

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY  
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD  
IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL, DECEMBER 20,  
2011 AT 5:00 P.M.**

The following were present: Commissioners Gingell, Buzzett and Kennedy. City Manager Charlie Weston, Attorney Tom Gibson and City Clerk Jim Anderson were also present. Mayor Magidson and Commissioner Patterson were absent.

**Proposed Observation Tower to be located at the Billy Joe Rish Parking Lot:**

Ms. Gail Alsobrook, Director of the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency gave a presentation to the City Commission as a follow-up to the workshop on December 6, 2011. The main concerns from the last meeting were the size of the tower, maintenance, security and liability.

Ms. Alsobrook provided the Commission with an updated scale study of the proposed tower and indicated that the original 18' base is needed for the structure. She has also spoke with Sandra Chafin at the Buffer Preserve who indicated that their Observation Tower is open 24 hrs a day.

Commissioner Buzzett asked, "Are we exempt from ADA accessibility?"

Ms. Alsobrook noted that she has received different opinions. Some feel we are exempt, but she suggested a Web Cam for reasonable accommodations.

Commissioner Gingell indicated that it's a big tower. She not sure that it's in the right location; it may be better suited closer to the water. Is it going to look like an eyesore?

Commissioner Kennedy is not opposed to the tower, but doesn't get the concept.

Ms. Alsobrook responded, "Yes, you will see some roof tops, but you would also have some spectacular views. We want people to get excited and stop to recognize there is a City here.

Commissioner Buzzett asked, "Do we have any alternatives?"

Bill Reed, PSJRA Board Member, thinks that if you move the tower closer to the water, we will lose a lot of customers. The tower will put the City on the map.

Boyd Pickett, PSJRA Board Member, indicated that we are trying to brand the City. Several years ago the tower image became part of our brand. He plans to construct a building next door to the proposed tower site and none of the towers he has reviewed are ADA Compliant.

Eric Davidson noted that any structure built for the public has to be ADA Compliant. ADA compliance for a City v/s a park is completely different.

Attorney Gibson doesn't feel that the City has a lot of risk in building the tower in reference to ADA Compliance, if so we can add a Web Cam at a later date.

Commissioner Buzzett noted that the size is pretty much set if the Switch Back Stairs will require a 10' top platform. He hasn't come full circle on the size, but has softened after seeing the work and passion for the project.

Ms. Alsobrook asked, "Does the City Commission need to vote on the Observation Tower?"

Attorney Gibson responded, "No, if it's in the PSJRA Budget."

Willie Ramsey, PSJRA Board Member, noted that they will keep in communication with the City Commission throughout the process of the Observation Tower construction.

Commissioner Kennedy asked, "What will the Observation Tower roof be constructed of?"

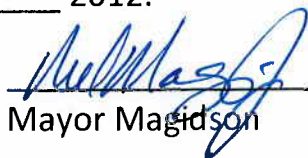
Ms. Alsobrook indicated that the Observation Tower will have a galvanized roof similar to the construction of the Tourist Development Building.


Mayor Magidson joined the meeting at 5:25 P.M.

Ms. Alsobrook noted the PSJRA will move forward with the engineering of the Observation Tower.

The workshop was adjourned at 5:26 P.M.

Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2012.

  
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Mayor Magidson

  
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Jim Anderson, City Clerk