

Village of Estero, Florida
VILLAGE CENTER MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Forum on January 12, 2016 at Living Waters Church

The Village Center Master Planning process has been underway since the incorporation of the Village. It is attempting to provide an added centerpiece for our community. Fundamental to this effort is to incorporate elements that are important to the community as a whole. This Forum was intended to update the community on this important planning effort, to solicit public comments and obtain feedback on preliminary rankings of possible community amenities that could help guide our overall planning process. A total of about 174 people were in attendance.

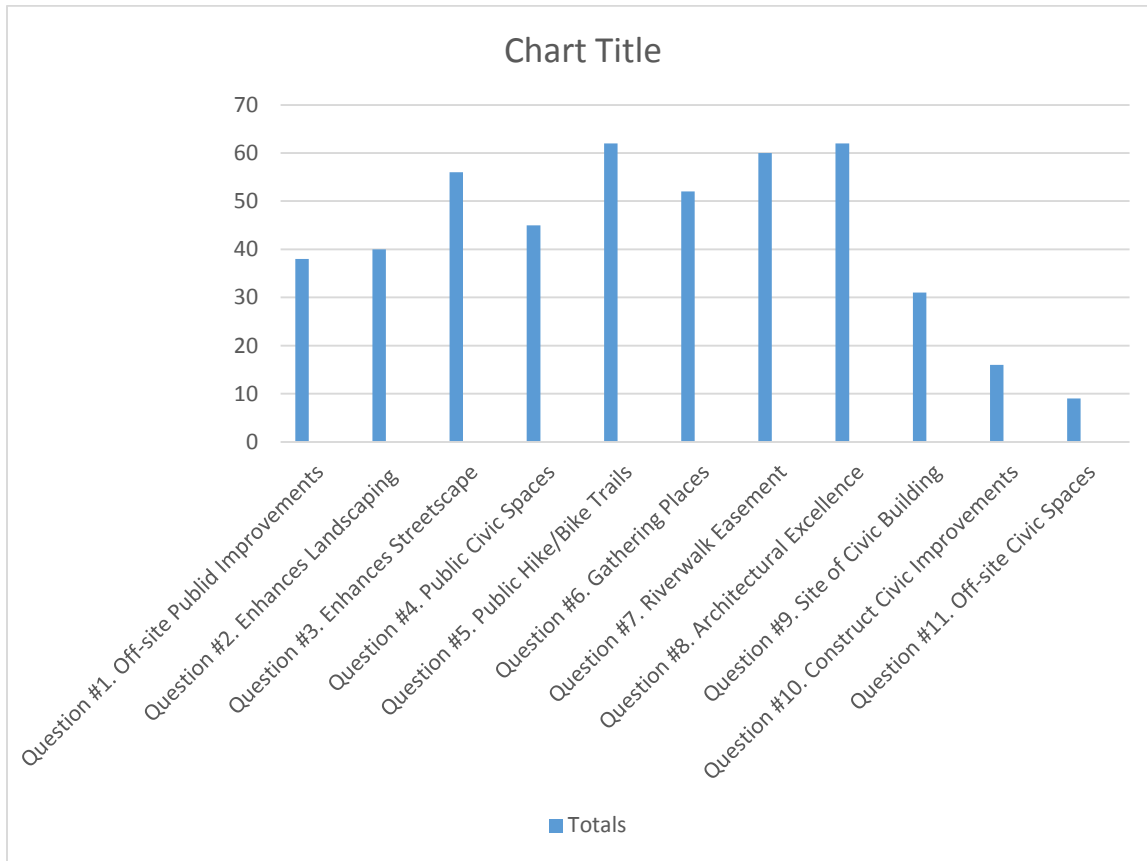
This summary is a compilation of all public comments as written and presented without modification.

Part 1: The public had an opportunity to select up to four amenities desired in the Village Center. The following is a numerical summary of responses and any comments.

- Question #1. Off-site Public Improvements – crosswalks, roadside beautification, bike lanes – 38
- a. See attached photos in Ft. Lauderdale
 - b. Ped Bridge across US41 Please!
 - c. If safe only not as near US41
- Question #2. Enhances Landscaping – extra landscaping that would be visible to general public – 40
- a. Only if completely financed by developers
 - b. We live with tropical area; along 41 coco mall, coco rd – cork there are no flowers, bushes, more palms, perennials – both sides of street & median
- Question #3. Enhances Streetscape – wider sidewalks / more trees on streets open to the public – 56
- a. Corner street tower and trellis – see attached photos
 - b. Connectivity!
- Question #4. Public Civic Spaces – internal plaza or green space open to the public – 45
- a. Incorporate museums, art galleries, cultural resources
- Question #5. Public Hike/Bike Trails – build parts of a trail along rail corridor or Estero River – 62
- a. Yes
- Question #6. Gathering Places – public gathering places for residents; may be commercial – 52

- Question #7. Riverwalk Easement – public could walk across private property on the riverbank – 60
- NO – not where private homes are; must not extend east of Sandy Lane!!
 - NOT NO BUT HELL NO
 - + public access
- Question #8. Architectural Excellence – exceptional design of buildings that are visible to the public – 62
- This is already being done by Review Board
- Question #9. Site of Civic Building – school, transit station, sheriff substation – 31
- Internal within community with public transportation so outlining communities can access shopping, entertainment without driving roads cannot handle more density without public transportation being used
 - NO!
 - Village City Hall
 - K-6 theater, museum, art center
 - +theaters & museums & City Hall
- Question #10. Construct Civic Improvements – improvements to a public park or public school – 16
- Estero H.S. is incredibly ugly!
 - NO!
 - Public schools – Lee County; Estero Park was never finished
 - Perhaps the Miracle League Baseball Diamond in present Estero Park?
- Question #11. Off-site Civic Spaces – plaza or green space outside the proposed development – 9

Part 2: Graph of public responses.



Part 3: In addition to the listed amenities, the public had the opportunity to add their own amenities or make additional comments. The following is a verbatim listing of those comments.

Question 12. Comments – 51

- a. Bike paths in “urban” areas should be like in NYC where biking is protected w/cars on the outside lane & bikes on inside w/landscaped island protecting bike lane
- b. Developer contribute to a reserve fund for the Village’s future in infrastructures improvements. Monetary amount to be determined by value of their project
- c. Cultural Arts Center
- d. We need shaded bike & walkways
- e. We need interconnected bike & walkways
- f. Historical District – Boomer Property – Baptist Church – area over to Sandy Lane
- g. Important to not forget where we were started
- h. Allow for shaded areas with benches in public gathering places
- i. Avoid the temptation to over landscape, focus on functionality of design and usage of facility and transporting an aging population to the Village center and health center

- j. Estero parkway multi-use pathway both sides
- k. Stay away from low income housing. There is enough beyond Estero's boundaries
- l. Do not waste \$ on building schools in the environment populated by mature inhabitants. Schools only mean higher costs
- m. Estero is too small to develop workforce housing. That would only delete the Estero brand which is dependent on high quality housing
- n. Many older or handicapped people reside in Estero and cannot get to social or businesses without better transportation
- o. Top dense – compact homes do not need!
- p. Amphitheatre or place for outdoor concerts or shows
- q. Public space for concerts for the entire community. Not just gated communities. Could have art shows – much like the project art district was
- r. Like the idea of a art/culture center
- s. Improve traffic flow to public schools widen roads near H.S., turn lanes added
- t. Outdoor concert area associated with arts center with parking (like Bonita Springs has)
- u. Minimize impact to local residents/traffic!
- v. Cultural art center
- w. Rails to trails
- x. Connectivity of walk/bike overpasses 41 & Coconut.
- y. Village City Hall with nearby "Main Street", services building for fed, county, state satellites; Significant indoor/outdoor center for art performance; Funeral home/cremation; Mixed activities/bowling center/indoor recreation (during rainy season); We need to have a physical rendering of what a city center can look like; This would all be market driven
- z. NCH's Blue Zone is in competition with Lee Memorial – Estero is following Lee Memorial Health Plan
- aa. Green space – 41 complete green space – walking, sitting areas, Corkscrew, River
- bb. Would like to see river used for canoe & kayak & picnic tables
- cc. Art, cultural, live theatre, movies on lawn, a center including music & dancing, café, water activities – all in a beautiful setting in & out doors
- dd. bowling, skating, something for all ages, presentation re: connectivity & walkable area s/b coco pt, Raspalo, Residence of Coco, av: a coco – great easier to relate to than DC; Internment – funeral parlor, mausoleums, etc.
- ee. Build excellent transit shelters & separated or protected multiuse paths; commit to supporting a portion of transit operations
- ff. Main entrance to Village. Opposite Pelican Sound Dr. – absolutely necessary for a stop light
- gg. Connected public transportation; art center
- hh. Art center
- ii. Integrate a exhibition center for large public events – make it multiple use with Council & City Builders, etc.

- jj. Outside space, amphitheater, recreation swings, pickle ball courts, picnic area benches, mixed use
- kk. Keep signage low
- ll. no more car dealers on 41
- mm. Community form (generally) with connective routes to adj properties
- nn. Discreet mobile device charging stations – NOT dependent upon a restaurant
- oo. Increase required area of onsite preservation of indigenous areas; increase on-site preservation of heritage trees
- pp. Access to the Estero River
- qq. greenspace/small parks
- rr. Interconnectivity to pedestrian ways
- ss. streets are NOT ped scale, ped overpasses across 41 & pedestrian greenway that connects gated communities & proposed centers (health, center, etc)
- tt. No more bubble zoning, - REAL neighborhoods – NOT subdivisions; no more big box shopping strips main streets with charm and small local establishments
- uu. Keep the Floridian green look! We don't want to look like every other state!; Leave some farm land – can "The Farm" stay?; amphitheater in conjunction with river development; put civic center up recreation center
- vv. Wider streets for safe traffic in highly developed areas
- ww. Improving access, egress and crossovers onto main roads, including better signage and possibly traffic lights on roads such as corkscrew, US41, and Estero Parkway; having community center install an Olympic size pool particularly for our local schools and use community in general
- xx. Please see attached description of a Miracle League baseball field; please advise who I could talk to about this.
- yy. Increase percentage of on-site preservation of indigenous native vegetative communities within open space requirement (current code requires that 50% of open space must consist of indigenous vegetative communities)
- zz. Increase minimum requirement of on-site preservation of native and heritage trees such as the Live oak and slash pine. Prohibit on-site relocation of those trees.
- aaa. Restrict the use of concrete and asphalt, in exchange for use of pervious pavement or pavers for parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks
- bbb. Public trails for biking and hiking are included in the "Tiered Future Land Use Proposal"; however, the developer could also provide public parking for access to the trails
- ccc. Where feasible, include additional Stormwater treatment systems in plans such as raingardens, biofiltration, or bioretention systems adjacent to parking lots and large buildings to reduce run-off and encourage recharge
- ddd. Also, a river easement was discussed at the Tuesday night meeting, but an increase in buffer width was not mentioned. However, I see that an increase from 50' to 75' is provided on the draft Tiered Concept framework. There are a few undeveloped parcels on the river, so an increase in buffer width is an important requirement to add in exchange for density