

City of Delray Beach

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Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

5:00 PM

Workshop Meeting at 5:00 PM

Delray Beach City Hall or Watch on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc2j0JhnR8Hx0Hj13RhCJag/s>
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City Commission

Mayor Thomas F. Carney, Jr.

Vice Mayor Juli Casale

Deputy Vice Mayor Rob Long

Commissioner Tom Markert

Commissioner Angela Burns

Pursuant to Section 3.12 of the Charter of the City of Delray Beach, the Mayor has instructed me to announce a Workshop Meeting of the City Commission to be held for the following purposes:

WS.1. [24-694](#) DISCUSSION WITH THE DELRAY BEACH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD.

Recommendation: It is recommended for the City Commission and DDA Board to engage in an open dialogue regarding topics related to the downtown district. Items to potentially discuss include ensuring a shared vision and direction for the Old School Square Campus to ensure the DDA can plan appropriate and desired future programming, aesthetics of the downtown, special events, and the role of the DDA within the Tourism Master Plan amongst other issues of relevance.

Sponsors: City Manager Department

Attachments: [Agenda Cover Report](#)

The May 14, 2024, Workshop Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. City Clerk, Katerri Johnson, called the roll, and the following were present:

Present: 5 - Mayor Thomas F. Carney, Jr., Vice Mayor Juli Casale, Deputy Vice Mayor Rob Long, Commissioner Angela Burns, and Commissioner Tom Markert

Others present were:

Terrence Moore - City Manager
Lynn Gelin - City Attorney

Mr. Moore opened the Workshop Meeting by announcing that the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and its board members were present to engage in a dialogue with the City Commission and their staff regarding the management of the Old School Square Campus and the Crest Theatre.

Laura Simon, Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority, discussed the laborious, but successful task of the DDA's role in activating and managing the entire campus, including the vintage gym, over the past eighteen months.

Ms. Simon suggested that the City Commission and the DDA engage in discussions to establish a shared vision and

direction for the Old School Square Campus to ensure they plan appropriate and desired programming for the downtown, special events, and its role within the Tourism Master Plan.

Ms. Simon stated this request was in line with their extended five-year Inter-local Agreement with the City to manage the Old School Square Campus, except for the Crest Theatre, effective May 2024.

Ms. Simon stated the total operational costs for the Old School Square's Campus FY 2024- 25 equal \$1,570,000. She explained that these costs did not include the grounds manicured.

Mayor Carney expressed concern that the grounds for the Old School Square Campus should always remain well-lit.

Missie Barletto, Director of Public Works, stated the Community Redevelopment Agency had previously allocated funds for lighting and maintaining the campus grounds and would be installing lighting throughout the campus.

She suggested scheduling a workshop meeting with the City Commission and the DDA to discuss priorities for improvements to the Old School Square Complex with funds from the Capital Improvement Projects Account.

A discussion ensued with the Commission on this topic.

Vice Mayor Casale proposed revenue-generating ideas, recognizing that a long-term contract would be necessary to implement them.

Commissioner Burns commended the DDA for its exceptional work that benefits businesses and people.

Mayor Carney stated he preferred the DDA to operate as a

private entity rather than a nonprofit organization. He suggested engaging a management firm to oversee the day-to-day operations and the DDA to concentrate on community engagement.

Lynn Gelin, City Attorney, stated the DDA must present a revenue-sharing plan for the upcoming fiscal year when they appear before the City Commission again, per their contractual obligation.

Mr. Moore concluded by stating that his office would schedule a meeting with members of the Finance Department to move forward accordingly.

WS.2. [24-695](#) PARKS GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROJECT REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Recommendation: Review and discussion of the Parks Projects presented in September 2022.

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation Department

Attachments: [Agenda Cover Report](#)
[7.K. 7.L. GO Bond Public Safety - Parks .pptx](#)

Sam Metott, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the department's plans as part of the general bond project scope, which included the Public Safety/Works Department:

- Atlantic Dunes Park had been removed from the plans.
- Catherine Strong Park was viewed as a complete renovation, doubling the open space, totaling eight and a half million dollars.
- Miller Park enhancements included the transformation of the former parking lot, which is being used as a temporary fire station, into covered outdoor pickleball courts.
- The Miscellaneous Park Improvements included public restrooms, sports lighting, pavilions, and facility upgrades within the park system.

Mr. Moore stated public engagement and input would be available for the park projects.

Discussion ensued amongst the Commission.

Mayor Carney mentioned having covered field areas in parks might not be the best use of taxpayers' dollars.

Deputy Vice Mayor Long expressed concern that the improvements should continue to progress during the current budget cycle, even if the plans were modified.

Vice Mayor Casale favored incorporating a water feature into parks without swimming pools.

There was a consensus to move forward with the bond as soon as possible to incorporate it into the budget.

Hugh Dunkley, Finance Director, suggested dividing the issuances, allocating half for this fiscal year and the remaining half for the next fiscal year. There was a consensus from the Commission regarding this suggestion.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Carney adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

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