

Movin' On

After several public workshops, and scores of meetings with businesses, agencies, and individuals, the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Plan revision is nearly complete; and the final draft is anticipated by the end of this month. It will be reviewed by the PSJRA Board of Directors at our May meeting to ensure the recent public comments have been included. With the PSJRA board's recommendation for approval as well as any additional written recommendations, the plan will then be submitted to not only the city but also to "each taxing authority that levies ad valorem taxes on taxable real property contained within the geographic boundaries of the redevelopment area." Remember, this plan is created to provide a wide-ranging, flexible baseline; the priorities and funding of various line items can and will change over time (a 30-year span for the extended area and the next 13 years for the former "DRA" area) to reflect current needs and requirements.

By the way, I keep meaning to comment on our name and initials (to add just another bit of confusion to the local alphabet soup of agencies). Our name is "Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency" and the initials are PSJRA. There actually is no "D." It is hard to change habits, and although we are not offended, our mission includes so much more than "downtown;" and we have changed our name to honor our new communities and neighborhoods.

Now for another important notice: the PSJRA and WIM Associates will hold a public workshop on Monday, May 7, at the Washington Gym at 7 PM. Walter Miller and his team will facilitate the workshop and will discuss their "Inventory and Analysis" report for the North Port St. Joe community. The PSJRA will have copies of this preliminary report available on Friday. Although additional workshops are scheduled, each builds on the previous one, and we encourage all interested parties to attend from the beginning.

For your information and to mark your calendars:

- The Advisory Committee has elected their co-chairs: James Clemons and Leslie Wentzell. Congratulations to each. They will be meeting to discuss organization, policies and procedures. The next Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, May 3, 5:30, at the Fire Station. Next month, we will begin to rotate the location of these meetings between the Fire Station and the Washington Gym.
- The PSJRA welcomes three new board members: Annie Sue Fields, Tracy Melvin and Troy White. We again thank the City for their careful attention and consideration for these and future appointments.
- We are continuing the completion of the Dr. Joe Memorial Parking Lot. A subcommittee will recommend material and size for a wonderful and interesting shade structure, and we intend this to be a design competition. We will keep you posted on the details. We will be contacting Dr. Joe's children to move toward the memorial plaque for their father.

- The PSJRA has seen the conceptual drawings of a sculpture, commissioned by the St. Joe Company and created by local artist Alex Henderson. Both the Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee are very excited and enthusiastically endorse the project. Just wait until you see it! It is planned at the north-east corner of First Avenue and Monument, with an additional portion of the sculpture toward the end of Marina Drive. So...have we gotten your interest? It is truly remarkable and will be a wonderful asset to our community.

- Mark your calendars for this month's regular PSJRA board meeting on Thursday, May 10, 5 PM at the Fire Station. All are invited to attend and participate.