

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LAND USE MEETING
BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER
One Haben Boulevard
Palmetto, Florida
May 12, 2020**

Meeting video link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUlgjuGhS-qV966RU2Z7AtA>

Present were:

Betsy Benac, Chairman (Entered during meeting)
Carol Whitmore, First Vice-Chairman
Misty Servia, Second Vice-Chairman
Reggie Bellamy, Third Vice-Chairman
Vanessa Baugh
Stephen R. Jonsson (Attended via telephone)
Priscilla Whisenant Trace (Entered during meeting)

Also present were:

Rossina Leider, Section Manager
Sarah Schenk, Assistant County Attorney
Vicki Tessmer, Board Records Supervisor Clerk of the Circuit Court

First Vice-Chairman Whitmore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

All witnesses and staff giving testimony were duly sworn.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Tom Walsh, Cortez Road Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
2. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** (Future Agenda Items)
 There being no citizen comments, First Vice-Chairman Whitmore closed citizen comments.

AGENDA

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| 10. | Agenda Update Memorandum | BC20200507DOC001 |
| | Item 5 - PDC-14-12(P)(R) 2019 Bayshore Crossings R and M General Partnership; Public comments attached | BC20200507DOC002 |
| | Item 7 - LDCT-19-03/Ordinance 20-05 Land Development Code Text Amendment Free Standing Emergency Department; Revised motion to "No action necessary; this is the first of two required public hearings. The second hearing is scheduled for June 4, 2020" | |
| | Item 9 - Discussion of on-going issues relative to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency; Add on item | |

ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARINGS (Presentations upon request)

3. **BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/ORDINANCE**
 A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed Land Development Code (LDC) Text Amendment LDCT-18-02/Ordinance 20-02, Sign Ordinance. This is the second of two required public hearings, continued from April 2 and May 7, 2020

There being no public comment, First Vice Chairman Whitmore closed public comment.

 Based upon the staff report, evidence presented, comments made at the Public Hearing, and finding the request to be consistent with the Manatee County Comprehensive Plan and the Manatee County Land Development Code, Commissioner Servia moved to adopt Ordinance 20-02, amending the Manatee County Land Development Code, as recommended by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bellamy and carried 5-0 with Chairman Benac and Commissioner Trace absent. BC20200507DOC003

4. **BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/ORDINANCE**

A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed Ordinance 20-04, Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) Overlay District Map Amendment; continued from April 2 and May 7, 2020.

 Nicole Knapp, Emergency Management Planning Manager, explained the request is to update the boundaries of the CHHA in the Future Land Use Map Series as well as the Coastal Element, which were not formally adopted, to update the CHHA map with the 2016 data. The Coastal Element of the Comprehensive Plan requires the designation of coastal high hazard areas per Florida Statutes. Since transmittal, there have been no public comments, and there have been no objections to the updates from the agencies involved.

 There being no public comment, First Vice-Chairman Whitmore closed public comment.

 Based upon the evidence presented, the action of the Planning Commission, and comments made at the public hearing, upon the technical support documents, and finding the request to be in compliance with the Community Planning Act as codified in applicable portions of Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes, and consistent with the Manatee County Comprehensive Plan, Commissioner Baugh moved to adopt Manatee County Plan Amendment PA-19-03/Ordinance 20-04, as recommended by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jonsson and carried 5-0 with Chairman Benac and Commissioner Trace absent. BC20200507DOC004

ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARINGS (Presentations scheduled)

5. **BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/ORDINANCE**

 A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed Zoning Ordinance PDC-14-12(P)(R) 2019 Bayshore Crossings; continued from April 2 and May 7, 2020.

Sarah Schenk, Assistant County Attorney, stated that there is a quorum with Commissioner Jonsson attending via telephone and streaming video.

 No ex parte communications were disclosed. Commissioner Servia stated many people approached her, and she advised that she was not able to comment.

 Bob Gause, representing the applicant, used a slide presentation to review the request for 55,000 square feet of mini storage. Building one, existing within the plaza, will be converted to mini storage and new structures will also be built. The Certificate Level of Services (CLOS) from the original approval expires in a month, but the applicant requested an extension. The majority of the shopping center will remain as is, with the proposed changes remaining in the same areas. The various buildings out front will be three-story, enclosed, air conditioned buildings. There will be a gated egress on 60th Avenue West, and the current gates are being retained at the back of the project. There will also be a pedestrian gate

allowing neighbors to walk to the plaza. Specific Approval is being sought for LDC section 402.11.D.3 for a reduction in the front yard setback adjacent to a local street (Clark Avenue) from 35 feet to 21 feet and to LDC Section 511.6.C to allow an increased fence height in the front yard from four feet to six feet for the fence currently located adjacent to Clark Avenue. The change is being proposed, because the market calls for enclosed storage space. The plan is compatible with adjoining uses and poses no environmental impacts.

(Enter Chairman Benac and Commissioner Trace during presentation. Chairman Benac presiding)

Discussion ensued regarding increasing the amount of mini-storage, the original approval was for mini-storage, and changing the existing approved buildings to three-stories will increase the capacity, but the footprint will remain the same.

 Upon question Mr. Gause, displayed the proposed elevations included in the staff report. No additional impervious surfaces will be added, and areas that were once designated as drive aisles, will now be storage.

 Discussion ensued regarding any flooding issues will be addressed with the drainage systems, and concern with the entrance to the Plaza on 26th Street West when cars enter the parking lot.

 Margaret Tusing, Public Hearing Section Manager, reviewed the request, and noted the specific approvals do not interfere with visibility, and the site dead ends to the east. The applicant has agreed to the revised stipulations, and the request meets LDC requirements. A mini storage is not an industrial use and is permitted in commercial zoning. The floor area ratio meets all LDC requirements. Staff recommended approval.

 Suzanna Young stated there is no need for a storage facility in the area, and is concerned the project will decrease property values.

There being no additional public comments, Chairman Benac closed public comment.

 Upon question, Mr. Gause responded that the allowed uses for the zoning are commercial, retail, and professional office. The owner wants a use that will work on the site and maintain a viable shopping center. The current market is for air-conditioned storage space to protect belongings. The trip generation for mini-storage is less than a grocery store, and with the re-design, there will not be space for outdoor vehicle storage. The façade of the new buildings will blend in with the rest of the shopping center.

 Discussion continued that mini-storage is a benign use with limited traffic, the new buildings will be larger than the current plaza, the site is in the RES-16 Future Land Use Category and compatible with neighborhood support uses, and landscaping.

 Mr. Gause displayed the landscape plan from the staff report and noted there will be a double landscape buffer. The drive aisle to the bank will remain. Some trees will be removed, but they will be replaced in different locations, although they will save as many trees as possible. The owner has not has success with the anchor store.

Ms. Schenk advised that the Board cannot legally consider the tax base or market demand for a particular use in a quasi-judicial hearing.

 Bob Morris, managing partner, provided his background, and stated he has owned the center since 2005, and they are trying to keep the center as vibrant as possible. There are no current users in the market who have a need for the existing space, but there is a market for self-storage with a high demand for air-conditioned space..

 Using the site plan, Mr. Gause responded to questions and noted there are no proposed changes to the parking area at the top of the property.

Based upon the staff report, evidence presented, comments made at the Public Hearing, the action of the Planning Commission, and finding the request to be consistent with the Manatee County Comprehensive Plan and the Manatee County Land Development Code, as stipulated herein, Commissioner Trace moved to adopt Manatee County Zoning Ordinance Number PDC-14-12(P)(R); approve the revised Preliminary Site Plan with Stipulations A.1-A.4, B.1-B.4, and C.1; adopt the Findings for Specific Approval; and grant Specific Approval to Land Development Code Sections 402.11.D.3 to allow for a reduction in the Planned Development Commercial front yard setback from a local street (Clark Avenue) from 35 feet to 21 feet and 511.6 for an allowance to increase a fence in the front yard from four feet to six feet; as recommended by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jonsson.

 Discussion continued regarding a need for more neighborhood uses, large buildings exist along 26th Street West, therefore the proposal is not out of scale, and continue to invest tax dollars in the Bayshore Gardens area.

The motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Servia voting nay.

BC20200507DOC005

6. **BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/ORDINANCE**

 A duly advertised public hearing was opened to consider adoption of proposed Zoning Ordinance Z-19-27 William Gale Rezone; continued from April 2 and May 7, 2020. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

 There was no ex parte communication disclosed. Commissioner Bellamy stated he received phone calls, but did not discuss the item.

 Chairman Benac clarified she had no ex parte communications regarding the previous item, PDC-14-12(P)(R).

 Robert Schmidt, representing the applicant, Steve Reinhart, stated the request is for a rezone to RS6-H for work-force housing, although the project is not entirely for work-force housing. He displayed a zoning map included in the staff report, and reviewed the surrounding area. Canal Road will be widened to four lanes, and improvements to Mendoza Road are in the five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

 Upon question, Mr. Schmidt, broke down the number of units designated for work-force housing, and noted 27 units will be included in the LURA which will be designated as affordable housing. The Future Land Use Category is RES-3, and the density will not exceed the maximum allowed. The affordable lots will be 35 feet by 40 feet. The applicant has built Cortez Landings, and a project near the interstate in the City of Bradenton. They are not asking for any waivers in the LDC. There will be a recreation amenity and substantial buffering. The CIP project consists of constructing a sidewalk along Canal Road and there will

be internal sidewalks in the project. The required right-of-way will be reserved for future road improvements.

 Discussion ensued regarding concerns with changes to the neighborhood and compatibility, cannot speak to the site plan, project is not Section-8 housing, future land use category allows around 84 units, single-family homes, young families and retirees are looking for housing that is affordable in Manatee County, small lot sizes, and surrounding subdivisions with smaller lots.

 Sarah Schenk, Assistant County Attorney, stated there is a conceptual site plan submitted in the packet, although it cannot be considered in the approval.

 Mr. Schmidt relayed that he suggested Mr. Reinhart reach out to concerned citizens. Without a site plan, it is difficult to address specific concerns. The expected density is approximately four dwelling units per acre.

 Margaret Tusing, Public Hearing Section Manager, stated there are several zoning districts in the area, and many have been developed with a density close to four dwelling units per acre.

 Mr. Schmidt responded that Maple Ridge is nearby and was also built by the applicant.

 Ms. Tusing used a slide presentation to address the site location, size, rezone from RSF-2RES-6 Future Land Use Category to RES-6, the surrounding zoning, nearby public facilities, site photographs, and positive and negative aspects. Staff recommends approval.

 Discussion ensued regarding reduced lot sizes for affordable housing, 20-foot buffer along the south side of the project along 33rd Street East, progress of the CIP projects, and sidewalks along the south side of the project.

 Thomas Gerstenberger, Stormwater Engineering Division Manager, displayed a map to address CIP projects and noted 120 feet right-of-way will be purchased along Canal Road, from U.S. 301 to 17th Street East, for improvements. There is a deep drainage system along Canal Road that will require the project to be piped. Sidewalks exist along the west shoulder of Canal Road from 33rd Street south to the elementary school. Timing is a consideration due to property acquisition, and the sidewalk will be installed along the frontage of the project. The design for the portion north of 17th Street East is for an improved section of Canal Road for a two lane road with a divided median.

 Nelson Galeano, Transportation System Engineer, confirmed the 120 feet of right-of-way is for the build out of Canal Road.

 Mr. Gerstenberger explained the project is under design, with a build out of the road for a future four-lane divided design.

 Mr. Galeano stated the drainage is included in the design of the project, but there is no final sketch of the project.

 Ms. Tussing stated the sidewalks are planned along Canal Road and 33rd Street, and the project will provide the appropriate right-of-way so the sidewalk will not be disturbed when the road construction begins.

 Mr. Gerstenberger responded that 12th Avenue East is just right-of-way and is not a paved roadway. If that road is ever constructed, staff would look at sidewalk requirements at that time, since it is only a local roadway.

 Discussion ensued regarding misconceptions with affordable housing, applicants should reach out to neighboring communities, and the need for recreational facilities within developments.

Motion

 A motion was made by Commissioner Bellamy and seconded by Commissioner Trace to continue the hearing with an effort for the applicant to communicate with the neighbors in respect to the stride being taken.

 Mr. Gerstenberger stated the CIP project is at 30 percent design, and the intent is to four lane the section from U.S. 301 to 17th Street East, and the improved two-lane section would extend from 17th Street East up to U.S. 41. The project should begin in two to three years. The Mendoza Road reconfiguration, up to the intersection at 39th Street East, is included in the scope of the project.

 Discussion ensued regarding 33rd Street East is a local road, staff did not look at the site plan for any analysis due to this being a straight rezone, sidewalks will be determined at final site plan, access to 33rd Street East, neighbors concerned with lack of infrastructure, project will meet LDC requirements when the subdivision comes forward and will have to meet concurrency, there have been rezones from A-1 to residential in the area which have increased density, and the RSF zoning requires single family detached.

 Ms. Schenk explained a Land Use Restriction Agreement (LURA) is required for the project which will designate the types of units.

 Discussion continued that a rezone cannot be denied if there is open drainage along the roadways.

 Michelle Grimes expressed concern regarding incompatibility with surrounding properties and the proposed lot sizes.

 Beverly Hall expressed concern with impacts from traffic and drainage.

 Langston Dunbar expressed concern with affordable housing, traffic, and the potential for decreased property values.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Benac closed public comment.

 Ms. Tusing, responded that Homeowners' Associations have the responsibility to maintain facilities, and the County does not have jurisdiction over HOAs.

 Ms. Schenk clarified there is legal authority in the LDC for staff or the Board to require a neighborhood work shop.

 Mr. Gerstenberger reiterated construction on Canal Road will run south to North from U.S. 301 to 17th Street, and right-of-way for a four-lane roadway will be obtained. Construction will start in next two to three years.

 Ms. Tusing clarified staff is not required to submit a site plan for a straight rezone.

 Ms. Schenk confirmed the LURA will go before the Board for approval.

 William Clague, Chief Assistant County Attorney, explained the term of the LURA depends on amount of incentives the developer gets.

 Ms. Tusing stated the Future Land Use Category is RES-3. A LURA runs with the land as long as there is 25 percent affordable housing the development.

 Mr. Gerstenberger explained there are ownership and maintenance requirements and the applicant must identify a maintenance entity for the facilities, which could be an HOA, stewardship program, or a Community Development District.

 Mr. Schmidt stated planned development is expensive, and the applicant will meet with neighbors. Since this is a straight rezone; it was a courtesy to show the proposed site plan.

 Commissioner Bellamy clarified the motion to continue was to ensure the applicant has the opportunity to speak with all the neighbors.

Motion - Clarified

 Ms. Schenk suggested the motion read to continue the public hearing for Zoning Ordinance Z-19-27 to require the applicant hold a neighborhood work shop per section 312.6 of the LDC, and to report the results of the work shop to the Board at the continued public hearing date and to be re-advertised. Commissioners Bellamy and Trace agreed to the motion as stated by Ms. Schenk.

 Discussion ensued regarding concern with the motion, trend for subdivisions with smaller lots, have the hearing at the next land use meeting, require neighborhood meetings for rezones, consider all the uses in a straight rezone, requests for either planned development or rezone, discuss at the next round of LDC hearings, cannot approve or deny based on a site plan for a straight rezone, ask for a minimal concept plan with affordable housing developments, rezones are happening within the urban area of the County, not give false hope to residents that change will not occur, importance of neighbor participation, revisit policies, and the next available land use meeting is June 4, 2020.

Motion - Carried

The motion carried 7-0.

BC20200507DOC006

RECESS/RECONVENE: 11:33 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. All Commissioners present.

7. BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/ORDINANCE

 A duly advertised public hearing was held to consider adoption of proposed LDC Text Amendment LDCT-19-03/Ordinance 20-05, Free Standing Emergency Department. The Planning Commission recommended approval. This is the first of two required public hearings, the second of which will be held June 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, continued from April 2 and May 7, 2020.

 Bill Merrill, attorney for the applicant, used a slide presentation to request an LDC amendment for Freestanding Emergency Departments (FSED), which are part of the emergency services offered by a hospital. FSEDs can be used throughout the community, and are low impact, compatible uses, that fit into neighborhoods just like a doctor's office. Table 4-2, 4-3 and 4-12 are being added to zoning districts only within urban corridors.

 Dan Sullivan, consultant for the applicant, used a slide presentation to discuss the background of FSEDs which are operated under the license of a hospital. FSEDs are open 365 days a year, and have the same equipment offered in a hospital emergency room (ER), but the scope of operations is smaller. If a patient has more complex needs, they would be transferred to a hospital. FSEDs are located in areas away from hospitals, and patients arriving by ambulance are minimal. FSEDs are usually developed as standalone buildings and offer easy access and parking. The number of patients treated would be similar to a moderate physician's office, and the facilities cannot be converted to a hospital. There are currently 72 FSEDs in Florida including Sarasota and Hillsborough Counties.

 Discussion ensued regarding this is a legislative hearing, and a private request from Doctor's Hospital, legal challenges, and would an ambulance be considered a delivery vehicle.

 Commissioner Whitmore disclosed her husband worked at Dr. Hospital.

 Robert Meade, CEO, Doctor's Hospital, stated FSEDs must meet the same requirements as hospital emergency rooms. If needed, patients would be transferred to their hospital of choice, or EMS and administration would make the decision, in a dire situation. There are CT scanners and full time labs available.

 Discussion ensued that FSEDs are not urgent care facilities, they are a hospital ER operating separately from the main hospital, 24/7 certified ER physicians are on site, facilities have security and everything that is in an ER, but scaled down, the main purpose is to have the services available to areas that are not close to a hospital, and EMS would make a determination as to where a patient is transferred based on the need of the patient.

 Mr. Merrill explained FSEDs would only be allowed in the ROR and PDMU zoning districts. The existing facility in Manatee County has commercial uses surrounding it, and facilities must be located on a thoroughfare or arterial road.

 Discussion continued that the facilities have no overnight accommodations, patients are advised when they arrive that the facility is not an urgent care, and the costs are similar to a hospital ER, FSEDs do not receive Low Income Pool Funds, waiting times are less in these facilities, this type of facility has a purpose, lawsuits regarding existing facilities, and the facilities are qualified to see pediatrics for emergency purposes.

 Margaret Tusing, Public Hearing Section Manager, provided an overview of the request and stated a new definition will be added to the LDC based on the State definition, and will only be allowed in two future land use categories, which limits the use to primarily commercial areas. FSEDs are allowed in General Commercial zoning only if near urban corridors. The parking ratio is one space per 350 square feet. An existing FSED would need to submit a Preliminary Site Plan for approval at an advertised public hearing.

 Sarah Schenk, Assistant County Attorney, stated the request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

 William Clague, Chief Assistant County Attorney, explained the applicant owns an existing facility that is part of current litigation, and because of the way the facility was approved under the current code, and the applicant needs to propose a text amendment and have a PSP approved for the current facility. This amendment is the first step for an allowable use, and will allow other providers to open a similar facility in the County.

 Discussion ensued that Doctor's hospital built the existing facility, if 24/7 delivery in a Planned Development includes ambulances, and the previous facility was administratively approved.

 Mr. Clague noted when the adverse decision was received from the court, staff felt the best way to handle a land use controversy is to correct the land development procedures, and put the public on notice with the chance to address their issues.

 Discussion ensued regarding standards, should "may operate," be changed to "shall" to be consistent with the State, and the applicant specifically proposed that a preliminary site plan be submitted.

 Mr. Merrill, stated they proposed PSP in the text amendment, based on what the opposing entity wanted in the litigation and they are doing all they can to accommodate the opposing parties in the litigation.

 Discussion continued regarding avoiding future conflicts in the code, should the other sections of the code be amended when determining uses, would this set a standard, the applicant deliberately proposed a tight restriction to avoid any future issues, road specifications would pertain to the existing and future roadway maps, there have been no complaints regarding ambulances at the existing facility, ambulance arrivals can be considered when the final site plan comes forward.

 Patty Petruff will provide information regarding the existing litigation prior to the second hearing on June 4. There is no minimum size required for an FSED, and it is her belief that there should be. She questioned how many locations can be opened in Manatee County, as there are several properties that have the required future land use and how a "project" is defined in the LDC, especially as they relate to the distance to a road. Facilities should be required to operate as State regulations. The Board should require greater setbacks as a policy with landscaping when residential property is adjacent.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Benac closed public comment.

 Discussion ensued regarding it is important to discuss the affects the facilities have on residential areas, there is a definition for “project” in the LDC, and the Board could stipulate something more specific.

 Mr. Clague explained a parcel or tract of land that exists within a single development could have a FSED built separately from the rest of the project.

 Ms. Tusing stated staff looks at each project individually, locations have been restricted in more commercial areas. These facilities can only be built in specific areas with commercial zoning, but residential can easily be adjacent. The code has additional screening requirements and setbacks, and what is in front of the Board today has be on a thoroughfare or arterial road. Ambulances run sirens to easily maneuver through traffic.

 Discussion ensued that “project” requires clarification, add “in accordance to State Statutes,” consider buffers and screening, would like to see FSEDs expanded to heavy commercial and light industrial, and the use is intended to provide better access to an emergency room.

No action was required, as this is the first of two public hearing, the second of which will take place June 4, 2020, a 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as same may be heard. BC20200507DOC007

RECESS/RECONVENE: 1:08 p.m. – 1:37 p.m. All Commissioners present.

8. **BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/ORDINANCE**

 A motion was made by Commissioner Servia to hold the second hearing to consider adoption of proposed Ordinance 20-05 on June 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as same may be heard (in lieu of after 5:00 pm) pursuant to Section 125.66(4)(b)1. Florida Statutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baugh and carried 7-0. BC20200507DOC008

9. **COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

 Jacob Saur, Public Safety Director, used a slide presentation to provide updates on statistics in Manatee County. The percent positive of the population in Manatee County is trending downward. Testing continues in the County with more testing at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, Manatee County Rural Health, and at University Town Center (UTC) Mall. The State testing site has been in operation for nine days, with no end date, and prescriptions and appointments are not required. Over two percent of the population has been tested. He continued to discuss State projections to determine where future outbreaks may occur. Manatee could see an increase in cases, and the short term goal is to test another two percent of the population. He recommended continuing the local state of emergency for an additional seven days. Currently, antibody testing is only being done at Ellenton Urgent Care, and they are awaiting guidance from the State regarding antibody tests.

 Mr. Saur responded that assessment teams monitor staff in long-term care facilities and remove the positive patients to stay in sterile areas. He is not aware of any regulations, but the Department of Health (DOH) has the ability to enter facilities. It is his hope that there has been communication with family members of positive patients.

 Discussion ensued that the National Guard will begin testing in long-term care facilities, and nurses have been informing families of patient’s status, results are taking 48 to 72 hours to come in, Manatee County is in Phase 1 for re-opening, what is the interval for re-opening,

dates have not been released for when phases begin, it is still recommended to be in groups of less than 10, and to remain 6 feet apart, increased target messaging, zip code information is available on the Florida DOH website, and all data comes from the Florida DOH.

Mr. Saur explained increased target messaging is occurring highly susceptible populations to encourage testing.

 Discussion ensued that information is being posted on Social Media, on the County website, and press releases are being issued regarding testing sites and statistics, Florida DOH has a mobile bus going to long-term care facilities, take mobile testing to reach the underprivileged and speakers of other languages, there are links to the DOH websites on the County website, MCAT buses have testing and COVID-19 information, radio spots are being done in Spanish, and they will improve communication to the Creole population, and ask census workers to spread information regarding testing.

 Ms. Coryea noted information is being sent to communities that are registered with Nextdoor though the Neighborhood Services Department and census takers are not going out to the community until later in the year. When patrons go to the beach, they are being given information regarding testing, and the same cards can be distributed in neighborhoods. Turning Points will have testing for the homeless and will target the homeless hot spots north of the River. Each testing site must be equipped with personal protective equipment and there are sites at MCR and in Parrish north of the River. Community Paramedics will also go out in the community to test residents who do not have transportation. Employees will be encouraged to wear masks when they are out in public.

 Ms. Coryea continued the slides and noted the County is following federal and State guidelines, including the Governor's latest Order, and his Safe, Smart, Step by Step plan. The County website is constantly being updated with the most current information. Benchmarks must be met prior to Manatee County progressing to another phase for re-opening. Manatee County is in the mild activity category with a decreasing trend as there is a downward trajectory for COVID-like outbreaks, and the percentage of positive cases is down to 9.3 percent. Manatee County does not have access to the antibody testing. Staff is working on a business recovery plan to help local businesses. The goal is to have 50 percent of the work force back the week of May 25. Large venues have certain protocols to meet, and these are being assessed. If the downward trajectory continues it is the hope to have more facilities open, such as pools and libraries by the week of June 8. Smaller venues could open prior to June 8, including skate parks.

 Beachgoers practiced social distancing, although there were some parties larger than 10 people. The City of Anna Maria has requested assistance with Bayfront Park. The City of Holmes Beach has expressed concern with parking in the right-of-way, and they are not in favor of opening all the parking at Manatee Beach. The Town of Longboat Key needs more time to open Beer Can Island and signs will remain in place for boaters.

 Discussion ensued regarding the City of Holmes Beach does not want to open parking on streets for at least another two weeks, holiday type enforcement at the beaches, need the Sheriff to supplement what the Cities provide, CARES Act could help reimburse the funds that are being spent for extra staffing hours, centralized place for resources for those in need, and encourage Island Cities to cooperate with the County to open parking facilities,

(Depart Commissioner Baugh during discussion)

A motion was made by Commissioner Trace, seconded by Commissioner Whitmore, and carried 6-0 with Commissioner Baugh absent, to continue the State of Local Emergency.



A motion was made by Commissioner Trace and seconded by Commissioner Servia to end the two-hour parking restriction at the public beaches (open Bayfront Park, continue no beach or boat docking at Greer Island, and continue parking closures near utilities work in Bradenton Beach), and expand weekend law enforcement to include Manatee Sheriff's Office for weekends only from May 16 through July 12.



Discussion continued to meet with the Sheriff to have additional coverage at the beaches, if the cities have made a determination regarding restricting parking, they need to do their own policing, people need to take personal responsibility and comply with regulations, and Code Enforcement will scale their efforts down, but they may help with beach patrol.



John Barnott, Building and Development Services Director, explained that Code Enforcement has been working with Marine Rescue and helping with parking.



Ms. Coryea noted the beach concession operators are filling out the assessment forms, and the teams will go out to review. The tiki hut will not have bar stools, and the operator is eager to open under state guidelines. Code Enforcement will not go out into the sand.

There being no public comments, Chairman Benac closed public comment.

The motion carried 6-0, with Commissioner Baugh absent.

BC20200507DOC009

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Bellamy

- Questioned the HOAs' responsibility at North Orange Estates to see if there are specific requirements, and if they received incentives, and check to see who is responsible for maintenance

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chairman Benac adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____