

Mayor Liz Alpert
District 2

Vice-Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch
At-Large

Commissioner Willie Charles Shaw
District 1

Commissioner Shelli Freeland Eddie
District 3

Commissioner Hagen Brody
At-Large



City Hall
1565 First Street
Sarasota, Florida 34236
Office: 941.954.4115

Thomas W. Barwin
City Manager

Robert Fournier
City Attorney

May 15, 2019

Mr. Barwin:

Several months ago you were tasked to collaborate with the Sarasota Orchestra to find a location in Sarasota for their new home. Months passed with no information until just before the plan for Payne Park was unveiled to the public.

After much consideration I have grave concerns regarding your support of this site.

Payne Park was essentially gifted to the City of Sarasota in 1923 for the enjoyment of everyone as a public park. It's taken a while, but the intent has largely been realized with improvements to the park over time by prior City Commissions. Payne Park's importance and accessibility will only increase with the future connection to the coming Legacy Trail.

The Sarasota orchestra has been vital to the fabric of our arts community since 1946. Since then, they have provided world class arts entertainment and youth musical education benefiting our entire community. The Sarasota Orchestra significantly contributes to the reputation Sarasota has built over decades as an arts and cultural hub.

Mr. Barwin, the choice between losing a significant portion of Payne Park or the Sarasota Orchestra is not a choice at all. We should not be putting supporters of both the arts and public parks, as I am, in conflict.

Please provide a list of the other options for consideration in advance of the May 20th meeting for discussion as I cannot support your current vision.

Sincerely,

Hagen Brody
Sarasota City Commissioner at-Large