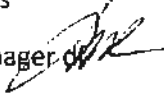


**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor England  
Vice Mayor Samora  
Commissioner George  
Commissioner Rumrell  
Commissioner Torres

**FROM:** Max Royle, City Manager 

**DATE:** November 15, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Former City Hall Historic Events and Public Art Project

Attached is a November 12, 2021, email from Commissioner George, which should provide enough details for your discussion. From the discussion, you can decide the next steps you want taken concerning long-range plans for the former city hall.

Please note that Commissioner George suggests you schedule a community meeting concerning the former city hall on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. Your meeting room is available on that date.

## Max Royle

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**From:** undine george <undine@anastasia-law.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021 11:26 AM  
**To:** Max Royle; Lex Taylor; christina - cultural council  
**Subject:** Agenda item Dec 6th - Old City Hall historic events and public art project

Max:

I would like to provide a substantive update and discuss next steps for the possible public art project at the old City Hall at the December Commission meeting. It should, however, be an agenda item, rather than Commissioner comments, because I would like for the Commission to set a date for a community workshop. Given that we need to formally select a date and agree to the possibility of using city hall and city staff resources for the hosting of a workshop, voting (or at least authoritative decision and direction) will be required. Presuming the commission meeting room would be available, after discussion and coordination with Ms. Christina Parrish Stone, Executive Director of the St. Johns Cultural Council, a tentative date for a community workshop would be Wednesday, February 9th (she will assist in moderating the workshop). Otherwise, her availability would be accommodated on a Wednesday or a Thursday during the month of February.

We will be working on a simple powerpoint to present Dec 6th, but I may not have it available for early distribution due to the holidays.

The topics of the community workshop would broadly include: the history of the old city hall building and site; where we are in the application for the national register of historic places; and, in that context, what would the community like to see in the future for: (1) possible uses of the second floor of the old city hall; and, (2) a public art project and interpretive signage regarding the diverse history of the building site, including the civil rights wade-in as well as possibly other significant historical events.

Ms. Parrish Stone is confident that the referral to the national register for historic places will result in the formal designation. With that will come additional funding opportunities for restoration and preservation of the building.

I've been mindful of the concern that some prior project ideas at the pier got caught up in the "chicken or egg" debate; namely, a hesitancy to proceed without having a broader vision in place for the old city hall building and the site. Yet, there is so much overlap in potential ways to tell the history of the location, including the wade-in, through art and interpretative panels ideas, inside and/or outside of the old city hall, which also provides an overlap in possible funding sources. Thus the timing now seems ideal to host a community workshop for that visioning, not only of the possibility of a wade-in public art project, but also to couple it with the visioning for the second floor, which the Cultural Council is requesting input in, so I'm excited about the workshop serving both purposes. This approach is especially relevant since we don't know what community feedback we will receive.

Additional considerations will include the formation of a committee for processing the public input received at the workshop, which committee will be responsible for generating a possible scope of work for a call for artists or consultants for whatever components the community input indicates are desired, and are ultimately approved by the Commission.

My understanding further is that the City will have to do the traditional public advertising for noticing a public workshop, but that the Cultural Council will assist with spreading the word to the community outside the beach community; as well as the use of surveys for those who are unable to attend the workshop, but still wish to provide input, Ms. Parrish indicated the Cultural Council has resources to assist and we also have the availability of survey software at the City. So, I believe we need some formal consensus in giving Max and Lex authority to work out these details with the Cultural

Council to make the workshop a well advertised meeting to generate participation from the stakeholders on these topics.

I hope this provides a sufficient memo of introductory remarks for the agenda discussion. If you have any questions please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Undine

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