



City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

Board of Commissioners
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**SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022
6:30 P.M. – CITY HALL AUDITORIUM**

**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. RESOLUTION 2022-17 SUPPORTING FEDERAL FUNDING OF THE CRAIG PARK – SPRING BAYOU SEAWALL AND SIDEWALK REPAIR AND RESILIENCY UPGRADE PROJECT

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION No. 2022-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING FEDERAL FUNDING OF THE CRAIG PARK/SPRING BAYOU SEAWALL AND SIDEWALK REPAIR AND RESILIENCY UPGRADE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Tarpon Springs owns and maintains Craig Park on Spring Bayou in the City of Tarpon Springs; and

WHEREAS, this seven-acre site is where the City's first pioneers settled in the 1880s; and

WHEREAS, the City's name, Tarpon Springs, came from those early settlers who watched silver tarpon leaping in Spring Bayou and is the primary feature that attracted visitors to become residents in the late 1800's; and

WHEREAS, Spring Bayou is a winter habitat for Florida's endangered manatees with an increase in the number of manatees each year; and

WHEREAS, Craig Park is over 130 years old, with 1,910 feet of seawall and waterfront sidewalk facilities as well a public boat launch, kayak/canoe dock, shuffleboard, tennis, children's playground, a bandshell, a war memorial, the City's Heritage Museum, and a City Recreation Center; and

WHEREAS, Craig Park functions as a central park for the City, attracting numerous annual events, festivals, weddings, gatherings, the Greek Epiphany Celebration, and seasonal manatee viewing in Spring Bayou; and

WHEREAS, the existing seawall and waterfront sidewalk on Spring Bayou is suffering severe deficiencies having been constructed at a low elevation when originally installed in the 1880s; and

WHEREAS, twenty years ago the sidewalks surrounding Craig Park and Spring Bayou would be submerged 3 to 4 times *per year* from "sunny day flooding," however, now the sidewalks are submerged 3 to 4 times *per month*, making the sidewalks frequently inaccessible than ever; and

WHEREAS, the increase in the frequency of the flooding has accelerated deterioration of the structural steel within the concrete sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, because of this continuous deterioration and subsequent structural failure, the sidewalks are often barricaded until emergency spot repairs can be made; and

WHEREAS, an independent engineering analysis recommends that the wall and sidewalk should be replaced with a new wall and sidewalk with an elevation of at least two (2) feet higher than the existing sidewalk and seawall to provide resiliency and to mitigate the catastrophic effects of sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, the cost of this project for design, permitting, and construction is estimated to be \$5,175,590; and

WHEREAS, United States Congressman Gus Bilirakis requested a list of recommended projects from the City for consideration of Federal funding, and this project was selected by the Congressman from the City's list as a potential funding candidate; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Bilirakis can submit the proposed project for funding within Department of Housing and Urban Development Economic Development Initiative (EDI) program for up to \$4,000,000 of Federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the City would provide matching funding that would pay the costs exceeding the grant amount, currently estimated to be \$1,175,590.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The Board of Commissioners, as duly elected representatives of the citizens of the City of Tarpon Springs, supports the Congressman's recommendation of consideration of Federal funding for the project described herein.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.