

**INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN MAYOR LEARY AND
COMMISSIONER TOM McMACKEN**

June 1, 2015

The informal discussion was called to order by Mayor Steve Leary at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapman Room (Room 200), 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Present:

Mayor Steve Leary
Commissioner Tom McMacken
City Clerk Cindy Bonham
Assistant City Manager Michelle Neuner

Others present:

Meg Fitzgerald
Nancy Shutts (resident)

Mayor Leary stated the reason for this meeting was to talk and get feedback as to what Commissioner McMacken wanted to accomplish so they can compare and try to complete some of the issues and continue to work on items needing further work.

Commissioner McMacken listed the larger items currently being worked on: Urban Forestry, Historic Preservation Ordinance, the Library, the Golf Course, and the Visioning process that is coming up in the near future.

Commissioner McMacken spoke about the upcoming budget year and that he wanted to look at the Police Department staffing and if we need to increase the "Feet on the Street". He did not believe we are compromising public safety but wanted to see if any adjustments are necessary after referring to Chief Railey.

Commissioner McMacken spoke about the need for the Commission to be involved as early as possible in the budget process so as to address the largest capital improvement items and to set priorities up front.

Mayor Leary spoke about the trees/tree canopies. Both agreed that more funding is needed. Commissioner McMacken's preference was to only plant live oaks in the public right-of-ways if they can be accommodated and to only spend funds on trees having the longest term benefits and longevity. He wanted to plant a larger percentage of live oaks; but if live oaks do not fit to leave the area alone for now instead of planting other trees until we can fund more oaks. Michelle Neuner spoke about the hazardous trees currently being taken down and replaced. Mayor Leary

spoke about the need to be cautious about not replacing trees in the rights-of-way because it looks better to have some type of tree there versus none at all.

He also addressed the City's parks with the large amount of people using the fields for sports (such as Showalter Field and Ward Park) and the need to determine which active parks/fields need improvement and an investment in the park.

Also addressed was the need for the Commission as a whole to discuss non-profits and how to deal with funding those and how it is distributed over the year; and the Commission's relationship with our advisory boards and their responsibilities.

Other discussion transpired regarding the Historic Preservation Board ordinance that is currently being revised and to come before the Commission in the future, signage throughout the City and at our gateways, the Library Task Force doing a great job and that both agreed with the board representation; the visioning process that Commissioner McMacken wanted to be an educational process; and brick streets and to decide what the standard should be (rough or smooth) and to get the base right.

Comments were brought forward by Mayor Leary on the need to address the goals of the CRA and the need to identify large projects for the future; City owned assets and which ones are viable and if we should retain or need some of them; the need to improve WIFI and high speed internet access; and to be better stewards of our sustainability plan (example: more solar) and not be behind in these areas.

Cynthia S. Bonham, City Clerk