



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Mayor and Board of Commissioners

**From:** Mark LeCouris, City Manager

**Staff:** Renea Vincent, Planning & Zoning Director

**Date:** November 29, 2023

**Subject:** **Anclote River Park Proposed Restaurant, Park Redesign**

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**BACKGROUND:**

On August 9, 2022, Pasco County awarded an RFP and Lease and Development Agreement for a proposed restaurant at the Anclote River Park (RFP-DS-21-171, PRN22-0195). The proposed restaurant and associated amenities may impact the City of Tarpon Springs, the Anclote River, navigation, environmental/historical resources and transportation facilities in the surrounding area. Based upon associated staff reports and agenda back-up the applicant will be required to obtain changes to land use and/or zoning, site plan approvals, and permitting through other jurisdictional agencies (SWFWMD, Army Corps, etc.), providing an opportunity for the City to comment and/or provide future input into the project.

**CURRENT PROJECT STATUS:**

In September, the Pasco County Board of Commissioners approved an addendum to the County's consultant (Stantec) conducting the park re-design. The addendum was specifically to "add professional cultural resources services to assess the Park property and identify any potential adverse effects to the Anclote Mound, archeological site number 8PA10, located within the Park, and any other sites that may be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, resulting from Park improvements".

Subsequent discussions with Pasco County staff indicate that the required land use change to allow a restaurant on the site is currently on hold, awaiting direction from the County Administrator.

The park re-design is still in progress (at the 30% design phase) and a community engagement meeting is anticipated to be held, but a date has not yet been determined.

Staff was notified via email on November 29, 2023 that Stantec will begin collecting data the week of December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, around the Anclote Mound using Ground Penetrating Radar. Stantec will be conducting the data collection as a preliminary step to gain more information about the earthwork itself, which will remain protected from any planned improvements at the park. Additionally, it was confirmed that the "mounds" that two county buildings are located upon were created after the 1993 "no-name storm" to raise/elevate those buildings to protect them from further flooding.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff will continue to monitor the status of the proposed restaurant and park re-design. A Connect Tarpon page has been created as a repository for all documents that the City has received regarding the project and as general information page for interested residents. This information page can be accessed via the link below.

[Pasco County Anclote River Park Restaurant and Re-Design Project | Connect Tarpon Springs](#)