

After several public workshops, 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 newest 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.."

Notice will be provided to the taxing authorities, and the city will provide public notice of their hearing.

We consider this great cause to celebrate...and to that end, we are looking at the last Saturday in May (Memorial Day weekend) to host a celebration. The ballpark on Avenue A is not only a central location, but it will be perfect for the softball games we envision—perhaps between the City and County Commissions? The PSJRA will provide the main dishes...such as...maybe...barbecued chicken (Mr. Benny, you can expect a call), barbecued ribs (Mr. Gant?) and fried chicken (Mr. Givens?). How about a potluck for the side dishes (we would all be fortunate to taste one of Jackie Cook's sweet potato pies)? Maybe I will bring a couple of pound cakes from the recipe my grandmother got from Miss Pauline during the St. Joe Hotel days. If you are in a mood to celebrate, start thinking about what you would like to contribute. Is there a dunking booth anywhere around here? I have a couple of people I would like to recommend for that booth! Speaking of celebrations, we are also planning an event to commemorate Black History month next February.

Other projects are moving right along.

- The Advisory Committee has elected their co-chairs: James Clemons and Leslie Wentzell. Congratulations to each.
- The PSJRA welcomes two new board members: Annie Sue Fields and Troy White. One vacancy remains, and we again thank the City for their careful attention and consideration for the next appointment.
- 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 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? What could this possibly be?

- Mark your calendars for the next PSJRA meetings: Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, May 3, 5:30 at the Fire Station and regular board meeting on Thursday, May 10, 5 PM at the Fire Station.