

Message to Renaissance Owners about a meeting with City of Sarasota regarding the view corridor easement (VCE).

On Wednesday, May 19, 2021 Association President, Manny Lauria and Association Secretary, Tamara Logan met with Marlon Brown, City of Sarasota Manager and City of Sarasota Attorney, Bob Fournier. Also in attendance were the Association's Attorney, Stephen Thompson, Renaissance Manager, Kathy Grandt, and city employee Mary Bensel, who serves as Executive Director of the Van Wezel. The meeting was primarily to gather information, not negotiate.

There was initial discussion about with whom the City should be communicating regarding this topic. Boundaries were set making it clear that the Renaissance Board of Directors is the only entity that has the authority to decide matters related to the view corridor easement (VCE).

In general, this initial meeting went well and was very congenial. The City is eager for the performing arts center (PAC) to be built on the bayfront site. It was made clear by Manny Lauria and Stephen Thompson that without approval of the Renaissance owners, no concession for the extra height will be granted. A brief survey will be sent to owners in the near future to determine your interest in modifying the VCE.

There are many questions that need to be answered. The Board, in conjunction with the Association's attorney, cannot negotiate in good faith without seeing an actual site plan. A site plan cannot be developed without knowing what the decision of the Renaissance owners will be regarding the easement modification request. The primary concerns are of the mass and height of the proposed building, placement of the PAC, additional buildings, lighting, increased traffic, etc. Stephen Thompson and Bob Fournier have agreed to meet to discuss the question of the actual, permissible height.

When asked about their timeline, Mr. Brown explained that, while it may be 8 to 10 years before the facility would open, an agreement is needed soon to allow for fund raising through the newly named Sarasota Performing Arts Center Foundation to begin. Currently, it is estimated that, in today's dollars, it will cost \$300M to build the PAC. The City is considering dedicating \$50M toward the project. The State has given \$284K to hire a management consultant to lead a five-stage, architect-design team. In addition, an engineering firm was hired to assess the condition of the current Van Wezel and determine whether or not it makes sense to bring it up to current standards.

Marlon Brown stated that the PAC can be built without the fly tower and within the parameters of the VCE. (Of course, that is widely known.) It is understood that this will eliminate the possibility of some larger productions being performed yet still provide a modern PAC.

We informed them that the Van Wezel Foundation had refused to provide us with the video from the presentations made to the Renaissance owners. They stated that they were unaware of that and will provide the recordings to us.