

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Central Area - Merritt Island/Beaches Service Sector
Referendum Projects Committee Meeting
Woody Simpson Recreation Center
1590 Schoolhouse St.
Merritt Island, FL 32953

Woody Simpson Committee Meeting
Minutes
July 31, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frankye F. Barnes, Tropical Park Civic Organization
George C. Spencer, Private Citizen
Daphne L. Payne, Private Citizen (New)
Esther S. Hamilton, Private Citizen (New)
Eartherlean Riley, Private Citizen (New)
Evon Jackson, Recreation Advisory Board Member

STAFF PRESENT

Chuck Nelson, Parks and Recreation Director
Cathie Schanz, Central Area Parks Operations Manager
Dan Click, Parks and Recreation Construction manager
Detra Lewer, Secretary, Central Area Parks –Merritt Island/Beaches

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael McDonald, Woody Simpson Center Supervisor
Bea Bell
Katie M. Patterson
Linda McDonald
Jimmy Jackson

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting started at 6:05.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Nelson welcomed everyone to the first Woody Simpson Referendum Committee Meeting. Members, staff and audience members introduced themselves.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Sunshine Law

Chuck Nelson explained that this Committee is a subcommittee of the Merritt Island/Beaches Recreation Advisory Board and all recommendations will go through the Advisory Board before going to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Nelson explained to the Members that the Committee itself is a “Sunshine Committee” therefore falling under the “Sunshine Law”. He then reviewed the Sunshine Law and went over the major points throughout the Law. He requested each Committee Member read through the Law carefully and feel free to ask questions.

Mr. Nelson explained minutes would be taken of each meeting, not verbatim, but in a concept, idea and action format. These minutes will be placed on the County’s website.

b. Committee Guidelines

Mr. Nelson explained the Committee Guidelines to the Members; highlighting pertinent points. He then explained the purpose of the Committee to guide in the development of the referendum projects. He explained the responsibilities of the Committee including architectural/engineering plans, construction, ribbon cutting, etc.

Mr. Nelson explained the Committee would need to elect a chairman and vice chairman once the all the Committee positions have been filled. It was noted there were positions on the Committee not filled at this time and whether anyone in the audience would like to come forward to become a Member at this time. The following new Members were added: Daphne L. Payne, Esther S. Hamilton, and Earthaline Riley.

Future meeting dates and times were then discussed and it was agreed to change the Meeting from the fourth (4th) Tuesday of the each month to the third (3rd) Tuesday to accommodate the Committee Members.

c. Project Elements

Mr. Nelson reviewed the project elements with the Members. These elements include tennis court renovations and lighting, softball field bleachers and an addition to the building to house a computer lab for the center.

Mr. Nelson noted maintenance and operational costs, including staffing, are already built in to the total scope of the project.

Mr. Nelson explained the architect and engineer would be available for the next meeting. He also reminded the Members that County’s Parks and Recreation staff is in a support role only.

The Committee then discussed what exactly should be contained in the computer lab, so to know how large the addition should be. Upon further discussion, Cathie Schanz will set up a field trip to Cocoa West for the next scheduled meeting, to examine their computer lab and general setup.

Upon Member inquiry, Mr. Nelson explained all contractors are hired strictly by formal bid process.

d. Land Acquisition

Mr. Nelson explained that there was no land acquisition involved with this particular referendum project, but went on to explain the two (2) land acquisitions involved in the referendum, i.e. the sports complex and five (5) acres to accommodate bus parking from the MILA Elementary site

e. Timeline

Mr. Nelson noted each committee would meet approximately every 30 days, depending on the stage of the project. As noted the next meeting would be August 21, 2001 with a field trip to an area computer lab for further insight

f. Website / Newsletter

Mr. Nelson reminded the Committee, the minutes and schedules from this Committee, as well as, the other Referendum Committee's would be posted on the County's website. He also updated the Committee on the County's North and South Area referendum projects, as well as, the other parks and sites in Merritt Island.

IV. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40. The next scheduled Committee meeting is Tuesday, August 21 2001, at 6:00 with the location to be announced.

Minutes submitted by:
Detra Lewer, Secretary, Kiwanis Island