

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Isaac Brownman, Director Public Works
Report date: September 8, 2021
Meeting date: September 13, 2021
Subject: Town Center Outdoor Venue Stage Design Update

Recommended Action

Provide direction to Manager.

Background

The Town Commission has invested in the development of a Town Center and Outdoor Venue area through land acquisition, demolition, design and construction of various improvements.

The approved master plan of the site includes a location for a permanent stage. Town staff is moving forward with the Phase 2 improvements for the outdoor venue. The improvements include walkways, lighting, landscaping, bathrooms, and connectivity to the Tennis Center that will help facilitate activating the property for various events and activities. The Phase 2 work is funded, permitted and the necessary design documents are being finalized. Construction is expected to start in the Fall.

The funding for a permanent stage is not included in the current Phase 2 work. Town staff presented a conceptual design for the stage for Commission input at their July 2, 2021 Regular Meeting. The Commission approved the advancement of the stage design and requested that the staff work with the architect to look for ways to reduce the cost of construction and to re-evaluate the size of the stage needed for local events. The Commission also authorized advanced funds from the Town to fund the stage design and requested that the Longboat Key Foundation move forward with a fundraising effort for both the design and construction costs.

The Commission authorized up to \$50,000 for architectural services to continue to advance the design of the stage based between the July and September Commission meetings and to place the item on their September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting for further discussion.

Hoyt Architects has made conceptual design modifications with resulting construction cost reductions since the July 2, 2021 Regular Meeting. The current design is at approximately 30%. Before proceeding further, Town staff and Hoyt Architects will be present at the September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting to share the latest results. Two options, a larger stage and smaller stage, and related

cost estimates, will be shared at the meeting. The larger stage format is similar in size to the one the Commission saw in July. Based on the updated design the current construction cost estimate for that version is approximately \$400,000. The smaller version is similar in design but instead of 60' across it is 40' across, or about 2/3 scale. The current construction cost estimate for that version is approximately \$320,000.

Town staff will look for Commission direction on the overall design concept and their preference on the size of the stage. The architect will be prepared to discuss the functionality of the two different sizes.

For background information, staff put together examples of stage's that have been built around the State. If the size and budget information was available to us, that information is included as well.

DMK Associates is the site contractor and Hoyt Architects was engaged through a contract with DMK to perform the stage design, and integrate with the Phase 2 site improvements. The total cost for Hoyt Architects to fully design the stage through construction documents is \$75,000. Based on Commission direction, the goal is to have the total stage design cost reimbursed through future fundraising efforts led by the Longboat Key Foundation.

At the request of the Commission, staff included the Chair of the Longboat Key Foundation, Jim Brown, in the input and review sessions with the architect and the development of the current design approach. The architect is providing design information and images that can be used by the Foundation in their marketing material. The Town will continue to support the Longboat Key Foundation's efforts to help raise funds for the project. Mr. Brown will attend the September 13th meeting to provide the Foundation's thoughts on next steps.

One of the Commission's strategic plan priorities this year is the programming of the outdoor venue for the 2022 season. Originally staff anticipated having most of the construction completed by January of 2022. With some of the challenges associated with contractor availability, and also costs and delays associated with supply chain issues, it appears that construction will not start until October or November of this year and likely span the season. Staff will be working with the contractors and event organizers to work around the construction activity on the site during this transition year. Our Support Services Director, Carolyn Brown, is coordinating plans to activate the venue for the upcoming season. Current tentative events in the planning stage include:

- Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony (Chamber) - November 2021
- Lawn Party (Kiwanis Club) - December 2021
- Concert on the Green (Chamber) - January 2022
- Arts Show and Festival (Howard Alan) - February 2022
- Concert on the Green (Chamber) - February 2022
- Concert on the Green (Chamber)- March 2022

Other events and activities are being explored recognizing that the site will have limited availability for this coming season.

Based on input received at the September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting, staff are prepared to continue the stage design to construction level documents and to support the Foundation's efforts to kick off their fundraising for the project.

Staff Recommendation

Provide direction to Manager.

Attachments

- A. PowerPoint Presentation with Stage Design/Rendering Options (Available from Town Clerk's Office)
- B. Florida Bandshells/Amphitheaters Examples (Available from Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item