

Report of Sarasota Bayfront 20:20 Donors Luncheon

February 26, 2015 12:00 PM

Attendees: Michael Klauber, Virginia Haley, Shantel Norman, Susan Nilon, Howard Katz, John Simon, Andy Papineau, CJ Danna, Bob Easterle, Pauline Joerger, Anne Folsom Smith, Anne Essner, Bob Essner, Chris Gallagher, Michael Saunders, Drayton Saunders, Marty Rappaport, Dean Eisner, Cathy Wilson, Mickey Callanen, Kathy Kelley Ohlrich, Norman Schimmel, Teri Hansen, Jon Thaxton and Caryl Kaplan.

Teri Hansen, President of Gulf Coast Community Foundation, opened the luncheon by welcoming guests and giving thanks to the donors who have opened doors for the future of Sarasota's Bayfront.

Ms. Hansen then introduced Michael Klauber. Mr. Klauber thanked the donors for joining the luncheon.

Mr. Klauber talked to the donors about the Sarasota City Commission meeting and said that the Sarasota City Commission unanimously approved the Sarasota Bayfront 20:20 Vision and Implementation Principles.

Mr. Klauber updated the donors on the community forums and meetings that were held since August 2014. Bayfront 20:20 has held 70 meetings and six community forums, with 1,500 participants. Also, Bayfront 20:20 digested 200 pages of comments and 170 ideas on post-it notes. There are more than 2,000 Facebook likes and 1,300 people who stay in touch on our email list. Both the Van Wezel and the Orchestra are now engaged in a facility assessment process.

Mr. Klauber reminded donors that the Implementation Principles will be the important foundation that will serve as our community's guidepost for the years of redevelopment decisions to come.

He asked the donors for questions or comments.

Drayton Saunders asked, "How successful was the first fundraiser in August?" Haley responded, "We raised a little over \$100,000." Ms. Haley also mentioned that Bayfront 20:20 needs to continue community outreach, and to keep up meetings efforts. Bayfront 20:20 needs at least \$100,000 to get through the second stage.

Ms. Hansen asked, "When will we physically see a change on the Bayfront?" Klauber responded, "We hope to see something in the works by year 2020. We are trying to bring all pieces together."

Mickey Callanen asked, "Who makes the final decision?" Jon Thaxton responded, "Property owners."

Bob Essner asked, "Organizations that are not on the Bayfront, how can we include them in helping to make a final decision?" Klauber replied, "Have them to join the stakeholders group."

Susan Nilon asked, "What are the obstacles we are facing right now?" Klauber replied, "Financials and continuing to keep reaching out to the community." Mr. Klauber informed the donors that there is a meeting scheduled in two weeks with the Sarasota City Manager and Assistant City Manager.

Mr. Klauber also encouraged the committee to get technical questions to Bayfront 20:20, so they can be forwarded to the City.