

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Town Commission
FROM: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
DATE: June 11, 2019
SUBJECT: Town of Longboat Key Arts, Culture & Education (ACE) Center Long-Term Planning

Recommended Action

Provide direction to Manager.

Background

At your June 3, 2019 Regular Meeting the Commission supported the current plans to make initial improvements to the Town's property to activate the site as an outdoor venue while preserving a building site for a future cultural center. At that meeting, the Commission requested a workshop discussion item on the long-term plans for an Arts, Culture, and Education Center as part of the Town Center project. This item has been placed on the June 17, 2019 Regular Workshop Meeting for Commission discussion.

Commissioner Daly raised the request at the meeting and had previously indicated a desire to reach a Commission consensus on a series of items related to this issue. His email is attached.

Town staff will be prepared to answer questions regarding the site and respond to any discussions regarding next steps.

Attachment

May 28, 2019 Commissioner Daly Email (ACE)

From: <jdaly@longboatkey.org>
Date: May 28, 2019 at 5:15:54 PM EDT
To: Tom Harmer <THarmer@longboatkey.org>
Cc: <TClerk@longboatkey.org>, <jimbrown514@verizon.net>
Subject: ACE

Tom: Following up our recent discussions, I offer a few thoughts in advance of anticipated discussions at the June 3rd Commission Meeting. First, I will not dwell on my position that the Town's best opportunity for the ACE building and activities has been, and continues to be, a joint venture with Ringling; while recognizing at least two basic points:

1. Obviously, Ringling's understandable decision not to go forward, "at this time", and
2. That it appears to me that a majority of the Commission (4, 5 or 6?), has been, and still may be, supportive of going forward with Ringling at some point in the future. ---

However, while we certainly need to let the dust settle with Ringling for a while; at the June meeting I think we should renew our efforts to articulate an endorsement of a long-term ACE facility which we have been striving for over a number of years as the cornerstone of a Town Center for Longboat Key.

Accordingly, to achieve that objective, I recommend, beginning at the June meeting, that we strive to attain a unanimous consent on each of at least the following issues:

- A. Reconfirm that the old Art Center building (and activities), should be replaced in the Town Center (former Amore site) location as recently endorsed by the Commission with Ringling before their decision;
- B. That the Town should own the building;
- C. That the capital funding for the building must be from private involved sources obtained by experienced fund raisers;
- D. That a private entity should maintain and operate the facility;
- E. That a private entity and the Town should jointly agree on the artistic and cultural activities to be provided; and
- F. That the Adult Educational Center should be an integral activity in the building.

Then, assuming that we can reach such a consensus on each of these and any other related issues, after a reasonable period of time to do so while also reflecting on Ringling's decision, we would be in a position to evaluate and consider all potential private entities to enable the Town to jointly work with to meet these criteria and renew our efforts to develop our ACE building.

I remind that Commissioners should not respond to this email.

Jack Daly.

Sent from my iPad

End of Agenda Item