BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024 – 7:00 PM
10451 GULF BLVD
TREASURE ISLAND, FL 33706

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

- THIS MEETING WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THE 6 PM CITY COMMISSION MEETING -

A. CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Jennifer Cowan
City Manager Garry Brumback

B. DISCUSSION

B.1 Discuss the Paradise Island Landscaping Project Scopes
Att A - Species Votes.pdf

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

D. ADJOURNMENT

For any person desiring to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based [F.S. 286.0105]. NOTE: Any transcript shall be requested and made by the individual requesting same at his or her own expense. Therefore, a court reporter may be desired or required accordingly.

Any person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding is entitled to assistance at no cost. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk in writing at 10451 Gulf Blvd, Treasure Island, FL, 33706 or by phone at (727) 547-4575 at least two working days prior to the meeting to advise what assistance is needed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. B.1

Item Cover Page

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: March 26, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Stacy Boyles, Public Works

ITEM TYPE: For Consideration and Discussion

AGENDA SECTION: DISCUSSION

SUBJECT: Discuss the Paradise Island Landscaping Project Scopes

BACKGROUND:

Paradise Boulevard Median

A Paradise Island resident with professional experience in vegetation maintenance for power companies raised concerns to the former City Manager regarding the Paradise Blvd. palm trees interfering with power lines. Staff also had concerns about the frequent failures of the old irrigation system within the median areas. In September 2023, the City Commission approved a Work Authorization and spending authority with Halff Associates, Inc., in the amount of $76,668.38 for Landscape Architecture Services for Paradise Blvd medians and the shoulder areas along the West Causeway from Paradise Blvd. to the West Causeway bridge.

According to our grounds maintenance supervisor, foxtail palms around 12 feet in total height were planted along the medians on Paradise Blvd. approximately twelve years ago. Today they are growing into the overhead communication and power lines. The lower lines are about 17 feet high. Duke Energy has been known to cut off the tops of the palm trees during vegetation maintenance or to resolve issues. In July 2023, City staff contacted the vegetation management division at Duke Energy to request their analysis of the Paradise Blvd. median palm trees, and this was their response: “Some palms are going to be actively burning in the lines in the next 6

months and others probably have another 5 years before they touch the lines. When reliability issues start is probably somewhere in between that timeframe."

In January 2024, the City reached out to a couple of palm tree brokers to see if they had any interest in purchasing the foxtail palms on Paradise Boulevard, or removing them for free. One company said they had no interest in the palms and another said they might be interested in taking maybe 4 or 5 of them for free. There are 33 double foxtail palms on Paradise Blvd and 6 singles, which were doubles at one point. The were 3 other doubles that were cut down due to disease, in the past. There are also a few cabbage palms within the median.

Paradise Lane & Treasure Lane

The re-establishment of a drainage swale was planned on the north side of the West Causeway shoulder from Paradise Blvd. to the west bridge, which would require that the existing bottlebrush trees be removed and the irrigation be replaced. Additionally, residents contacted the former City Manager requesting new landscaping along Paradise Lane and Treasure Lane. To fit this project into the landscaping budget, staff proposed a simple design that could be added to in the future.

POLICY/PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to discuss community feedback received on the relandscaping of areas within Paradise Island and project alternatives.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

This project supports Goal 1, Objective 3, Action 6 of the Environmental Sustainability Road Map to "Transition to native, drought-resistant, low maintenance vegetation and ground cover".

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

In January 2024, a public engagement meeting was held to vote on plants that were proposed for the Paradise Blvd. medians. Following this meeting, several concerns were raised about the removal of the palm trees. A door hanger was provided to all Paradise Island residents requesting landscaping feedback in mid-February. A summary of the feedback received and the votes from the engagement meeting are provided as Attachment A.

During the engagement process for Paradise Blvd., several comments were also received about the proposal to re-establish the drainage swale along Paradise Lane. The complaints centered around the aesthetic appearance of the depressed areas and the length of time that stormwater is held within the areas after prolonged rain events.

Project Alternatives

In lieu of moving forward with the relandscaping of the Paradise Blvd. medians with vegetation that can be maintained lower than the utility lines, one option is to simply replace the irrigation and any impacted grass, while maintaining all other landscape components. This alternative recognizes the requests to keep the palm trees within the medians, although the palms will continue to grow into the lines and may present issues in the future. If this option or another option is preferred, staff will renegotiate the scope under the work authorization with the landscape architect. In this instance, a revised project scope with the landscape architect would come back before the Commission for review and approval.

Additionally, if a greater stormwater project is preferred along the West Causeway, staff would propose holding off on the landscaping along Paradise Lane and Treasure Lane at this time. Staff will present project alternatives during the FY25 budget review process. This change would also require a revision to the work authorization that would come back before the Commission for review and approval.

FUNDING:

No funding is requested at this time.

The following design funding was authorized on September 18, 2023:

- The Paradise Blvd. median landscaping project was budgeted in FY 2023 in the General Fund Acct. No. 001-5410-63000 for a total amount of $445,000 for design and construction. The design fee is $42,171.98. Staff proposes to add a 6.7% contingency for a total amount of $45,000.

- Funding for Paradise Lane and Treasure Lane is

included in the General Fund Acct. No. 001-5410-63000 as a carryforward in the amount of $100,000 from this current fiscal year saved from not contracting out a portion of the City's grounds maintenance work and $50,000 budgeted in the FY 2024 Stormwater Fund for the swale restoration work. The design fee for the swale and landscaping is $28,807.62 with a 10% contingency for a total of $31,668.38 and the estimated construction cost is $220,000, for a project total of $251,668.38. While the landscaping is an unbudgeted project, there are funds to cover this project: $50,000 Swale budget proposed FY 2024 (450-5380- 63453); $100,000 Landscaping carry-forward into FY 2024 (001-5410-34000); $107,500 7th Street East savings FY 2024 (001-5410-63000).

MOTION: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
Att A - Species Votes.pdf

Species	Total
Geiger Tree	11
Day Lillies	8
Gaura	8
Blue Flag Iris	7
Dune Sunflower	6
Mulhy Grass	5
Black Eyed Susans	5
Christmas Palm	4
Silver Buttonwoods	4
Red Tipped Coco Plum	4
Dwarf Saw Palmetto	3
Palm Trees	3
Clusia	3
Robellini Palms	2
Silver Saw Palmetto	2
Blue Liriope	2
Wildflowers	2
Shade Trees	1
Date Palms	1
Beach Verbena	1
Sea Purslane	1
Flowering Perennials	1
Perennial Peanuts	1
Lantana	1
Bird of Paradise	1
Crepe Myrtle	1
Medjool Date Palms	1
African Lily	1
Pampas Grass	1
Coontie	1
Blue my Mind	1
Solitaire Palm	1
Pentas	1
Purple Daydream	1
Bougainvillea	1
Green Buttonwood	1
Sand Cordgrass	1
Blue Globe Agapanthus	1
Foxtail Fern	1
Spider Lily	1
Mexican Petunia	1
Hibiscus	1

Keep Existing Palms	3
Relocate Palm Trees	6

No Grass	2
No Daylillies	2
No Saw Palmetto	2
No Geiger Trees	2
No Blue Flag Iris	1
No Annuals	1

Total species votes:	**126**
Palm trees:	15
Other trees:	14