

## CAC Report – June 27, 2019

*Richard Melton, Chairman*

### **Accomplishments:**

Helped to support funding for the Land Office Centennial Celebration, this brick building is the oldest building in New Port Richey dating to 1919.

Assisted the Rec. Center with a successful Florida Humanities Council Speaker Series. This Series consisted of four Speakers covering such topics as, Florida Foods, Great Romances in Florida Lore, Florida's influence on the rest of the Country and Florida War History.

Completed the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Museum Exhibit called *Hometown Teams*. The Smithsonian's *Hometown Teams* traveling exhibition examines the many roles that sports play in American society. Hometown sports are more than just games—they shape our lives, unite us and celebrate who we are as Americans. We appreciate everyone involved who donated the location, their time and their sports memorabilia, making this exhibit such a great success!

Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs: I was selected to assist with the Strategic Planning for the years 2020 – 2025. This will help further our own vision and budgetary planning.

Through Debbie Manns and City Councils recommendations another bridge presentation was made to the CAC to assist in making the decision regarding the remodel of our Main Street Bridge.

We helped support the Loquat Festival held on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at France Ave. Park.

We also had a successful Holiday Window Decorating Contest for the City Businesses. The voting was done using Social Media and gained great traction for downtown businesses. The feedback from those who participated was positive.

### **Current:**

Working on the free Christmas Concert Event with the Florida Orchestra Brass Ensemble. It will be held Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 2:00pm at the Church on Orange Lake. 300 tickets will be dispersed. We will also be piping the music out into the Park and surrounding area for all to enjoy. Many other events will piggyback off of this event and will produce financial opportunities for our downtown businesses.

We have allocated funding for multiple sculptural bicycle racks throughout the City and are awaiting the Main Street Program to finish their part in the design, placement and installation in order to move forward.

The CAC has an active 5-year plan and we are continually working on it to fulfill our vision for the City and Community.

We have also been researching the possibility of purchasing a very large artificial Christmas Tree, approximately 30' tall, for Sims Park to utilize year after year.

### **Pending City Council Final Approval:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> New Port Richey Sculptural Exhibit. The theme of this Sculpture Walk is “Happiness is...”. This is an exhibit of 8 sculptures that will be on display for a period of 18 months. Details on a separate form.

### **For City Council Consideration:**

As you know this is close to my heart, but please keep the thought of a Children’s Museum / Cultural Arts Center on the front burner. This would be a great asset to our City not just for Children but for all age groups to enjoy the Arts and Culture that could bring our City the National recognition it so deserves. To do this we must focus on actively pursuing grant money that is available as I have stated before. We must remain diligent on pursuing funding to make this vision a reality! It is imperative that this be recognized as a priority in making our City a destination to visit. I leave you with this, at some point all of us come to a fork in the road, it is important to make sure the path we have chosen supports our Children, our Culture and our Legacy.

**Goals:** *Build our local economy and creative endeavors. Enhance education through arts and culture. Promote a thriving and vibrant City.*

Special thanks to the following for all of their support, Elaine Smith, KC Quaretti, Debbie Manns, Donna French and the entire Cultural Affairs Committee. Also, a welcome aboard to our new liaison Chris Bornfleth!!!