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County seeking concessionaire for Venice Train Depot

Sarasota County Parks and Recreation is accepting proposals for concession services at the historic Venice Train Depot, 303 E. Venice Ave., Venice. The Request For Proposal (RFP) seeks a concessionaire to operate a mobile refreshment cart and bicycle rental business. Criteria for proposals include compensation, project approach, qualifications and financial resources. The concession service is expected to begin in May. The proposals will be reviewed by a committee from Sarasota County Community Services. The deadline for submitting proposals is April 21.

The Venice Train Depot, on the Intracoastal Waterway, is the southern trailhead of The Legacy Trail, which opened Friday, March 28. The building, constructed in 1927 by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was purchased by Sarasota County in 1999 and renovated in 2003. The depot houses a railroad museum, and the grounds have a park, walking path, picnic areas and restored railroad hand car.

“This is an opportunity for someone to operate a business at a key spot on The Legacy Trail and The Venetian Waterway,” said Kristin Steffen, revenue specialist for Sarasota County Parks and Recreation. The county will negotiate a contract with the selected vendor, which will be taken to the Sarasota County Commission for approval.

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the Venice Train Depot.

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