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Public can view progress at Fruitville charrette

Due to the high interest in the Fruitville initiative, the consultant team running the Fruitville charrette this week is opening additional times for the public to drop in and view the work in progress. Besides the presentations already scheduled, the design studio at Sarasota County's BOB Building, 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota will be open from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, April 13-15.

The community charette was organized to explore urban design and potential build-out plans for the 325 acres north and south of Fruitville Road east of Interstate 75.

Besides the additional open house sessions, the schedule for the remainder of the week includes:

- Design studio open house, 4-6 p.m., Tuesday, April 13
- Interactive presentation on evolving plan for Fruitville area, 4-6 p.m., Wednesday, April 14
- Interactive presentation on evolving plan for Fruitville area, 4-6 p.m., Thursday, April 15
- Wrap up presentation, noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 16
- Special county commission meeting, 2 p.m. Friday, April 16

All sessions will take place in the BOB building except the county commission meeting, which will occur in Commission Chambers, County Administration Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota.

The charette is being facilitated by the Pasadena-based firm of Moule & Polyzoides, Architects and Urbanists. A charette is a multi-day workshop used by planners to involve residents and business owners in the design and planning for site development or redevelopment.

Educational lecture-type sessions are also being offered from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. Topics will include form-based codes, transportation design, economic and fiscal policy, landscape and environmental design, and urbanism and architecture.

The Fruitville charrette is a public event consistent with the charrette process in Sarasota County's planned mixed-use infill (PMI) zoning district regulations in the zoning

regulations. The recently adopted PMI process calls for the creation of a development plan to be implemented with a form-based code created during the charrette process.

For more information about this charrette, visit Planning Services at www.scgov.net and “Search” for Fruitville Charrette.

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