

**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Central Area – Merritt Island/Beaches Service Sector
Referendum Projects Committee Meeting
Annex Building – Kiwanis Island Park
951 Kiwanis Park Road
Merritt Island, FL 32953**

Mitchell Ellington Sports Park Committee
Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rick Putnam
Steve Ramsey
Marshall Hieronimus
Jeff Noble
Kristina Keer
Mark Geiger
Terry Coapstick, Chairman
Bill Huminski
Kim Smith
Dennis Dougherty
Tammy Brown

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ken Ball
Rose Plummer
David King

STAFF PRESENT

Chuck Nelson, Parks and Recreation Director
Jack Masson, Asst. Parks and Recreation Director
Cathie Schanz, Central Area Parks Operations Manager
Dan Click, Parks and Recreation Construction Manager
Carlos Zarate, Parks and Recreation Construction Coordinator
Kent Hanson, Central Area Merritt Island Beaches Maintenance Superintendent
Hector Lopez-Acevedo, Central Area Merritt Island Beaches Recreation Superintendent
Karla Grisham, Central Area Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT

See Secretary for sign in sheet.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Terry Coapstick called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF June 26, 2002 MINUTES

A motion was made by Marshall Hieronimus; second by Jeff Noble to approve the minutes of June 26, 2002. Motion carried.

III. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Discuss Softball Fields – *Chuck Nelson & Cathie Schanz*

Mr. Nelson reviewed and distributed the conceptual plan for Mitchell Ellington Park. He reviewed that the revised plan shows only one (1) of the two (2) Softball Fields would be lighted. Mr. Coapstick questioned if the infield would be clay. Mr. Nelson responded yes. Mr. Noble questioned if the Little League practice field would be 200'. Mr. Nelson answered yes. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hieronimus made a motion to take out the lighting on the exterior East Girls Softball field. Mr. Noble seconded. Mr. Huminski amended the motion to clarify that the conduit will be installed on the east field for future use. Motion carries.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Review and Approve Playground elements – *Chuck Nelson & Cathie Schanz*

Cathie Schanz presented the playground element designs to the members for review and discussion. She discussed the budget for the playground element is \$65,000. Ms. Schanz reviewed the parameters set by the County for vendors to design a play structure to fit the Sports Complex plans. Ms. Schanz presented the three proposals that met those guidelines for the members to consider and discuss. She explained that the members would consider the design, color pallet and elements of the play structure. Ms. Schanz mentioned the three vendors being considered have structures placed throughout the County. Ms. Schanz discussed the members suggestions would be taken to the vendors to amend the plan for their final approval.

Further discussion concluded that staff would provide additional information to the members, modify the plans utilizing the members' suggestions and revisit the issue at the next meeting for final approval.

b. Discuss Dog Park component request – *Chuck Nelson & Cathie Schanz*

Cathie Schanz reviewed the request from Commissioner Pritchard to possibly house a dog park element at Mitchell Ellington Park. Ms. Schanz presented two different options to house a dog park at Mitchell Ellington Park to the members. Mr. Ramsey questioned the option to house the element at Kelly Park or Kiwanis Island Park. Mr. Nelson responded Kiwanis Island Park could not support the element. Ms. Keer questioned the possibility of the dog park at Manatee Cove. Mr. Nelson responded that the current user (4H Club) is looking to expand their area of usage at the park according to the usage agreement. He consented that the site could be considered. Mr. Geiger questioned the liability aspect of having a dog park. Mr. Nelson responded the liability is minimal.

Mr. Hieronimus made a motion that if and when the Mitchell Ellington Sports Complex is complete and there is sufficient budget and further approval that the North West site be designated as a potential dog park. Jeff Noble seconded. Mr. Ramsey amends the motion to request staff review other County sites for the potential of housing a dog park. Mr. Nelson added that staff would consider adding the element into the Master plan for the park and will revisit the issue with the committee at the next meeting. Motion carries.

c. Sales Tax Update – *Chuck Nelson*

Mr. Nelson explained that the Board of County Commissioners in regular session Tuesday July 22, 2003 voted to place on the November ballot a one percent sales tax increase. He further explained that several projects would be funded by the sales tax dollars including the proposed Community Center at Mitchell Ellington Park. Mr. Nelson discussed further information and a comprehensive list of the projects to be funded will be provided at the next Referendum meeting.

V. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

A motion was made by Marshall Hieronimus to adjourn meeting, second by Dennis Dougherty. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.