

July 10 Community Meetings Questions

Question	Topic	Answers - One Answer Based on Grouped Subject Matter Questions
What is the plan for pedestrian access from east of highway 41 to the Phase 1 area?	Access / Overpass	The approved master plan includes multiple pedestrian overpasses over 41. They are not included in Phase 1. The intent is to evaluate the safety of crossings once the 10th St., 14th St. and Fruitville roundabouts are complete and in operation. We will then determine where and how many overpasses will be installed. In addition, we have done a preliminary study to know where the overpasses will fit, but have not determined the alignment yet.
Where will the bridge across Rt 41 connect to Boulevard of the (Presidents)? Will it be down the center of Blvd of (Presidents) or over the sidewalk? How far east will it extend?	Access / Overpass	
Are you planning a pedestrian overpass as part of Phase I?	Access / Overpass	
I'd love to see a walkway over Tamiami Trail.	Access / Overpass	
What is the FDOT planning status of the roundabout at BOTA and 41? In other words, how realistic is it?	Access / Overpass	
Is it appropriate to have a set of restrictive covenants at some point of time to specify or limit uses or activities within different areas of the park? For example will fishing be allowed on the boardwalk over the bay?	Activity restriction	There is no quota or limitation on the amount of users for the park. As with other parks that have environmental aspects, we will carefully monitor and control access to sensitive areas to insure their long-term health and viability. Prior to cutting the ribbon on Phase 1, we will be preparing an Implementation Agreement for approval by the City Commission that will address operation and maintenance, such as hours of operation, type and number of events, and related details.
How do you plan to "control" the number of users in the mangrove area to make sure the environment is not damaged and the site maintains the "quiet" and natural sense of place?	Activity restriction	
Will Park have attendance quota for use? In other words, how many?	Attendance	
Is it envisioned that people swim off this beach?	Beach	As we have been listening to the community, we have decided to recommend a more resilient, ecological shoreline that is not a destination beach. This provides a more gentle transition from upland to the water.
Why does the implementation plan show a picture of the new beach with beach umbrellas and beach blankets if this is not a "destination beach"?	Beach	
Beach erosion is a continual problem in Florida and Sarasota. Why are we creating another opportunity for it just because it is there now - and a problem! Why not address the problem- maybe a seawall pier? Or walkway like Ringling Museum and New College?	Beach	

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What is likely to happen to BOTA?	BOTA	Our initial recommendations for BOTA were to implement the two-lane undivided design per the city's master plan that has been in place for close to 20 years. Based on community feedback, our thinking has evolved to recommend leaving existing medians west of VW Way and providing minor enhancements to the landscaping, etc. This will require applying for a variance (technical deviation) to the City's master plan, and the city has preliminarily said they would likely support the variance. In addition, our recommendation is that the road continue to operate is large part as it does today. In terms of park access and drop off, we are anticipating that the majority of the drop off of the park occur on the east end or north side of the Phase 1 park, with drop off at the west end of BOTA limited to those with disabilities and the elderly. Lastly, VW Way will stay connected to BOTA and design of the connection will be enhanced to encourage park users to head north on VW Way and utilize the onsite 1,300 + parking spaces rather than driving to the end of BOTA. The current parallel parking on BOTA should stay as it is reflected in the City's master plan, and is by far the best means of calming traffic.
How did the decision come to be to alter BOTA versus improving it? Is it for ecological reasons or commercial gain? Who/what is benefactor? Were stakeholders considered?	BOTA	
Like the overall concept, but - don't use BOTA west end as a drop-off point and turnaround. That is our driveway entrance/exit. Would you want that in front of your driveway? It should be pedestrians only (on sidewalk). No one here wants food trucks and kayak rentals on BOTA. We see very little sense in removing the center island on BOTA. A waste of money!	BOTA	
What is the BOTA going to look like? You seem to be making green park space into an unsightly carnival.	BOTA	
Why would you remove the median and mature trees from BOTA? This is the opposite of creating a green oasis.	BOTA / Median	
What will be done to BOTA? Arguably one of the most beautiful streets in Sarasota. (Don't mess up the island)	BOTA / Median	
Justify removal of median and mature trees?	BOTA / Median	
Please do not remove the median and trees from the BOTA. I can never support a plan that would remove trees to allow more cars.	BOTA / Median	
Please contain the park to the north side of the BOTA. You have plenty of space to keep the median and still have sidewalks and plaza on the north side.	BOTA / Median	
Why ruin the median on BOTA?	BOTA / Median	
Now BOTA is a walkable and safe street. How can the removal of the median trees improve walkability and safety?	BOTA / Median	

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Leave our median.	BOTA / Median	
Leave the BOTA center median as is.	BOTA / Median	
You want to create more space on BOTA. Rather than eliminate divider, widen the street to the north.	BOTA / Median	
Why not widen the north side of the road to keep BOTA "iconic" beauty and median/trees?	BOTA / Median	
Do not touch BOTA! We want the median and trees to remain! Is removal of the median and moving trees part of the scope of the Bay Park project to be paid for by the BPC funds, or is it a city project to be paid for by the city?	BOTA / Median	
Why are you destroying the median w/trees on BOTA? Use the space as is. Why do you need the extra 10' width? Are you encouraging too many activities?	BOTA / Median	
Need more parking on BOTA.	BOTA / Parking	
Will there be parallel parking along BOTA?	BOTA / Parking	
With the removal of most of the parking, will there be a drop-off area for the kayaks and paddleboards?	BOTA / Parking	
How many parking spaces are there in this new Phase 1?	BOTA / Parking	
Why did you decide to build single level parking instead of a multi-story high-rise parking garage?	BOTA / Parking	
In Phase 1, where do people park that go to beach? Is swimming allowed - very long walk from parking.	BOTA / Parking	
What consideration have you given to those of us who live on BOTA?	BOTA / Residents	
Too close to residential area? Infringing on residents.	BOTA / Residents	

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It seems the BOTA is to become a Farmers' Market permanently, a location for public restrooms and a street market every day. Is there a reason not to move this activity farther into the property and leave/make the lawn area the more green space. What considerations have been given to maintain the neighborhood where people live?	BOTA / Residents	
With BOTA a primary "access", why position restrooms in such a visible location rather than in a more "camouflaged" place, such as incorporating in the "Shell" or otherwise less visible place? Further north or nearby existing buildings near US 41?	BOTA / Restrooms	
How are you going to manage all the new traffic down BOTA? You also need to consider Auteur and Quay traffic. This is not a safe solution.	BOTA / Traffic	
Please keep traffic off BOTA. If the traffic is going to be directed to park in lots at Van Wezel, the entrance to the park should be 10th Street, not BOTA. Or create a new entrance. Include Van Wezel Drive in your plans to upgrade the road. Make it a one-way street so traffic exiting the lots have to exit @ 10th Street not BOTA.	BOTA / Traffic	
There are areas in the 53 acres to provide greater access to the bay than Blvd. of the Arts, such as by the boat dock next to the Coast Guard station rather than in such a limited area of BOTA that is maximized daily by residential and commercial supply trucks (FedEx, contractors, moving vans)	BOTA / Traffic	
Have any traffic studies been performed to determine the impact of the pier on BOTA, especially the cars that will drop people off at the entrance/exit to Condo on the Bay?	BOTA / Traffic	
Traffic on BOTA is not always fluid due to condos and hotel. By proposing "pop-up" food, isn't the Bay planning adding to the congestion?	BOTA / Traffic	
What about using 10th Street, not BOTA, which is residential?	BOTA / Traffic	
What has been response from current residences (Condo on the Bay, Beau Ciel, Hyatt, new condo on corner) regarding number of cars, pedestrians expected increase in traffic off BOTA - how addressed re lights, intersection with 41?	BOTA / Traffic	
The proposed new pier will significantly increase traffic at the end of the cul-de-sac. Have any traffic studies been conducted to show how the new pier will impact traffic in this area?	BOTA / Traffic	
The drop-off area for the proposed new pier is directly in front of the area where COTB residents enter and exit our property. Has the BPC considered a plan to prevent the inevitable congestion especially at sunset from blocking access to our homes?	BOTA / Traffic	
Is there an overall traffic plan for the entire Conservancy?	BOTA / Traffic	
Wouldn't it be better to direct auto traffic directly to the parking area ather than creating an unnecessary roundabout on BOTA for every auto?	BOTA / Traffic	
How many people do you expect each day to visit the Phase I area (in season and out of season, including automobiles?)	BOTA / Traffic	
The drop-off area for the proposed circular pier is directly in front of condos and the Hyatt Regency. What efforts has BPC initiated to work with city to develop plans to prevent congestion from blocking access to residences and hotel?	BOTA / Traffic	

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How are you planning to manage new pedestrian and car traffic, including Hyatt, Auteur, Condo on the Bay, Quay? Where is the MURT?	BOTA / Traffic	
The proposed new pier will significantly increase traffic. There is already a large amount of traffic in the neighborhood where several hundred people will ultimately live permanently and utilize with the hotel as well as the new construction. What vehicular and pedestrian traffic studies have been done?	BOTA / Traffic	
How will traffic be managed? Emergency vehicles?	BOTA / Traffic	
Will Van Wezel Way at BOTA remain open?	BOTA / Van Wezel Way	
Is it not a conflict of interest to have the Mayor and the Director of Planning on the Board of The Bay?	COI	It is a best practice, based on the study of other park conservancies around the country, to include local elected officials. As they will be involved in future approvals, they are only joining as ex-officio members and will be non-voting.
What comparable park surrounded by very dense 19 floor high-rises can you point to in FL?	Comparables	A good example of urban parks surrounded by high rise development is Central Park in Manhattan. In addition, dozens of parks all over Florida are surrounded by high-rise condominiums all along the coast.
When will Phase 1 be complete?	Completion	We expect to cut the ribbon on Phase 1 in approximately 2 1/2 years.
Is Sarasota Bay Estuary program involved?	Conservation	Yes. They are a frequent advisor and on our Environmental Working Group.
Could you discuss the phases of Phase 1? How will the disruption during development be minimized?	Disruption	As with any urban project, there will be some inconvenience during the year long construction process. However, we will be working hard to minimize those inconveniences, and have already established a Neighbor Working Group through which we will communicate construction progress and listen to any concerns regarding construction.
What about police and fire vehicles? With 400 condos and 300 hotel rooms within 250 yards the city cannot abide traffic patterns that would delay emergency services. What assurance can you give?	Emergency vehicles	As a city street, BOTA will operate as it does today. We working closely with City Engineering and EMS to insure continuous, safe operation of the road.
What about police and fire vehicles? With 300 units and 500 residents the city cannot abide any traffic patterns that delay emergency services. What assurances can you give the residents of Condo on the Bay that the proposed new plan satisfies our safety concerns.	Emergency vehicles	
Why doesn't your Phase 1 Implementation Plan include categories of expenses, along with categories of revenue? A good plan includes estimates and categories for income and expenses.	Finance	We have both a business plan for capital as well as operations, and those have been posted on our website since last year. Our current draft Implementation Plan includes a summary of our capital budget for Phase 1, and we will continue to update both capital and operating budgets as we move forward. Overall, implementation cost for the the park is anticipated to be \$150M, excluding the new Performing Arts Center.
Cost of Phase 1 and then total at end.	Finance	
What public funding are taxpayers responsible for throughout the process and afterwards?	Finance	

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What is the plan to secure funding?	Finance	
Would the Coservancy be in favor of using general obligation bonds to help finance The Bay in order to expedite its completion and reduce cost?	Finance	Our current phased financial plan includes public/private partnership to implement the project over 10-15 years.
What has happening to the fishing pier? Is it part of new walkway?	Fishing	We have been consulting with numerous boaters and fishermen as a part of ouor park planning process. Our current thinking is tht the Phase 1 sunset boardwalk will not allow fishing, but we are anticipating enhancing existing facilities for fishing either on the existing purple water intake structure and/or along other parts of the shoreline.
Why can't food service be further from residential areas? What about trash from food?	Food / Litter	Our approved master plan reflects a large concession for a waterfront restaurant and restrooms at the west end of Phase 1. Our current thinking is to reduce food service to a smaller park scale concession with restrooms and move it 500-600 ft. east closer to Van Wezel Way. The BPC will be providing enhanced maintenance to ensure that park maintenance is performed at a higher level commensurate with the quality of the park itself.
Why food carts and toilets? The trash/litter will be a problem.	Food / Litter	
Who will maintain the Bay?	Food / Litter	
Who is going to keep this space clean?	Food / Litter	
We do not want food shelters/pavilions or bathrooms on BOTA. Please move these structures to either pier area or near kayak parking lot (which could be enlarged). We do not want service trucks on BOTA. Prefer a restaurant on the pier.	Food / Restrooms	
How could we get more input on the placement of the food/beverage and restroom options? Specifically, why not locate them on Van Wezel Way and keep the waterfront more natural and open?	Food / Restrooms	
Are there restrooms and food trucks located at other areas within the project as consider # of visitors.	Food / Restrooms	
Keep food vendors off BOTA. Why don't you create a safe parking area for food trucks in the small parking lot inside the park (near kayak launch) instead of creating a hazardous, unsanitary, traffic issue by parking them on BOTA?	Food Trucks	Current thinking is any periodic use of food trucks would be included on the east end of Phase 1 off VW Way.
Any discussion with FPL about moving the substation to the north to create a continuous shorline/Park north?	FPL	We have had several discussions with FPL and it would be cost prohibitive to move the substation. However, there is an existing shared path easement along the west edge of the FPL property, and the possibility exists that a shared path could be extended to the north in the future.
I am very concerned that the Sarasota homeless population will take up residence here. What will be done to prevent this?	Homeless	The multi-tiered approach to effective physical design of the park, deployment of park ambassadors as well as additional police presence to address the situation.
What is being considered to address the homeless from camping out on the property?	Homeless	

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If there are so many homeless already camping in the area, how will you control that in all the relaxing areas?	Homeless	
What will you do with the homeless population that stays there?	Homeless	
How will you secure the food/rec area? There are homeless now. The hammocks and pier area will attract them.	Homeless	
With homeless being an issue in downtown SRQ, how are you planning to deter this issue with the park?	Homeless	
Who is going to police the area during night and day?	Homeless / Security	
What about security with overnight visitors?	Homeless / Security	
What have been considerations regarding security for the properties and hotels in the neighborhood?	Homeless / Security	
The homeless are a continuing problem in the Phase 1 area. There is a security concern for many women and night times. The hammocks, food and toilets in this area going to be a magnet for the homeless. What is the plan to deal with this security and trash problem?	Homeless / Security / Litter	
The contract with the city says BPC may provide enhanced security and maintenance beyond Handled by the city. Where is the description of these plans?	Homeless / Security and Maintenance	
Will Bay have hours of operation? (Homeless issue)	Hours / Homeless	
Have you included a hurricane impact consultant in your design process? Many piers are damaged by hurricane wind and storm surge.	Hurricane Impact	
Areas of shade on the pier- sun, heat here year round.	Pier / Shade	No material selections have yet been made for the sunset walkway. As with other well-designed parks, material selection will be made with long-term consideration to minimize long-term maintenance costs.
What material for sunset pier? Maintenance?	Pier	
What are the dimensions of the new pier - width and length?	Pier	
When was the concept for the large circular "sunset" pier first developed by anyone connected to BPC?	Pier	The design for the proposed sunset boardwalk was created by our design team as part of the draft concept plan for Phase 1.
What are the environmental issues that affect the new large circular pier? Where are the studies and why have they not been posted to the website?	Pier	The studies have been provided to the City of Sarasota as part of a public records request and are available to the public.
Are the original 2 large piers (near 10th Street) being eliminated from the master plan?	Pier	

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How high will the dock be from the water? Where are the boats going to dock on the pier? I like the grass areas, but manatees, who love the grass, will get hit by the incoming/outgoing boats. Too many manatees have been killed already. Will pier have rails so people don't fall in the water?	Pier / Seagrass	Current thinking is there will be no motorized boat access to the walkway. The height has not yet been determined. High enough for kayaks.
Will the mangrove area eventually be connected to the pond by the Blue Pagoda?	Pond / Mangrove	A connection currently exists, and as the park is built in phases, steps will be taken to investigate any improvements deemed necessary.
Will "Tuttle's Puddle" at the Garden Club be better connected to the mangrove area?	Pond / Mangrove	
How does one do "pop-up" pickleball?	Pop-Ups	The term pop-up is intended to imply temporary. While the exact types and frequency of activities have not yet been determined, within the guidelines established by the Ip with the city, activities that are temporary in nature (pop) that will further our concept of this phase as a living learning lab.
Do you anticipate outdoor concert series? Programming for children? Love movies in the park! Are you going to collaborate with arts institutions like the opera, ballet, Ringling for creative programming?	Programming	Please stay tuned as programming is developed over the next year.
Has sand accumulation south of the pier been considered re: minimizing boat access to Condo on the Bay boat docks? If sand gathers boat lifts may not be functional for existing users/owners.	Sand	Concerns about water flow and sand accumulation are being taken into consideration as part of the design of the sunset boardwalk.
How are you going to prevent people from going into the water and destroying the seagrass at the beach?	Seagrass	As previously noted, the revised sunset boardwalk evolved out of an understanding of the existing environmental conditions, and to minimize the environmental impact on those existing conditions. The conceptual boardwalk design is still being refined, but in its most recent form, the only impact is a small area on the south end, and translucent materials will be utilized to minimize any impact. The City and Van Wezel do not support moving the boardwalk further to the north. Lastly, the resilient shoreline is not envisioned to be a destination beach, but rather a gentle transition from land to water. We can envision small groups being lead on educational tours of all aspects of our marine environment, including the seagrass, but we do not envision day-to-day frequent access from the beach into the bay. in a way that would damage the seagrass.
Is there seagrass north of the mangrove entrance to the Bay? If not wouldn't that be a better, less environmentally sensitive location for the circular pier?	Seagrass	
MP pier shows undesirable impact on the north side of seagrass. Sunset pier design still shows impact, this time on the south side. How are they different in their impact?	Seagrass	
How will the picnic area be shaded?	Shade	There will be naturally shaded and unshaded areas to picnic.
Will the signs be in English and Spanish?	Signs	The park signage design has just begun and a final decision has not yet been made regarding inclusion of languages other than English.
Sarasota has a storm water problem. How will this be improved by development of this park?	Storm Water	Ongoing discussions and planning for the treatment of rainwater and trash collection are taking place and will start with the implementation of Phase 1.

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What kind of vehicles will be able to access the pier, the lawn, etc?	Vehicles	The sunset boardwalk will likely be designed only for pedestrians, and rubber tire emergency vehicles if required. We will likely not allow bicycles, or any other type of motorized vehicles, on the pier. The lawn will be designed to accommodate maintenance vehicles and emergency access if required.
Can you tell us if the sitting/viewing areas will be able to change with the seasons?	View	The winter and summer sunset viewing areas on the boardwalk are designed to allow enjoyment of our extraordinary Florida sunsets year round.
What is the effect of the walkway on existing structures of walkways (example: going by Garden Club)	Walkways	The design team is evaluating existing walkways for inclusion or enhancement in Phase 1 of the Park.
How does rising sea level affect the plan?	Water rise	The master plan has been developed to take into account anticipated future sea level rise.
Boardwalk's ability to function in coordination with reef for storm surge protection?	Water Rise	Expert consultants are being used to create the most resilient plans for the pedestrian boardwalk.
<i>Not a question, a statement - thanks for putting up with us. You've gone above and beyond every step of the way. Some people just are incapable of change.</i>	<i>Thanks</i>	