

ACTION ISSUES:

Anclote River Park Initiative Timeline

- A 22sqft restaurant with live entertainment, marina recreational activities, extra road for boat access and more parking spots was approved by Pasco County in **2022**. The developer was awarded a 10yr lease. The development is now moving forward despite the Indigenous artifacts found. The [archeological study](#) completed in **March 2023** by a private consulting firm, Stantec, has been completed with recommendations NOT to move forward, but if MUST move forward mitigation is recommended with a Phase III Data Recovery, with a state review completed. The funding for the archeologist and the Phase III Data Recovery was just approved.
- We have been working with a very small group of residents, who developed a non-partisan [petition](#) on **August 11 2022**. We now (2024) have over 5700 signatures, requiring many trips to the park [distributing several flyers](#).
- We have also spoken under public comment at the Pasco County Commissioner Meetings **July 12 2023** ([at 6:11 and 12:20 YouTube](#)) and **Sept 11 2023** ([at 53:30 YouTube](#))
- A few of us were interviewed several times now on [ABC Action News August 2023](#) and the [Tampa Bay Times July 2023](#) about the marina rentals, 22k sq ft restaurant, live entertainment proposed development, lease approved without public comment on public property, and now a beach expansion on the site of an Indian Midden Mound and Spanish Well. The lease proposal passed back in August 2022.
- A Prayer Walk was scheduled for **August 11th 2023**, but cancelled due to Indigenous representative unable to lead it.
- Marilyn Holleran and Doris Carroll met with County Park and Planning officials on **Aug 15th 2023**. Check out the latest info [here](#).
- A [Victory Drum Circle Event](#) via Pasco Sierra Club **August 23rd 2023** at 6:30pm. Not well attended.
- Received [updated map](#) of the 30% revised ARP plan **August 25 2023**. "The attached map is not the final version of the 30%, review is still occurring through preliminary permit review. Light grey is existing structures/road and dark grey is new structure/road. The current restroom and current two (2) pavilions are existing and however will be replaced so they show up as dark grey."

- We requested an in person meeting with District 3 County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey in **Sept 28 2023**; her staff refused to meet. They will schedule a Town Hall meeting sometime in November. That's when we need power in numbers! [Here](#) is the letter sent to Starkey.
- We have reached out to several Florida Indigenous Organizations and the Florida Indigenous Alliance and the FI American Indian Movement have responded. Here is their [email](#) to County officials. They will be meeting to discuss ARP with County officials and the DECF on **Nov 9th 2023**.
- No Townhall meeting called for **November** by Commissioner Starkey. Marilyn and Doris and several Indigenous organizations met with County Park officials on 11/9/23. We all stated our concerns. The County agreed to perform ground penetration radar on the Mound only, in **December 2023** for human remains.
- **Ground penetration radar completed January 2024. TBT reports on the findings [HERE](#) Via public records request, the restaurant lease new terms has been scaled back dramatically to approx < 3k sq ft, not 22k sq ft. No response yet from the developer. The developer **MUST** now accept the County's terms, or submit an amendment to the BOCC for consideration for a larger restaurant.**
- Marilyn Holleran spoke to the Trinity Club on **Jan 24th 2024** about our chapter and the Legislative work being planned/implemented at the state DECF.
- Doris Carroll spoke at the New Port Richey Garden Club Wednesday **Feb 14th 2024** re: Anclote River Park. We acquired approx 25 more petition signatures.
- Town Hall Meeting Monday **April 15th 2024 6-7pm**. Come 1hr earlier to make protest signs! County Government 8731 Citizens Dr in New Port Richey 1st fl Boardroom
- **The ARP Town Hall meeting on 4/15 was jam-packed with people in opposition to many aspects of the restaurant and park re-design. Commissioner Starkey, Parks and Stantec officials were in attendance. We had much fun talking to supporters while we made signs to protest inside. Starkey announces the developer verbally backed out of the lease agreement for the 22k sf restaurant, since the County submitted new terms to reduce size of the restaurant from 22k to < 3k sf. Watch a video taken at the meeting [HERE](#). And [HERE](#) are [several](#) TV/print interviews.**

- Marilyn and myself, plus a new Indigenous representative, Hoca Wicasa, Dillon Rich-President Pasco Sacred Sites Alliance and petition organizer, and the County Park officials, including Commissioner Jack Mariano, by conference call, were in a meeting 5 hours before the **April 15th 2024** Town Hall meeting.
- Hoka explained how the County never investigated the police report claim of "I know where the bodies are buried!" posted on FB and in person, by a Trinity resident, Joe Zsiga, treasure hunter. Explained it was in violation of a FL Statute, and will be further investigated by Hoka on whether to move forward with litigation.
- And then they revealed the developer, Keith Overton's attorney called to say they were backing out of the lease agreement. He wanted a 22 sf restaurant and now the County said-No, only 3k sf or less! Yet no inked signature received. The developer sat on that letter for the new lease terms for 3 months before he made a decision to exit the lease. And after one month he still hasn't signed and returned to the county. **Doris notified the TBT who quickly wrote an article with the good news! Please read it [HERE](#).**
- The 30% plan has REMOVED the area for the 3ksq ft restaurant. Yay!
- Don't forget to [Sign](#) the petition to stop the proposed development of Anclote River Park. We will be having a rally in the near future at the beach, with the media, so please stay tuned.

[Email/call the Pasco County officials to stop the development HERE.](#)

A Phase III Data Recovery plan is now underway

“A phase III data recovery is done when an archeological site eligible for the National Register cannot be preserved from a project’s impact,”
according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.