

PSJ Redevelopment Agency...This Week

What a week it will be for the redevelopment agency! We are all ears...awaiting comments, suggestions and recommendations prior to the finalization of the plans for the redevelopment of the PSJ downtown area, the Marina and North Port St. Joe. The PSJRA is striving to retain the unique character and historic culture of each distinct neighborhood, and we need your active participation, your support and your creative ideas.

At press, the first of two workshops will have been completed; watch for the results in next week's now-to-be-regular column. The second and final workshop will be held on Monday, March 12, 5:30 PM at the County Commission Chambers. All are invited, encouraged and welcomed to attend and participate. Your voices will be heard!

Would you like to study the plan prior to the meeting? You can access the plan at our website: www.CelebratePortSaintJoe.com or you can make an appointment with Gail Alsobrook to pick one up from the office (850-625-6899).

WOW! The PSJRA's has contracted with retail expert, Rick Segel, for a breakfast seminar on Friday, March 16, at the Sunset Coastal Grill. This is a wonderful opportunity for businesses to learn some new techniques and prepare for growth. More on Rick next week!

The fourth North Port St. Joe Advisory Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 1 at 7 PM at the Washington Gym. The third Downtown Advisory Committee meeting will be Monday, March 5, 5:20 PM at the Fire Station. Officers will be elected for each committee at the upcoming meetings.

To date, the NPSJ Advisory Committee has recommended the following, each of which have been approved by the PSJRA Board of Directors;

1. The trust funds of the newly expanded area will remain separate and will be spent only within the expanded boundary for projects approved by each of the committees, the board and the city.
2. To jump-start projects pending inflow of TIF monies, the PSJRA will diligently research and submit grant requests for funding of approved projects. The grant writer for the city, Charlotte Pierce, will be a tremendous benefit to us and is already working on grant proposals to state and federal funding agencies. The city has graciously included the PSJRA in a grant-subscription service to enable us to identify grants prior to public distribution.
3. At the committee's recommendation, the PSJRA has authorized three ex-officio members to sit in a non-voting capacity on the board of directors prior to holding seats on the board as vacancies arise. Note: the Downtown Committee will also have three ex-officio members serving in the same capacity.

The Downtown Advisory Committee has made the following recommendation, which was also approved by the Directors:

1. New litter receptacles and benches have been ordered for Reid Avenue, the style and color (bronze) were selected by the committee.

As an end note to this first edition...the PSJRA will continue to provide public forums to ensure the plans and programs are a direct reflection of the wants and needs of your community. Another option: pay us a visit or write us a note. Remember...together, we can do more. Until next week...keep us in mind, and we will do the same!