IMAGINE CLEARWATER
SUMMARY OF AUGUST STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Context

Following a launch meeting on June 8th, 2016, the Imagine Clearwater Stakeholder Coalition reconvened on August 3rd during the consultant team’s second visit to Clearwater. This meeting, which lasted 1 hour and 45 minutes, took place after the second of the three August community meetings led by the team during its visit.

Discussion

The Stakeholder Coalition discussion began with Coalition members and City staff members in attendance introducing themselves. The consultant team then spent 20 minutes summarizing comments collected from participants during the first two community meetings, on August 1-2. The team explained that community member discussions were structured around three primary questions, each of which received a range of responses as summarized below:

• What should the role of the waterfront be?
  o Community members asserted that the waterfront ought to be a publicly accessible space for Clearwater residents

• How can we foster a sense of place?
  o Discussions focused on how a reimagination of the space should build off of what currently exists and include features that appeal to people of all ages

• How can we better connect to Clearwater?
  o Clearwater residents discussed how to improve connections via all transportation modes, with an emphasis on improving waterfront walkability

The consultant team reviewed its existing site conditions findings, focusing on the study area’s potential for economic, landscape, activation, and access improvements. Coalition members were invited to provide their feedback on both the community meeting comments and the team’s findings. Topics that were discussed included the following, among others:

• Enhancing access to the waterfront via all existing transportation modes, including walking, driving, cycling, and boating;

• Incorporating arts-related and cultural activities and design features throughout the space;

• Better activating the waterfront through a variety of strategies, such as creating water features and improving venues for fishing;

• Establishing new partnerships with area institutions to promote waterfront stewardship;

• Preserving and enhancing views of the Intracoastal Waterway from the Bluff; and

• Attracting additional public and private investment in the downtown core.
Next Steps

The next Stakeholder Coalition meeting is scheduled for September 12th, at which we plan to:

- Solicit feedback on the master plan’s draft vision statement and guiding principles; and,
- Present the team’s interim framework plan concepts, which will include alternatives for the waterfront’s future as they relate to open space, access, and activation.