

From: Steven Cover <Steven.Cover@sarasotaFL.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 4:25 PM
To: Jennifer Jorgensen <Jennifer.Jorgensen@sarasotaFL.gov>
Cc: Pat Robinson <Pat.Robinson@sarasotaFL.gov>
Subject: Planning Department Update 4/3/26

Here is the summary for this week:

- Affordable Housing Update-** Met with staff to go over the proposed city website attainable housing dashboard to be ultimately available to both staff and city residents. We have made great progress, and we're putting the final touches on it. This will be released in the next few months..
- Budget-** Planning staff continued to meet with Finance and submitted the Department's budget on Tuesday.
- CCNA Meeting in April-** Lucia and I will be presenting at their meeting tomorrow.
- Class Field Trip to City-** We've worked out the details and have reached out to the teacher to finalize things for their visit.
- Earth Day Event-** This is scheduled for 4/18/26 at The Bay from 11am-1pm. Trees will be available to the public.
- Electronics/Computer Recycling-** Alia and I continue to meet with IT and other departments on the progress of the City's recycling program which is now focused on recycling electronics.
- First Street Consultant-** An update will be presented at the **CC Meeting on 4/6/26**.
- Gillespie Park Art Dedication-** The City and the Gillespie Park community held a dedication ceremony for the new wall mural entitled "Niche Art". It was a very successful event that included a flyover of the birds featured in the mural.
- 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 projected to go to the CC in late Spring.
- 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. Staff and the NCRAB Board continue to move forward with the RLT public art mural per the CC's recommendations.
- 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 the committee on the planning of the conference. The conference will take place here in Sarasota May 27-29.
- 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.

-Public Art Committee Annual Report- The Annual Report is scheduled for the **CC Meeting on 7/20/2026**.

-Ringling College Projection Art- We are scheduling future meetings for generating new ideas for projection art in 2026 for possibly the July 4th weekend and the November Fresh Friday event.

-Sarasota Humane Society Lease- This is projected to go to the **CC Meeting on 5/4/26**.

-Sarasota Outboard Club Lease- This is projected to go to the **CC Meeting on 5/18/26**.

Project Update

-Batch ZTAs- Staff is working on a new set of Batch ZTAs, and these will most likely go before the PB and CC this summer.

-Composting ZTA- Alia and staff have been working on a ZTA focused on composting. Authorization was given to proceed at the CC Meeting on 3/23/26.

-Comprehensive Plan Update- This week we reviewed the future scheduling for each of the chapters. The Transportation Chapter Update and population projections are projected to go to the **PB on 5/13/26**.

-DID Term Limits Amendment- This is scheduled for the **CC Meeting on 4/6/26**.

-Downtown Master Plan Update- A presentation/discussion on process, timing, the 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 4th meeting was held on 5/28/25 to discuss the past history of the current Plan. The 5th meeting was held on 6/2/25 to discuss past City plans and a presentation was given on downtown master plans. The 6th meeting was held on 7/24/25 and focused on Committee logistics and the ITN solicitation process. The 7th meeting took place on 8/14/25 authorizing staff to move forward with the ITN process. The 8th 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 Selection Committee met on 3/24/26 for its initial review. The Ad Hoc Committee met the two key members of the consultant team at their meeting on 3/31/26 and was very impressed with the team. A final interview was held the next day, and the selected consultant team received unanimous support from the six members of the Selection Committee. Negotiations with the selected consultant team will begin next week.

-Osprey Court Street Vacation- This is projected to go to the **PB Meeting on 4/8/26**.

-St. Armands Outreach- We met with David Brain to finalize the approach and details of the public meeting coming up on 4/13/26 at the Keating Center.

-Traffic Concurrency ZTA- This is projected to go to the **PB Meeting on 6/10/26.**

Have a fun weekend!

Steve



Steven R. Cover, AICP

Director of Planning

Phone : (941) 263-6480

Mobile : (941) 266-6737

Email : steven.cover@sarasotafl.gov

1565 First St. Sarasota, FL 34236