

## 2021-10-21-OCSNA General Meeting Minutes

Jim Kleinschmidt opened the meeting on Zoom and discussed a few items prior to a presentation from Reuben Franklin regarding the King Street project. 17 participants as of 6:15pm including:

Jim Kleinschmidt  
Mark Brand  
Burry Gowen  
Gail & Pat Crocetta  
Patrick Crocetta  
Fred & Linda Hathorn  
Tara Owen  
Jim and Jan Funk  
Tammy Harrow

Bill Anderson  
Lea's iphone  
Matt Roesch  
Gudelis  
Norma Novak  
Becky Smith  
Pat Dobosz  
Judy Rente

### Jim Kleinschmidt briefed membership on Neighborhood Council and OCSNA news:

- Neighborhood Council (collection of 10-12 neighborhood associations in STA) awarded the George Gardner Prize (the first ever) to Reuben Franklin, Director of Public Works. Award will be given, as earned, to people who contribute to betterment of residents of STA.
- Jenny Wolfe discussed new HARB restrictions on demolition (particularly in Lincolnville, where historically significant homes went from 80% to 60%).
- San Sebastian PUD is on hold. San Sebastian Winery has separated from the project and is proceeding with European market on its property.
- City Council is very interested in thoughts on improving the “livability” of St. Augustine—short-term rentals are accounting for over half of homes in some neighborhoods, including Flagler Model Land. Uptown and Spanish neighborhood also disproportionately affected.
- Some discussion as to whether we should coordinate with Lincolnville to light up homes around Lake Maria Sanchez during Nights of Lights. Anyone willing to lead that effort?
- Trying to streamline our membership and renewal process by moving everyone to fall renewal and have one annual drive. We will be introducing some membership “specials” to help motivate that. We’ve decided to keep dues at \$15 for the moment, but as we socialize more, we could increase the dues.

### Social Committee Report:

Gail Crocetta noted good weather for Sunday’s potluck, lots of fun, my husband Pat Crocetta will pick up anyone who needs a ride. Hours are 4-7 at Becky Smith’s home on 56 Marine.

In November, we’re having a “Hang Like a Local” event at the Dog Rose. Tuesday, November 16.

### Treasurer Report:

Mark Brand reported 2449.60 in our bank account.

### Membership Report:

137 households on membership roster as of today vs. 19 in 2017.

**Reuben Franklin, Director of Public Works Presentation (will be posted with slides to OCSNA website):**

- Describing King Street project. City is working with Florida DOT to take over the King Street Corridor into St. Augustine historic downtown district from San Sebastian Bridge to Bridge of Lions.
- Bridge of Lions intersection and US1 intersection would stay State-owned, but everything else on King street would be City owned and managed.
- St Johns County and the City of St. Augustine have seen exponential growth. County population has increased by 40,000 since we started the mobility initiative in 2015. We have grown by 4,000 residents in the City and then there's the tourists. How do we accommodate that surge and keep the City liveable for residents?
- Part of our long-term 20 year plan is creating 4 parking structures on the periphery and shuttling people into town...already doing this from the north during Nights of Lights and Spring festivals.
  - North: we current use County facility that has about 300 parking spots...considering buying that property.
  - West: in discussions with Barry Broudy to put parking structure and/or commuter rail station where liquor store is.
  - Parking facilities to east and south not on drawing board yet.
- Of note: There used to be a robust trolley system down San Marco and King.
- Showed examples of electric shuttles that will be first driven by humans, but maybe in 20 years autonomous.
- Existing conditions at Bridge of Lions...2/3 of traffic from the island to mainland want to go right. Cars that want to go straight or left block the right slip lane. Exacerbated when the bridge goes up. Takes longer for traffic in all directions.
- Trying to free north-bound traffic. We came up with an idea to force all traffic right...u turn at Hypolita. Alleviated the problem, but residents did NOT like it. So, we are not moving forward with that idea.
- Keeping Cathedral open to vehicular traffic. Tried to fit roundabout at base of bridge...could not make it work. Would impact historical sites and got vetoed. Really tried to think outside the box...we have really looked at EVERY alternative.
- The current proposed solution would mimic the "peanut" leading to Vilano Beach bridge and would preserve the option to go straight or turn left. This would improve traffic flow and expedite, especially when bridge is up.
- We are trying to divert thru traffic on King Street. With our plan, we can still use Cathedral...can make it one-way or two-way or close it down (we currently close it for Light Up Night and July 4) Gives us flexibility, but Cathedral will be slower, more pedestrian friendly.

- This plan represents Florida DOT's recommended solution and we have to work with them.
- Our vision for Cathedral is a brick street with lighting, landscaping...more in keeping with the plaza...will never get it done if it remains a State road.
- Cordova and King Street intersections are now State roads.
- Showed king street with no street parking, wider sidewalks, street furniture, outside dining.
  
- City would be taking over King Street corridor from Malaga to Cordova, about 0.8 of the mile. Right now nothing contiguous...different widths for sidewalks...this is the City's entry corridor.
  - King, San Marco, Anastasia Blvd...all 3 are currently State roads
  - Overhead electric would be buried.
  - Actually a LOT of surface parking on King Street. Lot of opportunity to consolidate into garages. 563 spots between Malaga and Cordova
  - We could have shared use shuttle lane (for bicycles and turns as well)
  - King street is only a mile long...and we can make it the BEST mile in Florida...
  
- So should City take over?
  - State would contribute \$18 mm. Would only be spent on the corridor (landscaping, brick street for Cathedral, sidewalks) DOT would rebuild the San Sebastian bridge at their expense. Also intersection improvements at the Bridge of Lions would be State spend. \$26.5 mm that Florida DOT is contributing.
  - We could apply for additional funding from FDOT
  - King Street is in a community redevelopment area...so monies available there.
  - Also, we could take the \$18 mm to put in a really robust grant application for Federal matching funding...we have a good chance of getting it given the historical significance of St. Augustine.
  - We can phase the development...event management solely in the City's hands...don't need to request permits every time we want to re-route traffic or repair infrastructure.
    - 16 inch water main is under the corridor...which the state owns. Really tough to maintain.
  - Better ability to address sea level rise...ties in with Lake Maria Sanchez flooding improvements.
  - Protected left turn at Riberia...of special interest to OCSNA

## Question & Answer

- Mobility initiative is decoupled from the King Street state-city issue, so parking structures/shuttle will move forward regardless.
- Protected left hand turn on Iberia is in ADDITION to the side street around the police station
- Martin Luther King...part of Lincolnville...cross section will send over... in due diligence phase. Surveyor out there. Main goal is to redo sidewalks, underground electric...public workshops.
- State has contributed \$700k to get circulator running from existing STA garage to our neighborhood, which should help the National Guard with parking.
- Will do an assessment of all of St. George to see if it merits doing resident permits on blocks north and south of existing block (St. Francis south).
- Applied for federal grant...\$7.5 mm from state for flooding relief (?). Response to Burry's question
- Aerial trams...a bit pie in the sky...being used in other countries. If you could get the garages set up, then maybe...would be a sticking point with historic preservation community. Disney has pursued this.
- Now that we have a Mobility Plan, we can assess a mobility fee. New hotels and destinations will pay a fee to mitigate their impact on the transportation system.
- Broudy discussions...pedestrian overpass still part of the plan
- Maria Sanchez flooding resiliency project...individual homeowners have raised ROW issues... need to resolve before we move forward. Expect it will be resolved...financial compensation for the easements...because we are using federal monies, we cannot use eminent domain. If we can't resolve, we will be raising South Street. Best solution is building bulkhead...but it's going to take some time.
- Water taxis proposed to get across San Sebastian...we envision using the waterways...but we need funding...developer of shipyard making this part of his development, so more likely. Likely private...or city would contract out

- Avenida Menendez...lift station project...pumps 20' deep...pump to wastewater treatment plant...Matthew flooded and damaged all the stations...repairing and replacing electric components so more resilient for future flooding...13 stations.
- Burry...mangroves around Lake Maria Sanchez...issue all around the City...part of flood mitigation plan..6' is minimum elevation, need a permit...can only trim so much. \$5000 a tree if you are caught. Working on our first permit at Coquina Park...lot of paperwork involved.