Ms. Wheeler,

The county has been looking for ideas on how to help Main Street as part of a plan to redevelop the beachside. I would like to offer some ideas for consideration. Making the street a pedestrian walking mall is a start, but in addition to that I think it would be great to add rides and concessions to the street that are geared for families with smaller children, for example a carousel and a children’s train. We keep talking about making the area more family friendly, but the rides and concessions along the boardwalk are more for older teens and young adults. (You must be this tall to enter.) I think this would bring more walking traffic up from the new, expanded boardwalk, which it would essentially be an extension of, and that would help to bring in year round businesses by making it more lucrative to stay open. I’d like to see shops open in the existing buildings, for example, linens, china, gift shops, etcetera. With the new resorts, the Peabody, and the Ocean Center nearby, this could be a real attraction, and a gamechanger for our tourist industry. By the way, rides are removable, and in many places are taken down periodically for service, so this could be coordinated to allow for the motorcycle events, if they are to continue. But let’s don’t let a once a year event prevent us from making improvements. That’s what got us here in the first place. The Main street Bridge is becoming problematic. It is expensive to maintain, and is continually degrading. With the high rise bridges at Mason Avenue, International Speedway Boulevard, and Orange Avenue, it is a redundancy. It could be removed and replaced with a water taxi service to ferry passengers from Beach Street to Main Street and back. I know the coast Guard would like to see and end to drawbridges, and the water taxi would preserve the nautical charm of the area. It sounds like a dream, I know, but it is not unrealistic, and we could easily make that dream a reality.

In addition, I would just like to say that I am pleased with your performance as a council member, and I am glad to have supported your bid for the council. I have cc’d this to the liaison for the Beachside Redevelopment Committee for their consideration as well. Thank you for your time,

James Newman, Daytona Beach

Sent from Mail for Windows 10