $25 million with inflationary adjustments. The referendum would have also provided more funding for staffing and general maintenance of these facilities.

## Stakeholder Needs

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan garnered community feedback from various users of the park facilities such as members of the community that utilize the facilities for health and recreation. However, it did not take into account other end-users such as athletic leagues that are paying to rent fields and facilities for practices and games. Over the course of a year, City Staff reached out to a number of these athletic leagues that make up the greater majority of users of these facilities. The City has also met with the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department to discuss various needs and shortfalls there may be within these parks. The immediate needs outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the findings from the stakeholder meetings are incorporated into the recommended improvements in the Infrastructure Plan.

## Short-Term Infrastructure Needs Listing

Below is a listing of needs related to each City of Cocoa park. This is a robust list of improvements ranging from building replacement/repairs to field improvements. The goal of these improvement recommendations is to allow these parks to operate at a satisfactory level of service. There are fundamental infrastructure needs at many of these parks that were never implemented or are in deteriorating conditions. This listing begins with the Recreation District Four parks and then moves into the municipal parks currently under the management of the City. The plan below does not include what can be referred to as "passive" parks. Passive parks within the City are generally enhanced landscape areas with sidewalks and/or benches and do not otherwise provide additional amenities.

## Provost Park

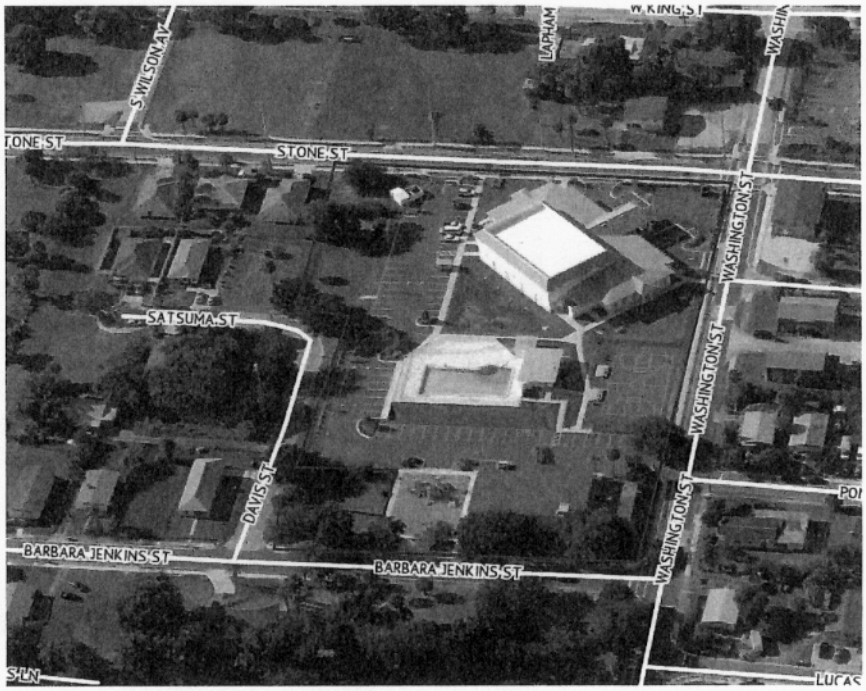
Provost Park is a roughly 20-acre park with a soccer field, rugby field, two basketball courts, and a tennis court. The park also includes a playground, covered pavilion, and pavilion/ concession building with restrooms. This park is located at 400 South Varr Avenue, which splits the park into two areas, and the main parking lot is situated at this location. An unimproved parking area is also situated off South Fiske Boulevard (SR 519).




**Recommended Improvements:**

- The City of Cocoa is currently in the process of making a number of improvements to this park. As part of that project, the following improvements are being proposed and are currently under design. It is worth noting that items may need to be scaled back or value-engineered pending proposed construction costs after the completion of the design.
    - Remove the standalone basketball court and convert this area to green space or possibly restripe to a pickle ball court.
    - Resurface the existing basketball court and convert the existing tennis court to a basketball court as part of the resurfacing. New basketball hoops will be installed as part of this effort.
    - Convert the existing softball field into a multi-use athletic field. Field lighting is proposed for this field.
    - Minor restroom modifications
    - General perimeter fencing
- Complete the design and construction of the South Fiske Boulevard Parking Lot. This would provide an improved parking lot off South Fiske Boulevard for better access to the east side of the park. The design is currently at 90%.
- Incorporate sidewalks or multi-use paths interior to the park between the various amenities the park has to offer.
- Replace the existing goalposts at the rugby field and incorporate netting to prevent the ball from leaving the park area.
- Incorporate team benches at all fields to allow for tournaments to be held.

## Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center




The Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center is a roughly 3.2-acre park that contains a community center with meeting rooms, concessions and kitchen areas, and an indoor basketball court that can also be used for pickleball, volleyball, and other activities. The exterior features include a lighted outdoor basketball court, a playground structure, and a heated swimming pool.

This park is located at 415 Stone Street with Stone Street to the north, Washington Street to the east, and Barbara Jenkins Street to the south. This community center was recently constructed to replace the outdated gymnasium building that is separated by a parking lot to the south.

**Recommended Improvements:**

- The City should determine the long-term or highest best use for the outdated gymnasium area. This would help with the general aesthetics of the area to find a user that will support the needed renovations of this facility to be used practically.
- Continuing coordination for creating a City-sponsored lifeguard program would help to expand the swimming pool use since currently, the Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department is struggling to find suitable candidates to properly staff the swimming pool for classes and lifeguards.

## Gilmore Community Park

The Gilmore Community Park is a roughly 1.12-acre park that contains a playground, pavilion, and basketball court. The park is located at 104 Prospect Avenue at the intersection of Fern Avenue and Prospect Avenue.



**Recommended Improvements:**

- The City of Cocoa has recently prioritized a restroom facility at this park location. The restroom facility design has been completed and construction bids are being reviewed.
- Replacement of picnic tables.
- General parking lot maintenance including striping would enhance the parking area.
- A community garden has been mentioned at this location during City Council meetings. If this option was pursued, a strong community partner should be selected to properly maintain and operate this garden.

## Carl E. Anderson Park

The Carl E. Anderson Park is a roughly 0.92-acre park that contains a playground, pavilion, and basketball court. The park is located at 501 North Fiske Boulevard with North Fiske Boulevard to the east, Park Drive to the south, and North Kentucky Avenue to the west.

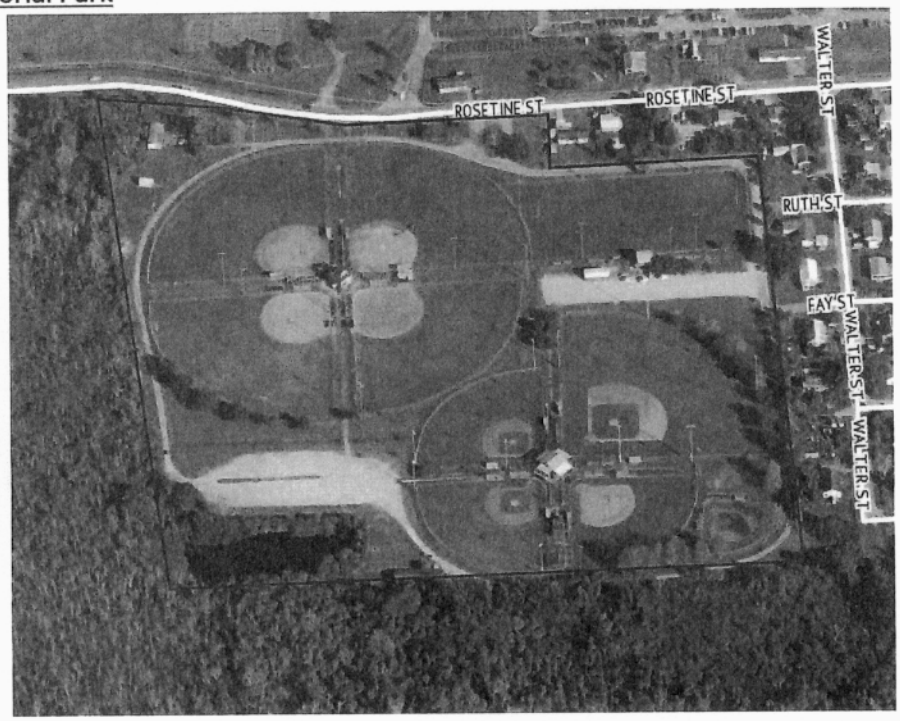



**Recommended Improvements:**

- The City of Cocoa has recently prioritized a restroom facility at this park location. The restroom facility design has been completed and construction bids are being reviewed.
- The basketball court will need to be resurfaced in the next 3-5 years. Basketball hoops should be replaced as needed during that resurfacing project.
- Replacement of picnic tables.
- General parking lot maintenance including striping would enhance the parking area.

## Don "Mo" Stradley Memorial Park

The Don "Mo" Stradley Memorial Park is a roughly 30.98-acre park that contains five softball fields, three baseball fields, one tee-ball field, one football field, and a horseshoe pit area. The complex also contains multiple concession buildings that are also used as scoring facilities for league play. The park is located at 1857 Rosetine Street, south of Rosetine Street.




**Recommended Improvements:**

General Site

- General site lighting should be incorporated around the drive paths and parking areas. This sporting complex has multiple fields with lighting for night games, but drive paths and parking areas are not illuminated.
- General wayfinding signage could be incorporated at this park due to the number of fields and simultaneous sporting events that can occur.
- Concrete walkways should be provided to allow for internal interconnectivity and ADA accomodations of the park and various fields.
- General stormwater drainage improvements should be made to improve the ditches or pipe the system to eliminate the ditches.
- Septic systems should be converted to sanitary sewer to prevent routine maintenance of the outdated septic system. The Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department has initiated a design for this project.
- General field lighting could be replaced with LED fixtures.

Football Field

- The City of Cocoa is currently in the process of making improvements to this park. As part of that project, the City is preparing designs to renovate the existing football field due to drainage issues on this field. If remaining funds are available after those improvements are made, additional improvements may be implemented at the concession and scoring building.
- Player benches are outdated and should be modernized
- The field goal post should be provided with backstop netting to keep the ball in the field area. Incorporating an "H" style goal post will allow for soccer to utilize this field as well.

- The concession and scoring building should undergo major renovations or complete replacement. These renovations should include the elimination of the modular building that is currently used by the youth football league. The renovation should aim to include additional restroom facilities as well.
- The football parking lot should also be upgraded to asphalt pavement to reduce future maintenance needs related to grading of the dirt or an unimproved parking lot.

Baseball and Softball Fields

- A number of the baseball and softball fields should be regraded, sodded, and supplied with appropriate irrigation. Fields should be prioritized based on current usage and phased in overtime.
- The tee-ball field currently has cypress knees growing in the outfield. This imposes a safety risk to any users of this field and these cypress knees should be removed below the surface.
- To provide better separation between league play, the single softball field within the baseball field cluster should be converted back to a baseball field. Excluding the tee-ball field, this would provide an equal number of softball and baseball fields at four each.
- Backstops should be reworked and foul ball netting should be replaced where needed and installed where it is currently absent.
- Similar to the football concession and scoring building, the baseball and softball concession and scoring buildings require renovations or replacement.
- The softball field bleachers are obsolete and need to be replaced.
- Scoreboards should be replaced as needed and updated with LED lighting to provide consistency across the fields.
- A number of the dugouts should be replaced and modernized.
- The softball fields should have regulation pitching mounds installed in lieu of removable mounds since these fields are dedicated to softball only.

## Cocoa Manor / Autumn Marie Park

Cocoa Manor and Autumn Marie Park is a single area that combines both parks. The total acreage is roughly 0.45-acres. The parks are located at 201 Coquina Drive and 2000 Manor Drive, respectively. Cocoa Manor Park fronts Coquina Drive to the north and Autumn Marie Park to the south. Autumn Marie Park fronts Cocoa Manor Park to the north and Manor Drive to the south. The parks contain a pavilion and playground area.



**Recommended Improvements:**

- The installation of a walkway from Coquina Drive to Broadview drive through this park would provide connectivity between these two neighborhoods and provide better access to the amenities here.
- The replacement of the fencing with a 4' green or black vinyl coated fence along the roadways would enhance the aesthetics of this park as well.

## Travis Park

Travis Park is a roughly 2.5-acre community park that contains a gymnasium with basketball and volleyball courts and activity rooms. The exterior amenities include a full basketball court, two lighted beach volleyball courts, and a playground area. The park is located at 2001 Michigan Avenue and fronts Michigan Avenue to the north.




**Recommended Improvements:**

- General interior improvements and renovations should be incorporated into this facility to modernize the restrooms, concession, and common areas.
- LED conversions to all lighting would reduce power consumption as well.
- The beach volleyball league mentioned that a third beach volleyball court would provide this facility the opportunity to host tournaments and additional league play. This is one of the few lighted beach volleyball courts in Brevard County and expanding the operating hours or converting to a digitally timed system would allow the recreational partners more time to use the facilities.
- An outdoor restroom facility or controlled access to the interior restrooms outside of park hours would enhance the usage of this facility, as the operating hours reduce the available hours the facility can be used.
- The parking lot needs general maintenance related to restriping of the parking stalls.
- The parking lot is severely lacking lighting and light poles should be installed to illuminate this area, especially since league play extends beyond daylight hours. Security cameras would be an added benefit to help deter criminal mischief.

## Junny Rios Martinez Park

Junny Rios Martinez Park is a roughly 5.96-acre park that contains two pavilions, a restroom facility, a tennis court, a basketball court, and a grass volleyball court. The park is located at 2100 Westminster Drive and this roadway splits the park into two areas. The park fronts SR 524 to the south and is otherwise surrounded by residential areas.




**Recommended Improvements:**

- The City of Cocoa is currently in the process of making several improvements to this park. As part of that project, the following improvements are currently under design. It is worth noting that items may need to be scaled back or value-engineered pending proposed construction costs after the completion of the design.
    - Installation of a splash pad near the playground area.
    - Installation of a third pavilion near the proposed splash pad and existing playground.
- The tennis and basketball courts should be resurfaced in the next 3-5 years with new nets and basketball hoops as needed.
- General restroom renovations should be incorporated to modernize the fixtures in this facility.
- General parking lot maintenance including the restriping of the parking stalls should be implemented here.
- A future crosswalk should be incorporated across SR 524 for a future connection to the Cocoa Conservation Area.

## Leon and Jewel Collins Museum of African American History & Culture

The Leon and Jewel Collins Museum of African American History & Culture is a museum within a roughly 1.38-acre area. The museum is contained within the Harry T. Moore Center, which houses the Cocoa Police Athletic League on the north side of the building and the museum on the south side of the building. There is also a small playground area situated on this site. The facility is located at 307 Blake Avenue and fronts Blake Avenue to the east and Valencia Avenue to the west. The property is otherwise surrounded by residential parcels.




**Recommended Improvements:**

- The museum portion of this building has been vacant since its opening in late 2017. The City will seek a non-profit partner to supply relevant exhibits and artifacts, and to maintain and operate this museum on behalf of the City.
- The playground in the southwest portion of this site is very outdated and should either be upgraded or removed. A new playground was recently installed at the Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center, which is two blocks to the east of this site.
- Parking lot improvements could be made here including resurfacing and restriping the parking areas.

## Taylor and Riverfront Park

The Taylor and Riverfront Parks are a combined roughly 4.06-acre area. Taylor Park consists of a playground area while Riverfront Park includes a regulation beach volleyball court, amphitheater, pavilions, restroom facilities, and a splash pad. These parks are located at 430 Delannoy Avenue with Delannoy Avenue to the west, Church Street to the south, Harrison Street to the north, and the Indian River to the east.

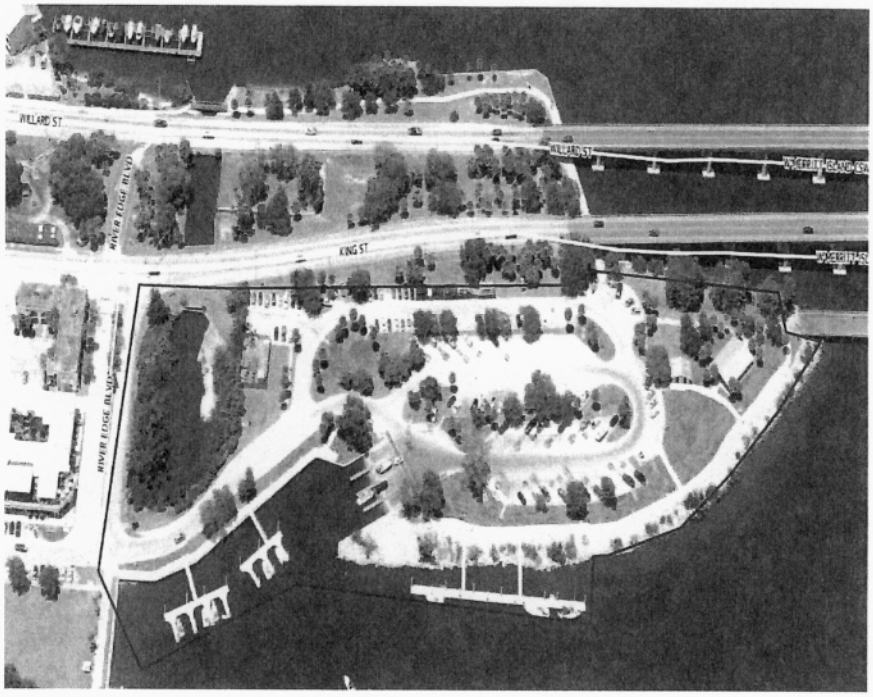



**Recommended Improvements:**

- Routine maintenance should continue within these areas.
- An additional beach volleyball court may increase the opportunity for a recreational partner here.
- The playground should be scheduled for replacement in the next five years.
- Routine improvements should be made to the amphitheater to match any changing technology in the needed infrastructure for bands and other events using this venue.
- The incorporation of various stormwater improvements in this location will help to improve water quality for the Indian River.

## Lee Wenner Park

Lee Wenner Park is a roughly 9.01-acre area. This park contains a restroom facility, pavilion, boating day slips and docks, boat ramps, and parking. The park entrance is located at the intersection of River Edge Boulevard and Harrison Street. It is bordered to the north by SR 520, west by River Edge Boulevard, and east and south by the Indian River.

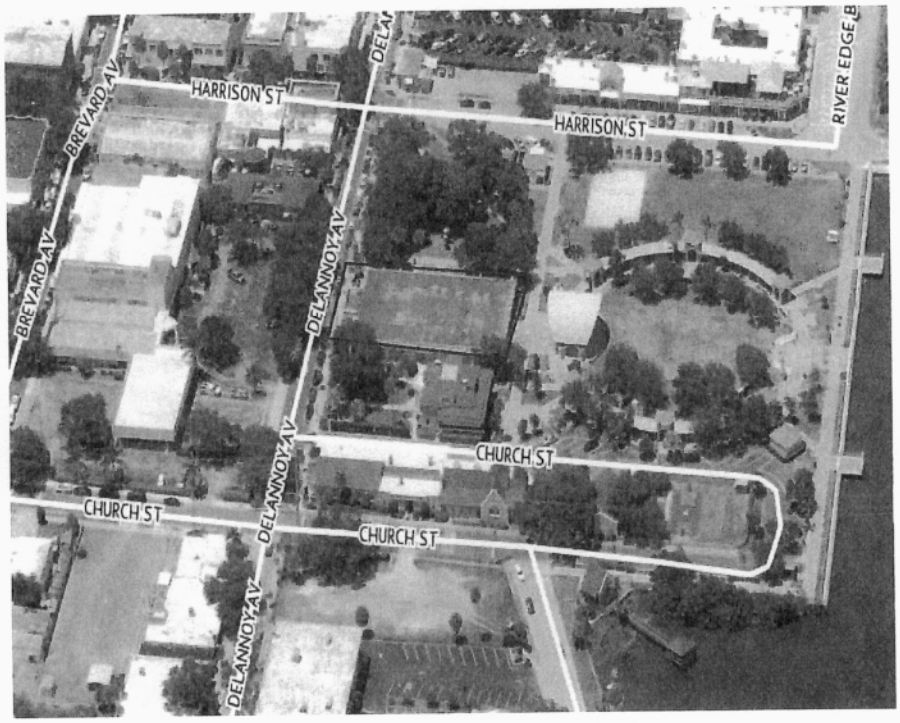



**Recommended Improvements:**

- Currently, the boat ramps are being reconstructed and the basin is in the process of being dredged to allow better access to deeper drafting vessels.
- This area is enrolled in the Brevard Zoo Living Shoreline Program and is currently waiting for the Brevard Zoo to implement this project.
- The existing fishing pier that is owned by Brevard County, which is the former SR 520 bridge, should be removed as it is dilapidated and could pose a safety risk. The incorporation of a new fishing pier would enhance access to the general public for fishing in this area.
- The existing master plan should be updated for this area through the Cocoa Village Redevelopment Area to reflect future goals for this park.
- The implementation of a coquina or rip-rap style shoreline along the eastern side of the Riverfront Park would help to reduce wave refraction in this area to provide calmer waters with easterly to southeasterly winds.

## Cocoa Civic Center

The Cocoa Civic Center is a roughly 16,000-square foot facility. The building contains meeting rooms, the main lobby, a large gathering space, and a small kitchen area. The building is located at 430 Delannoy Avenue, where the main entrance is located. The building is adjacent to the historic Porcher House to the south, and Taylor/ Riverfront Park to the north and east.




**Recommended Improvements:**

- This facility needs modernization on both the interior and exteriors of the facility.
- A new roof and HVAC replacements should occur in the near future.
- Interior renovations to include adjustable partitions may allow multiple events to take place simultaneously, thus increasing the profitability of this venue.

## Bracco Stormwater Park

The Bracco Stormwater Park is a roughly 59.3-acre regional stormwater facility. The site contains multiple walking paths and is in the process of incorporating static exercise equipment. The park has entrances on the west, north, and east sides of the park along North Fiske Boulevard, Crestview Road, and Plaza Parkway, respectively. The site is situated between those roadways and surrounded by residental and municipal properies.




**Recommended Improvements:**

- The original design for this stormwater facility included named walking routes. These routes should be identified with signage showing the various routes.
- General site lighting may be needed around the walking paths with increased usage of the park.
- Perimeter fencing could be replaced with a vinyl coated fence to provide better aesthetics and site security.
- Floating wetlands would help to enhance water quality and provide better recreational opportunities for fishing and wildlife viewing.
- Wildlife viewing areas and fishing docks would provide better access to the ponds.

## Cocoa Conservation Area

The Cocoa Conservation Area (CCA) is located within multiple land parcels owned by the City. These parcels equate to roughly 394.99-acres. The main entrance of the CCA is at 1714 Cocoa Bay Boulevard, which is situated at the western terminus of the Cocoa Bay Subdivision. The CCA currently contains a restroom facility, pavilion, parking area, and unimproved hiking trails. The CCA is generally located between SR 524 to the north, Range Road to the east, private land to the south, and Cox Road to the west. The boundaries are also scattered with private parcels on each border.




**Recommended Improvements:**

- The Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Grant that was awarded to the City in 2003recommends a number of improvements/projects. Some of these items may be altered with prior approval from the FCT, as long as the scoring does not drop below the funding threshold. As part of this, the City should seek to partner with non-profits or other governmental agencies to help operate and maintain this area from a forestry standpoint, which is what this grant was tailored towards.
- **The remaining grant conditions specific to this site are below with recommendations. It is worth noting that the original grant only applied to the 136 acres that were acquired through this grant process. Since then, the City has almost tripled the size of the conserved lands in this area:**
    - Two or more resourced-based outdoor recreational facilities, including nature trails and picnic pavilions, and two or more user-oriented outdoor recreation facilities, including a children's play area and a tennis court, basketball court and volleyball court, shall be provide at the Project Site. The facilities shall be designed and located with minimal impact to natural resources on the Project Site. *This has partially been completed. The City has worked with a volunteer group to establish nature trails and a pavilion is already on site. Additional options for user-orientated facilities may be implemented to provide minimal impact on natural resources.*
    - Interpretive signage shall be provided to educate visitors about the natural environment of the Project Site. *The City should work to implement signage that provides some general descriptions of the Project Site.*
    - At least 24 environmental education classes or programs shall be conducted annually at the Project Site by trained educators or resource professionals. *The City should seek to partner or contract with local environmental groups to perform these classes or programs.*

- The sand pine scrub, oak scrub, pine flatwood, hydric hammock and freshwater march communities that occur on the Project Site shall be appropriately managed to ensure the long-term viability of these communities. *The City should seek to budget an environmental consultant to evaluate and perform the necessary management of these communities as a long-term goal.*
- A prescribed burn plan shall be implemented for the scrub community. A vegetation analysis of the remainder of the Project Site shall be performed to determine which areas of the Project Site need a prescribed burn regime implemented to maintain natural fire-dependent vegetative communities. If a prescribed burn regime is found to be necessary and feasible, the development of a prescribed burn plan shall be coordinated with the Division of Forestry and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. A fire line shall be developed between the adjacent residential development and the Project Site. *The City should seek to budget a consultant to determine if and where a prescribed burn regime should take place.*
- Mud Lake shall be restored to its historic extent by increasing the size of the lake from 12 acres to 24 acres through the removal of muck and invasive exotic vegetation. Additional enhancements to the lake will include minimizing and pre-treating stormwater runoff and planting native vegetation around the perimeter of the lake. The development of a restoration plan for Mud Lake shall be coordinated with the St. Johns River Water Management District. *Mud Lake is not within the Project Site for the grant acquired parcels. The City should continue to work with Brevard County as this area has been identified as a critical location for a regional flood mitigation project. The City should seek to have this requirement altered to match the joint effort with FEMA, Brevard County, and Cocoa.*
- An ongoing monitoring and control program for invasive vegetation including exotic (non-native) and nuisance native plant species shall be implemented at the Project Site. The objective of the control program shall be the elimination of invasive exotic plant species and the maintenance of a diverse association of native vegetation. The Management Plan shall reference the Exotic Pest Plant Council's List of Florida's Most Invasive Species to assist in identifying invasive exotics on the Project Site. An ongoing monitoring and control program for invasive exotic vegetation shall be implemented at the Project Site. *The City should seek to budget a consultant to perform annual monitoring and control of invasive plants, along with the maintenance and implementation of native vegetation.*
- Pedestrian and bicycle access shall be promoted through the provision of pedestrian oriented walkways and bicycle facilities that link the Project Site with adjacent residential neighborhoods. Bike parking stands shall be installed to provide an alternative to automobile transportation to the Project Site. *A future pedestrian and bicycle access point should be implemented within the 50' Access Easement on SR 524 as shown in the management plan. The proposed vehicular access should be implemented on Cox Road and also include pedestrian and bicycle amenities. The connection on SR 524 should be coordinated with the SR 524 widening and Mud Lake Projects. The entrance on Cox Road should be coordinated as future development comes in on this corridor.*
- The Project Site shall be incorporated into the county-wide management program for the protection and enhancement of natural and recreational resources, as specified in the Brevard County Greenways and Trails Master Plan. *The implementation of the access points on Cox Road and SR 524 would provide additional bike and pedestrian access to*

*this trail area which is consistent with the Master Plan. As part of the coordination with FEMA and Brevard County, a trail may be incorporated around Mud Lake as part of that project.*

  - The City shall coordinate management of the Project Site with appropriate agencies administering the American Heritage River Program to assist in this effort to protect and enhance the water quality of the St. Johns River. *The Mud Lake Project will help to properly control stormwater discharges from this basin as it travels through a series of ditches and pipes to the St. Johns River. This effort will be coordinated with the appropriate state and federal agencies, as required.*

- The City has funded a new cross-country access easement south of the Cocoa Bay Subdivision on Range Road. This project should be implemented pending the final closing on the sale of this easement area.
- The City is currently utilizing volunteers for access control at Cocoa Bay. If increased or more consistent access is desired the City should seek to contract another entity for that purpose or increase staff to perform that duty. Although successful thus far, utilizing volunteers could pose issues depending on the availability of that person.

## Brevard Museum



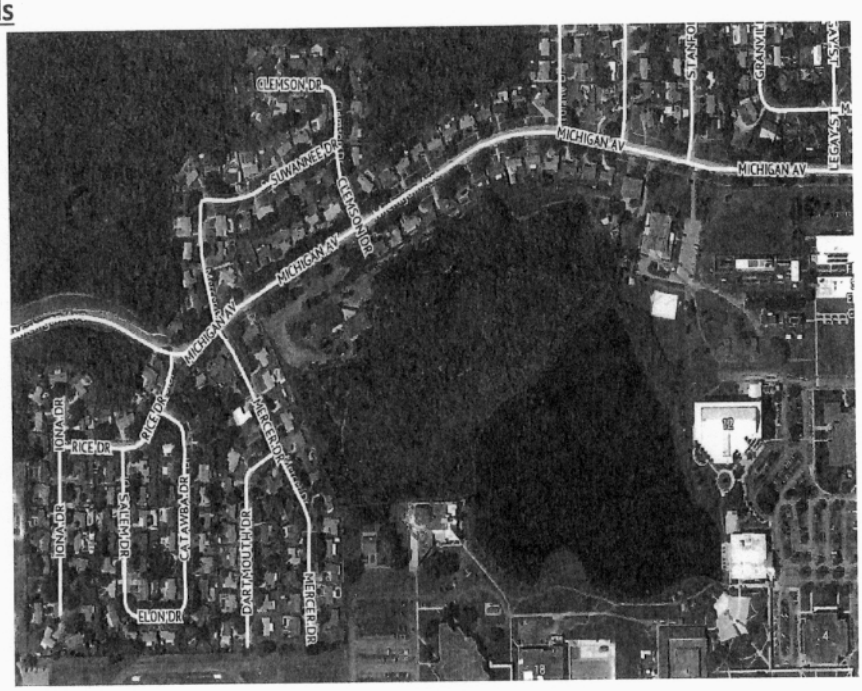

The Brevard Museum Site is roughly 3.23-acres. The museum contains meeting space, staff areas, and several exhibit rooms. The address for this facility is 2201 Michigan Avenue. The site fronts Michigan Avenue to the north, residential properties to the west, and the Johnny Johnson Trails to the south and east. This approximately 14,750 square foot facility recently came into the City's control and was previously operated and maintained by the Florida Historical Society. The museum contains several exhibits related to Florida and Brevard County's natural history.

**Recommended Improvements:**

- The City is currently in negotiations with a newly established non-profit to assume the operations and maintenance of this facility.
- General site improvements can be made to enhance the aesthetics from the roadway. This would include landscaping, fencing, and signage.
- Exterior improvements should be made to modernize the appearance and use longer-lasting building materials to prevent future capital repairs.
- Interior improvements should be implemented to modernize the appearance and address any building code, ADA, or life safety issues that may be present.
- Parking lot improvements could be made related to resurfacing and restriping of the parking areas.

## Johnny Johnson Nature Trails

The Johnny Johnson Nature Trails are roughly 16.8-acres. These nature trails are located between Travis Park and the Brevard Museum. Access is provided through both of those locations.




**Recommended Improvements:**

- General wayfinding signage with trail maps should be implemented here.
- The replacement of the boardwalk should be scheduled in the next 2-3 years. The utilization of recycled plastic planks would help to increase the life of this replacement.
- The City is currently planning to include the access control of this trail system within the Brevard Museum Lease. The City is currently using volunteers for access control. Although successful thus far, utilizing volunteers could pose issues depending on the availability of that person.

## Summary

In summary, a number of general infrastructure needs should be implemented across these parks as funding allows. The failed referendum in the early 2000s prevented the District's ability to adequately fund various essential needs at the Recreation District Four Parks. A new referendum or strategic funding strategies could be implemented to help fund the critical needs of the District Four Parks as the costs of general maintenance, operation, and capital improvements will continue to increase. Without increases in funding, the City will continue to see the continued deterioration of these parks' level of service.

A Parks Impact Fee is an option to generate revenue for capital repairs and improvements at parks. This would help to create funding for capital repairs and improvements at both District Four and Municipal Parks. A one-time flat fee would be established and levied on each new dwelling unit being constructed within the City.

The City of Cocoa is in a unique position being a relatively small City and having 18 parks and facilities within its limits. Some of these facilities, in terms of parks, are more complex than a standard neighborhood park. These parks have a broad range of activities that make the various needs difficult to fund and prioritize.

The City should continue its partnership with the County for District Four Parks Operation and Maintenance. In an effort to help enhance these parks, capital funding from the City budget can help supplement specific parks and endeavors the City may want to pursue. Establishing strong partnerships with non-profits, other governmental agencies, and volunteer groups would help to reduce the burden on City Staff for the operation and maintenance of some of these facilities as well. Grant opportunities should be explored wherever possible and available.

## Carie Shealy

**From:** Kristin Lortie <kristin.lortie@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 9:16 AM
**To:** Carie Shealy; City Council; Stockton Whitten
**Cc:** Carie Shealy; Anthony Garganese (OrlandoLaw); Directors
**Subject:** Citizen Feedback for 4/19 Budget Priorities & Goal Setting Workshop
**Attachments:** 2020 Police Per Capita Brevard County.png

EXTERNAL MESSAGE - USE CAUTION WITH LINKS AND ATTACHMENTS!

**Mayor Blake, Council Members and City Manager Whitten,**

I am writing to provide the following **supports** and **objections** to the **4/19/22 Budget Priorities and Planning Workshop:**

- **Support** for the restroom topic being re-presented to council members at the 4/26 meeting and is on the agenda;
- **Support** for the option of placing a hold on both restroom projects until the market stabilizes;
- **Support** for keeping parks under county maintenance, and working to address items that are not getting done through accountability measures;
- **Support** for staff pursuing FCT grants to enhance the Cocoa Conservation Area trailhead at SR524;
- **Support** for the workshop being Livestreamed;
- **Support** for park in Cocoa Hills, as introduced by Deputy Mayor Hearn;
    - Can allocated but unused parks funding and/or parks contingency funding be redirected to this effort?
    - Can a community meeting be coordinated to discuss this idea and obtain resident input?
- **Support** for 10-minuteWalk to a park, as advocated by Councilwoman Koss.

- **Objection** to the meeting announcement stating "Action May be Taken", and yet the agenda does not specify what action, denying the public adequate notice as to what action may be decided at the meeting, and that could affect their meeting attendance.
    - The lack of agenda specificity allows "unannounced agenda items" to be voted on, and which the Attorney General has opined should wait until a future meeting for a vote;
    - City resolution 2013-99 states p. 19 states "Council workshops are typically scheduled to consider certain items which are not ready for final official action."
    - Items discussed at workshops should be moved to a scheduled council meeting to obtain a vote, and where non-attendees have the right to comment.
- **Objection** to Mayor Blake unfair administration of the meeting, and favoring some voices in the room over others;
- **Objection** to Mayor Blake having undue influence of the council discussion due to being the chair, and curtailing deliberation from all members;
- **Objection** to Mayor Blake not asking for consensus prior to moving on, and receiving expressed consent for items not voted on;
- **Objection** to Mayor Blake protesting something as minor as a wording change to the city vision by Councilwoman Koss, which had been drafted by City Manager Whitten, and reflecting that city staff and Mayor Blake take precedence over council members, and members of the public who protested the new vision;
- **Objection** to the pushback Councilwoman Koss received to advocate for "City Image" being included in the Strategic Plan update;
- **Objection** to the Parks Infrastructure Plan being presented to council, and without any plan or consideration to request public input;

- **Objection** to any inference that the Parks Infrastructure Plan has been accepted based on it being presented prior to the meeting;
- **Objection** to Civic Engagement Priority not including 2-way options for citizens to engage with the city outside of volunteer boards, or *including any of the numerous suggestions provided by citizens* that are trying to engage with the city;
- **Objection** to flimsiness of Strategic Planning content, including the lack of holding staff accountable for objectives and goal-setting and getting input on Priorities;
    - Posting projects on a website is NOT the same as setting goals and objectives in advance, and as occurred during the prior Strategic Plan Update.
- **Objection** to the Strategic Planning being undefined, and occurring without a vote or seeing the draft product (is it really just 10 Powerpoint slides?)
- **Objection** to the City Vision being changed at behest of the City Manager, and without public input;
- 
- **Objection** to the lack of clarification on what exactly <u>is</u> the revised 2022-27 Strategic Plan, and based on loose information in 10-pages of a presentation with brief council comments being made;
- **Objection** to the Strategic Plan Priorities decided by City Manager, and with unspecified goals;
- **Objection** to the $640K in District 4 Parks allocations being voted on at the workshop, and <u>without a formal vote at a scheduled council meeting;</u>
- **Objection** to the $640K in District 4 Parks allocations being voted on by council <u>without input from the public that was not at the meeting</u>;
- **Objection** to Mayor Blake strong arm tactics exhorting council members to "have faith", to influence council members to vote for an unnecessary and costly $80K shade structure expenditure at a city park;
    - These behaviors showed Mayor Blake exerting an undue power advantage over city council members, and abuse of the chairmanship privilege that is the only additional expressed responsibility/authority that comes with the Mayor position;
- **Objection** to Mayor Blake's obsequious behavior toward staff and Mr. Whitten, and constant defensive response toward any perceived criticism;
- **Objection** to Mayor Blake and City Manager Whitten attending the April 7th District 4 Parks meeting where spending allocations were discussed, not inviting other Council members to attend the meeting (as evidenced by meeting discussion and parks minutes), nor setting up a community meeting to discuss 2022 District 4 Parks spending with Cocoa residents, and after the many complaints the city received in 2021;
- **Objection** to the continued and ongoing lack of community participation in the revised Strategic Plan;
- **Objection** to the $2,726,611 in SLFRF (ARPA) funding being allocated to projects, and without a council vote;
- **Objection** to the $2,726,611 in SLFRF (ARPA) funding being allocated, and without council discussion and input on each line item expense;
    - *Each expense should be discussed with council members and support requested from council members;*
- **Objection** to staff continuing to petition council for the $545K "shortfall", and while there is additional unspent funding that has been set aside for contingency and could be routed to operating fund;
- **Objection** to staff narrative that funds cannot be used from elsewhere to make up the "shortfall", and not presenting a no-millage increase options for council consideration as requested by a citizen at the 3/15 workshop;
- **Objection** to lack of clarification on the $900K Parks Cost Overruns in the $2,726,611 in SLFRF (ARPA) and which is not broken out for public review;
- **Objection** to the $95K in design fees allocated to Junny Rios Park unnecessary luxury amenities, and the extraordinary design cost;
- **Objection** to the $710K expense for Junny Rios Martinez spending which could be redirected to a higher priority project including the CCA Mgt plan which is in District 3;
- **Objection** to the lack of transparency in the changing of the engineer for the parks projects as stated on 3/15/22, and which has not been discussed at any city meeting;
- **Objection** to the $38K in Bracco Pond fitness stations, and which were presented by city staff, and without community support obtained prior to the 8/24/2021 vote;

- **Objection** to Mayor Blake unilaterally instructing the city attorney to create barriers to public participation through a representative reading a public statement;
    - Just yesterday I unexpectedly **met a loca Brevard mayor,** and who shared with me that ***because of his commitment to public participation, he personally offers to read residents comments into the record, they accept public comment thru LiveStream, and anyone in the world is welcome to comment;***
    - ***These practices provide a stark local contrast to Cocoa's highly restrictive participation practices.***
- **Objection** to Council Priorities being relegated at the very end of the city presentation slide 44-45 (out of 47 slides);
- **Objection** to all Staff Priorities being quantified with budget dollar amounts, and Council priorities not having any dollar amounts or descriptions;
    - No definition is given to council priorities they are simply pasted into 2 slides:
- **Objection** to the meeting duration being too short to accomplish the information needed to cover, and the Mayor attempting to rush the process due to his pre-scheduled appointment;
- **Objection** to Mayor Blake not allowing Councilwoman Koss to ask a question for several minutes, and showing bias against her input throughout the mtg;
- **Objection** to Mayor Blake scolding Councilwoman Koss citizen advocacy, and admonishing Councilwoman Koss to "not give oxygen" to citizens;
- **Objection** to Mayor Blake scolding the female advocate/speaker for Stradley Park, who expressed concern about serious restroom issues;
- **Objection** to Mr. Murphy being called non-factual after he made public comment by Mr. Whitten, and without opportunity to speak to Mr. Whitten's allegation of non-factual while he was at the podium;
- **Objection** to Council only having a balance of $928,343 to spend on their numerous priorities, and after city staff allocated the rest of the city funding to their preferred priorities;
- **Objection** to the non-specificity of what will be discussed at the upcoming May 26th workshop, and it being equally unsettling and precarious to attend, and with Mayor Blake's agenda to move forward with anything city staff wishes, and curtailing council input and deliberation;
- **Objection** to scarcity of budget and planning discussion at scheduled council meetings on budget topics, and pushing all updates to the "free for all" workshop format;
- **Objection** to assumed 3% increases in utilities, stormwater, and fire assessment;
- **Objection** to an assumed 3% across the board staff increase of $652K just for this cycle, and potentially triggering a new millage to pay staff increases;
- **Objection** to "Enhanced Law Enforcement" priority, when Cocoa has the 3rd highest per capita police officers in Brevard (see attached);
- **Objection** to staff insistence that a millage is needed, after spending no observable effort averting the millage by increasing their fiscal stewardship;
    - Need back-up for health care increases - what is the 10% about?
- **Objection** to citizen priorities and suggestions submitted to council on March 8th and March 15th not being included in the presentation, and ***demonstrating through omission*** that citizen input is not considered in city planning;

**Based on last week's workshop, I am concerned about the same items reoccurring at the May 26th Workshop, and the lack of relevant discussion on the noted topics occurring during scheduled city meetings. I suggest my feedback be considered by the city in the administration of City meetings, City workshops, the 2022 budget process, the 2022 strategic plan update, Parks planning, and Overall citizen inclusion.**

If there is any information that could assist me in my objections, I welcome this being provided by any party. I request that these comments be added to the April 19th Council Workshop, as they expressly pertain to this workshop, and request that my comments be added as an eComment for tonight's April 26th meeting as a follow-up to the April 19th workshop.

Regards,