

# TOWN OF WINDERMERE

## Virtual Public Workshop Town Hall Enhancements

January 22, 2024

### PRESENT:

Town Manager Robert Smith was present. Town Council Members Andy Williams, Tom Stroup, Tony Davit, and Brandi Haines, Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moore, Town Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter, Mr. John Fitzgibbon, and Mr. Brad Cornelious were also present.

#### 1. THE WORKSHOP CALLED TO ORDER

Manager Smith called the public information workshop to order at 6:04pm.

#### 2. REVIEW OF PROPOSED TOWN HALL ENHANCEMENTS

- a. Presentation
- b. Public Comment & Questions

Manager Smith stated that this is a public workshop, and no official business will be taken. He then gave a review of past Public, Board and Town Council workshops/meetings. Manager Smith also commented on past discussions with Rotary Inc and Healthy West Orange. He turned the floor over to Mr. Fitzgibbon. Mr. Fitzgibbon reviewed the proposed renderings. Mr. Cornelious commented on the review/approval process that would need to take place. Manager Smith explained that due to the pavilion no longer being a viable project, discussion was made with Rotary Inc. and Healthy West Orange for possible reallocation of funds. He then gave a timeline of events that led up to this meeting. Manager Smith commented on potential renovations which would be agreeable to the grant. He then commented on the impact of self-funding compared to the grant. Manager Smith stated that in July (2023), the Town Council passed a motion not to proceed with the pavilion and to see if the funds could be used for Town Hall. A review of the proposed enhancements, rental revenue, and events was made. Manager Smith stated that HPB met and agreed to the concept with the condition that the size/scale/scope of the gazebo, the multi-purpose room and the south bathrooms would be further discussed. He then opened the floor for public comments. The first to speak was Mr. Gregg Anderson of 137 Down Court. Mr. Anderson thanked all of them for their work on this project. He also stated that he likes the path that the Town has been moving in. Ms. Liz Andert stated that as serving on the Historical Preservation Board, she will be relying on the public's comments regarding an approval for a Certificate of Appropriateness. She then thanked all involved in the process. Manager Smith reiterated that HPB did not approve the concept as currently provided. Mr. Bob McKinley of 536 Magnolia Street introduced himself. He then questioned if HPB had made a recommendation for the enhancements. Manager Smith stated, "as a concept, yes sir." Public Works Director Elliott-Moore stated on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McKinley questioned how the items were added to the plan months ago if just approved by HPB. He then stated that the plan did not originate with HPB, it was presented to them. Mr. McKinley then questioned the ADA access to the stage. Manager Smith explained that it's a 504 policy, public building. Some discussion followed. Mr. McKinley then questioned what would happen if the town did not do the project. Manager Smith stated that a discussion would take place with Rotary Inc. and Healthy West Orange. Mr. McKinley then questioned if the proposed multi-purpose room is changed to restrooms, would the addition to the inside restrooms still be needed? Manager Smith stated yes as currently there is only one female and one male restroom. Mr. McKinley suggests having both restrooms as family type restrooms. Mr. Fitzgibbon explained that there are two proposed family restrooms. Mr. McKinley then suggested gender neutral for the other restrooms. He then stated that he does not see the need for a gazebo or enlarged porch. Some discussion followed. Next to speak was Ms. Nora Brophy of 426 Magnolia Street. She questioned the audio-visual equipment in the gazebo. Manager Smith stated that those items are negotiable. He then commented on possible uses. Ms. Brophy then questioned if signage would be required for Rotary Inc. and Healthy West Orange. Manager Smith explained that something will be required but details will be worked out. Ms. Brophy stated that residents needed to know prior. Manager Smith stated that signage can be negotiated. Ms. Brophy questioned the exercise equipment. Manager Smith commented that exercise equipment is not being proposed. After some discussion was made, Mrs. Karen Fay of 28 Pine Street spoke. Mrs. Fay stated a concern with having too many restrooms if the multi-purpose room is turned into restrooms. Manager Smith stated that the number of restrooms can be reviewed. Mrs. Fay suggested changing one of the restrooms into storage. She stated she liked the previous location of restrooms where the community room was. Discussion followed regarding exit doors, security equipment area, utilities, and kitchen updates. Mrs. Fay commented that she would like to encourage residents to utilize what the town has to offer other than encouraging outside residents. Manager Smith commented that this could be

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reviewed by the Town Council. Some discussion followed. Ms. Kimberly Head commented that she agrees with Mr. McKinley's comments regarding the HPB did not come up with this concept and keeping the SHPO approvals. There being no further public comments, Manager Smith stated that the next workshop/meeting will be held February 7<sup>th</sup>, then this will go before the Town Council.

**3. ADJOURN:**

The Public session adjourned at 7:08pm.