

**From:** Steven Cover <Steven.Cover@sarasotaFL.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, January 9, 2026 2:53 PM

**To:** David Bullock <David.Bullock@sarasotaFL.gov>

**Cc:** Pat Robinson <Pat.Robinson@sarasotaFL.gov>

**Subject:** Planning Department Update 1/9/26

Here is the summary for this week:

**-Annual Upcoming Year Preparation Meetings-** Began meetings with Joe and Jan to prep them for the upcoming initiatives and events that will be coming up in Planning, Parking and OHCD.

**-Architecture Sarasota/Harvard Bayfront Study-** The Harvard study from Architecture Sarasota is still being finalized by the Harvard class and Architecture Sarasota and is expected to be completed in early February.

**-Arlington Park Mural-** A dedication ceremony is scheduled to take place on 1/12/26 at 9:30am.

**-Bay Runner Interlocal Agreement-** The transition has taken place and service under Breeze began on 12/1/25. So far it has gone smoothly.

**-Board Appointments-** Appointments for the AHAC Committee and the HPB were approved at the CC Meeting on 1/5/26.

**-CCNA Meeting-** Alia spoke at the CCNA Meeting this past Saturday, and she did a great job. Ciera is scheduled for the February Meeting.

**-DID Annual Board Report-** This was approved at the CC Meeting on 1/5/26.

**-DID Enhanced Landscape Contract-** This is projected to go to the **CC Meeting on 2/17/26**.

**-Fruitville Roundabout Public Art-** The City will go out with a new solicitation for this.

**-Historic Preservation Board Report-** This is scheduled to go to the **CC Meeting on 8/17/26**.

**-Humane Society of Sarasota County Lease Agreement-** This is scheduled for the **CC Meeting on 2/2/26**.

**-McCown Towers Parking Alternative-** The Rosemary Parking Study was discussed at the CC Meeting on 1/5/26. The CC recommended that staff continue to explore this opportunity and explore parking options for the Rosemary District.

**-Mr. Red-** The relocation of this sculpture to City Hall has been completed.

**-NCRAAB Annual Report-** This is scheduled for the **CC Meeting on 4/6/26**.

**-NCRAAB Report-** This was approved at the CC Meeting on 1/5/26. Discussion related to the RLT public art mural took place and the CC recommended that we move forward with the mural.

**-North Water Tower Park Mural-** This work has been completed. A dedication ceremony is projected to take place in January or February.

- Parking Analysis-** Met with parking staff to review current and projected expenses and capital improvements for future years. We will be coming back to you with our recommendations in the near future.
- Petticoat Painters' Reception-** Held a reception at City Hall and the Sculpture Garden for the Petticoat Painters' exhibit yesterday and over 100 people attended. It was very well received.
- Plan and Permit Reviews-** Planning staff and I continue to review plans and permits, provide comments at DRC Meetings and attend field visits for historic preservation permits.
- Planning and Zoning Association Conference-** I'm actively working with committee on the planning of the conference.
- Planning Website-** Active Zoning Text Amendments scheduled for hearings for the PB and CC will be posted on our website so that citizens can get the latest on what is being proposed.
- Plymouth Harbor Purchase and Sale Agreement-** This was approved at the CC Meeting on 1/5/26.
- Public Art Committee Annual Report-** This is scheduled for the **CC Meeting on 7/20/2026**.
- Ringling College Projection Art-** We're planning on working with Ringling on future programs.
- Rosemary Parking Study-** This has been completed and the results were discussed at the CC Meeting on 1/5/26.
- Sailing Squadron Lease Amendment-** This was approved at the CC Meeting on 1/5/26.
- Sarasota School of Artists Mural-** The final concept was shared at the Rosemary District Association Meeting on 11/11/25, and it was very well received. The wall mural is now underway.
- School Convocation of Local Governments-** The CC and City officials will be attending the **School Convocation Meeting on 1/16/2026**.

### **Project Update**

- Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Ordinance-** This was approved at Second Reading at the CC Meeting on 1/5/26.
- Comprehensive Plan Update-** Per State requirements, the City is required to update its Comprehensive Plan. David Smith will be giving an overview of what is coming up this year and next at the **CC Meeting on 1/20/26**.
- DID Ordinance-** This was approved at Second Reading at the CC Meeting on 1/5/26.
- Downtown Improvement District Ordinance-** The Second Reading is scheduled for the CC Meeting on 1/5/26.
- Downtown Master Plan Update-** A presentation/discussion on process, timing, approach and ad hoc committee selection took place at the CC Meeting on 8/5/24. The Resolution was heard at the CC Meeting on 9/3/24, continued to the CC Meeting on 9/9/24, and was approved at the CC Meeting on

9/16/24. Selection of the Ad Hoc Committee members took place at the CC Meeting on 11/4/24 with 13 members being selected. The first Ad Hoc Committee Meeting was held on 3/4/25. The second meeting was held on 4/8/25 to discuss committee duties, goals, procurement requirements and procedures for the ITN and selection of the consultant. The third meeting was held on 4/28/25 to discuss details of the ITN procurement process. The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting was held on 5/28/25 to discuss the past history of the current Plan. The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was held on 6/2/25 to discuss past City plans and a presentation was given on downtown master plans. The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was held on 7/24/25 and focused on Committee logistics and the ITN solicitation process. The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting took place on 8/14/25 authorizing staff to move forward with the ITN process. The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting took place and focused on the ITN (Due 11/2/25) and the selection of the Ad Hoc Committee's member, Melissa Laughlin, for the Solicitation Evaluation Committee. The meeting on 11/4/25 included an update and short-term schedule on the ITN, and recommendations by the ICM for the selection committee. The next meeting was on 12/8/25 where the Committee decided to forward the ITN scoring system to the CC Meeting on 1/5/26. The CC recommended that staff move forward without requiring or scoring the location of the lead consultant. The solicitation is expected to go out today or the latest on Monday.

**-Marian Anderson Comp Plan Amendment-** This was recommended for approval at the PB Meeting on 9/10/25 and was approved at the CC Meeting on 11/3/25. The Second Hearing is projected to go to the **CC Meeting on 2/2/26**.

**-New College Master Plan Update-** Staff has met with leadership at the college. Formal comments have been forwarded to New College. We're waiting for their request letter.

**-Payne Park Auditorium-** Continued discussions have taken place and this item is projected to go to the **CC Meeting on 2/17/26**.

**-St. Armands Outreach-** We will be forwarding a purchase order to our selected facilitator & public outreach consultant in the next few days.

Have a great weekend!

Steve

**Steven R. Cover, AICP**  
**Director of Planning**

**Phone :** (941) 263-6480

**Mobile :** (941) 266-6737

**Email :** [steven.cover@sarasotafl.gov](mailto:steven.cover@sarasotafl.gov)

**1565 First St. Sarasota, FL 34236**