

## D. PROJECT TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

### The Project Team:

A City staff Project Team has met periodically throughout the project to provide technical input regarding both process and substantive issues. Project Team members are:

Peter Schneider, Deputy City Manager  
Jane Robinson, Director Planning and Redevelopment  
Alexandrea Davis-Shaw, Director City Engineering  
Todd Kucharski, Deputy Director Public Works  
Duane Mountain, Manager of Capital Projects  
Sam Freija, Manager of Traffic Engineering  
Gary Kecskes, Senior Urban Designer  
John Burg, Chief Planner

The Project Team has reviewed the following materials prior to forming its recommendations:

- Background Materials prepared for the January 30, 2006 public workshop;
- Public Comments from the January 30, 2006 workshop;
- Alternative design concepts developed by Phil Graham;
- Public input provided at the March 30, 2006 workshop;
- Recommendations from the Parks, Recreation and Environmental Protection Advisory Board;
- Input from City Boards / Committees including the Public Art Committee, and the Citizens for Disabilities Advisory Board,
- Input from other groups including Save Our Sarasota; and
- Letters and the alternative design provided by the Downtown Partnership.

## **Project Team Recommendations:**

The Selby Five Points Park Project Team recommends that:

1. The City Commission authorize staff to prepare and distribute a Request for Proposals for the preparation of schematic and design development drawings for Selby Five Points Park with the following direction to the consultant team:
  - a. That Concept 1 developed by Phil Graham be used as the general direction for the design. That modifications, variations and refinements to this concept be pursued in accordance with the directions provided in the table on page 44 of this report.
  - b. That the consultant and staff meet with Sarasota Opera to analyze how Opera needs may be considered in the re-design.
  - c. That the consultant explore variations to the design that respond to the potential of opening of the door facing First Street of Selby Public Library.
2. That the City Attorney be authorized to negotiate a settlement with artist Athena Tacha for the removal of the art work "Memory Path" from Selby Five Points Park.

| <b>ISSUES AND DIRECTIONS</b>  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Issues from Public Survey</b>  | <b>Recommendations to City Commission</b>   |
| <b>Clear Majority Views</b>   |   |
| <u>Passive Use</u> – A clear majority of respondents preferred passive uses for the park with occasional special events.  | Concur with majority of public survey respondents.  |
| <u>Greenery</u> – A clear majority favored maintaining or expanding the green portion of the park. This was expressed in comments about additional grass, flowers, trees and plantings.   | Concur with majority of public survey respondents.  |
| <u>Brick Roadways with No Curbs</u> - A clear majority favored paving the Pineapple Avenue and First Street roadways and eliminating the curbs.   | Concur with majority of public survey respondents.  |
| <u>Remove “Memory Path”</u> – A majority (65%) of respondents listed the art work, “Memory Path” by artist Athena Tacha as an element that should be removed. Only three respondents (4%) suggested that this art work be retained. | Concur with majority of public survey respondents.  |
| <b>Often Mentioned Items</b>  |   |
| <u>Increase Seating</u> – A significant number of respondents mentioned the lack of adequate seating and the need for more, either in the form of benches, moveable chairs or game tables.  | Concur with the concept of significantly increased seating and exploring a variety of seating types.                                      |
| <u>Flowers</u> – A large number of respondents mentioned the desirability of flowers, some in general terms, and some with specific suggestions.  | Concur with the concept of providing significant flower beds.   |
| <b>Unclear and Occasionally Mentioned Items</b>   |   |
| <u>Roundabout</u> – Respondents were nearly evenly split (51% for, versus 49% against) on the issue of whether or not a roundabout should be explored for the Five Points intersection.   | Pursue a roundabout since it appears to be the best alternative for pedestrians, vehicles and aesthetics.                                 |
| <u>Water Feature</u> – Respondents were also nearly evenly split (52% for, versus 48% against) regarding whether or not the City should explore creating a water feature in the Park.   | Do not include a water feature because of its high maintenance. (For focal point consider other elements such as public art and flowers.) |
| <u>The Historic Clock</u> – A relatively small number of respondents mentioned retaining the historic clock. No respondents suggested that it be removed.   | Retain and repair the historic clock.   |
| <u>Public Art</u> – Public Art was mentioned as a positive element by some, but not a majority of respondents.  | Include public art as a focal point, but it should not dominate as in a sculpture garden.   |
| <u>Dog Issues</u> – A number of respondents mentioned dogs – some wanting to allow dog walking – some wanting to prohibit dogs in the Park - and a number suggesting methods to encourage dog owners to clean up after their dogs.  | Allow dogs in the Park, but provide methods to encourage clean up by dog owners and provided that maintenance is increased.               |

