

NORTH BREVARD COMMISSION ON PARKS & RECREATION

Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Brevard Commission on Parks & Recreation (NBCPR), an advisory board, held Thursday, September 11, 2008, in the Brevard Room of the Brevard County Government Complex-North.

Members Present

Ted Beck, Chairman
Dr. Ron Bobay, Vice Chairman
Jan Alwine
Barry Gainer
Dick Gossett
Shawn Harris
Scott Johnson
George Newman

Members Absent

Gigi Henkel

City of Titusville Elected Officials/Staff Present

Grace Galiano, Redevelopment Planner
Brevard County Staff Present
Kathie England, Administrative Aide to Commissioner Scarborough
Don Lusk, Parks and Recreation Director
Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager
Michael J. Rubacky, Parks Maintenance Superintendent
Richard L. Tucci, Recreation Superintendent
Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chairman Beck called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. and called for a moment of silent prayer.

Terry Lane reported Jan Alwine was appointed to the NBCPR by the City of Titusville.

Motion by Shawn Harris, seconded by Barry Gainer, to excuse the absence of Gigi Henkel.

AYE: Alwine, Beck, Bobay, Gainer, Gossett, Harris, Johnson, Newman

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (items not appearing elsewhere on the agenda)

Bea Polk spoke against \$500,000 for the City of Titusville, against enlarging ponds at Chain of Lakes, and took exception that the items did not come to the NBCPR before going to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

In response to an inquiry from Barry Gainer, Terry Lane stated many things are brought to the NBCPR for advice. In the case of the \$500,000 discussed at NBCPR meetings, it was approved at the City and the North Brevard Senior Center president spoke in favor of it before the BOCC. The money will be advanced from the Referendum funds and to be repaid to the Referendum by the City of Titusville within three years and there are several projects that won't be finished before then, such as the Causeway project. It was noted interest is not being paid.

Mr. Lane announced there will be a construction dedication for the new A. Max Brewer Bridge on October 2 at 2 p.m.

Joan Wheeler stated the City doesn't have to pay the money back until three years after the project is completed to the City's satisfaction. She distributed a copy of her letter to the editor printed in *Florida Today*

and spoke of people getting together in back rooms. She also spoke against expanding one of the lakes at Chain of Lakes.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dick Gossett, seconded by Shawn Harris, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2008, with a correction in the motion on page 4 to show no nay votes regarding Sandrift playground and Cuyler picnic facilities.

AYE: Alwine, Beck, Bobay, Gainer, Gossett, Harris, Johnson, Newman

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

Chairman Beck asked to hear IV.B Marina Park Update at this point in the meeting due to many present for the subject.

IV. REFERENDUM & OTHER PROJECTS

A. Reports—Terry Lane reported as follows:

- Chain of Lakes (COL)—FRDAP grant was received for fishing pier. Lake expansion was approved by the BOCC. The entrance road design is completed and traffic signal design is pending. Funding for the trail head is through the MPO.
- Cuyler Park—Clearing and grubbing of picnic area was awarded to Star Base Development so County forces can fill the hole. Replacement of the gym floor low bidder is protesting rejection of the bid and wants to appear before the BOCC on September 30.
- Fay Lake Wilderness Park—Permission to advertise bid, award project and execute agreement was approved by the BOCC on September 4.
- Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center—Appraisals are not completed yet.
- North Brevard Senior Center—Project was approved at the August 28 BOCC meeting.
- Pritchard House—Howell Construction was selected for the project.

- Sand Point Park—Nine pavilions with connecting pedways are installed. Staff will install a few more grills, etc.
- Scottsmoor Meeting Hall—The contractor is on site and has six months to complete the project.

B. Marina Park Update—Chairman Beck reported he asked the item be brought back to the NBCPR because of additional information. Terry Lane reviewed the \$200,000 Florida Boating Improvement Fund (FBIF) grant for the boat ramps, the updated costs showing the engineering and bonding at the top of the list, bringing the updated cost for priority 1 and 2 to \$2,178,880. He announced Tedder Construction Company is on a continuing contract with BOCC and gave a quote \$582,000 for the boat ramps. Ball fields 1 and 2 are to be demolished, so it makes sense, inasmuch as field 3 is to remain, to relocate the newest lights and concrete poles from field 2 to field 3, replacing older lights and wooden poles, and a quote for such has been obtained. Staff's recommendation to take the project through priority 3a to complete infrastructure/underground work for the entire project is color coded on the drawing. BOCC Road and Bridge Department has been contacted to quote infrastructure/underground work that is expected to be lower than outside contractors. With the infrastructure in place, staff can, in the future, install some items such as picnic shelters.

Mr. Lane answered questions from the NBCPR regarding various elements and funding, including the \$1,800,000 moved from reserves. Rodney Honeycutt reported the price from Tedder Construction is fixed, the price for ball field lights are fixed, other costs are estimates, and the price from Road and Bridge is awaited. The 5% bonding would not be needed if Road & Bridge performs the work. The plans are complete and approval of the plans is expected by early 2009. Dick Gossett asked about funding through priority 5.

Public Comment

Susan Canada stated she hoped for the same frugality at Cuyler Park and spoke for funding as much as possible at Marina Park to benefit the low income area, local neighborhood, downtown area and the economy.

Shawn Harris explained he asks questions to fully understand the matter and is not opposed to what is wanted for Marina Park, but because other parks are not finished, he will not commit to more money.

Martha Long presented printed material from Commissioner Scarborough and cost estimate for site work for Marina Park. She asked the NBCPR to take the \$1,800,000 identified and commit it to Marina Park.

Elizabeth King spoke for moving Marina Park forward with the \$1,800,000 and any additional money for Marina Park.

Laura Ward spoke for getting the Marina Park project underway and hoped for a recommendation to complete the infrastructure to make smooth sledding in the future and to save money.

Dr. Ron Bobay stated it makes sense to him to expand to the entire infrastructure due to the potential savings, but not additional elements because of concern about committing more money to one project when other projects are unfinished and there are other uncommitted requests.

Shawn Harris stated he doesn't have a problem with what staff recommended, but if it comes in \$100,000 under, that should go back into the pot to be fair to all and to everything in the green brochure.

Jan Alwine asked why not fund the whole project tonight.

Motion by Dick Gossett, seconded by Barry Gainer, to at this point in time fund Marina Park through priority 5, and make every effort to turn dirt by spring 2009.

AYE: Alwine, Beck, Gainer, Gossett, Johnson, Newman

NAY: Bobay, Harris **Carried 6-2**

Discussion returned to IV.A Reports

C. Titusville Veterans' Memorial Fishing Pier—FEMA Update—Mr. Lane related from an email from Paul Bessler that the project worksheet status is at Lake Mary in the environmental queue and in coordination with Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC). It is expected to move forward to Washington, DC, in the next two weeks, but is dependent on questions from FWC and response time.

Dick Gossett brought up lack of ADA requirements and took exception to the project going to FEMA without going back to the committee and NBCPR. Terry Lane and Rodney Honeycutt explained railing heights are not important to FEMA. The 42" railings were required by the City of Titusville per Florida Building Code, but both heights are in the design and will have to be decided when the FEMA money comes in. Rodney Honeycutt explained if there is 9 inch toe clearance, a 2 inch high wheel stop or 9 inch extension of the pier beyond the railing is needed and he assured the NBCPR that he and Parks and Recreation are doing all that can be done to get as much ADA as possible.

Public Comment

Larry Clark lamented the delays in repairing the pier and suggested finishing the old things before starting new.

Bob Richmond questioned why a meeting of the pier committee had not been called to discuss things. He also stated concern about lack of ADA requirements.

Laurilee Thompson noted part of the delay on the pier is from FEMA. She wanted to go on record that Mr. Honeycutt cleared up a lot of her questions and that the pier committee wants ADA railings. She stated she plans to let Richard Wheelus at the City of Titusville answer her questions.

Laura Ward thanked the NBCPR for the Marina Park vote and asked if a variance for ADA on the pier is not possible. Mr. Honeycutt responded Richard Wheelus sent an email to the Florida Building Code asking if that is an option.

Martha Long thanked the NBCPR for the Marina Park vote, suggested getting the pier committee involved, to have the ADA issue settled before construction and to not hold this up.

Bob Richmond was given additional time and said Mr. Honeycutt answered his questions, related that people keep asking why the pier isn't finished, and stated his concern is to move it forward.

A ten minute break was taken at 6:55 p.m.

Terry Lane answered Barry Gainer regarding timeline for the pier, stating that once approved in Washington, DC, for reimbursement, he would think that with the plans being at 100%, it won't take long to get started. Mr. Lusk was hesitant to give a timeframe. Mr. Lane responded to an inquiry from Barry Gainer by saying demolition of the old pier and cleaning out debris under the pier will be part of the project.

D. North Brevard Referendum Prospective Projects

Terry Lane reported the only update is the cash available as of September 9, 2008, at \$9,300,000. Next month the FBIF grant \$200,000 will be added for Marina Park. The exact cost of the playground at Sandrift won't be known until after October 1.

Shawn Harris inquired about Causeway Improvements, Equestrian Trails & Facilities, and Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center and estimated costs. Mr. Lane responded now that the bridge design is done, Causeway improvements can be looked at and the committee can be called together within a year or two. The Equestrian Committee is waiting to see about EEL property at the north end of Blounts Ridge and can use \$230,000 for a primitive trailhead, as well as smaller trailheads along the rail trail. Appraisals for the Marr property for the

Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center were delayed due to tropical storms. Although the project name includes community center, funding for the center building was cut to get the total for the 2000 Referendum down to \$15 million.

Fred Kusterer of the Mims Community Group stated the Mars property is good and was agreed upon by three groups—Mims Community Group, East Mims, and Mims-Scottsmoor committee. The location is great, high and dry, with a couple of houses that could be used for teen parties.

Charlie Mars, president of U.S. Space Walk of Fame Foundation (SWOF), requested the NBPCR reconsider their vote of the last meeting, because of the 40th anniversary celebration July 2009 that will highlight dedication of the monuments. Fund raising efforts have reduced the amount needed from \$150,000 to \$100,000 to finish the Apollo monument. Mr. Mars reported the SWOF is trying to make the park a destination location, preserving space history. He noted the SWOF is one of the few groups that ask for money that puts money back into the parks.

Laurilee Thompson, a member of the SWOF board of directors, fully supported Charlie Mars' request, noted from a tourism standpoint, the monuments could be huge for Titusville, and it is a very small amount of money that would mean a lot for the community to have the monument finished for the 40th anniversary celebrations.

Chairman Beck noted there are many projects pending right now and Barry Gainer suggested not deciding tonight. Mr. Mars noted the monument is under construction and needs to get in the bronze pipeline schedule within the next month or so to get it out of the foundry.

Motion by Dick Gossett, seconded by Scott Johnson, to readdress the decision concerning additional funding for the U.S. Space Walk of Fame monument on the agenda for the next meeting.

AYE: Alwine, Beck, Bobay, Gainer, Gossett, Harris, Johnson, Newman

NAY: None

Carried 8-0

At the request of Scott Johnson, Mr. Mars stated he will bring an update of the presentation to the next meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. FY 2008-2009 Budget Update—Mr. Lane reported the first public hearing was held September 9 and the last will be held September 23, with workshops on September 18 and 19. Last year 9% was cut from the North Area Parks Operations budget, this year 13% was cut and there is the potential for an additional \$151,000

being cut. Eleven positions were lost last year, 25 were lost this year, and three additional filled position cuts are being discussed at the workshops. There is no capital for FY 08-09. Staff has been tasked with doing more with less. Parks & Recreation Department cuts totaled \$6.2 million this year.

In response to an inquiry from Dick Gossett, Mr. Lane reported of the 25 positions cut this year, 13 were vacant and 12 were filled. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Gainer, Mr. Lane stated currently there are seven positions funded under operating and maintenance in the Referendum. Mr. Lusk noted operating funds can be moved to capital, but capital cannot be moved to operating.

Additional discussion about the SWOF included that funding for the \$100,000 would come from the Referendum, not where the positions are being cut. In response to an inquiry from George Newman, Mr. Lane reported there was an agreement with the SWOF for the \$110,000 funded in the 2000 Referendum for which they had to give receipts.

Jan Alwine suggested it might be better to give money to fund rest rooms at Marina Park or playgrounds at some facilities than to give \$100,000 for a bronze statue. Mr. Harris indicated that is the reason he asked about getting cost estimates for voter-approved projects.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Property Exchange with EEL at W.W. James Park/Enchanted Forest—Terry Lane reported BOCC purchased 40 acres adjacent to W.W. James Park with Referendum funds. The proposal is to swap 10 acres of disturbed Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) land for 23 acres of W.W. James Park land. The EEL advisory board has approved the land swap. Staff is looking to also purchase three acres by the double-hashed area on the drawing that would square off the property for development for future development. Indian River City Little League would like more parking and playgrounds and park amenities that they don't have now. This would also provide connection to trails and the Enchanted Forest. In response to an inquiry from Shawn Harris, Mr. Lane indicated the additional three acres are not owned by EEL. The County has the right of way, but because of the lake, would like to have the property that is identified as \$250,000 on the matrix.

Motion by Dick Gossett, seconded by Barry Gainer, to approve the land swap at W.W. James Park with EEL property at the Enchanted Forest.

AYE: Alwine, Beck, Bobay, Gainer, Gossett, Harris, Johnson, Newman

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

B. Parks and Recreation Department Fee Schedule—Mr. Lane reviewed the various fee schedule proposed changes totaling 10% to be presented to the BOCC on September 30. Fees being increased include swimming lessons, employee fees, some rental fees. The kitchen fees for CDBG facilities are not being increased. Athletic league fees will be based on direct cost of what the league wants, i.e. scorekeeping, number of officials, etc. The employee fee is increasing from \$12.50/hour to \$20/hour where actual direct costs, including benefits, is closer to \$30/hour.

Discussion prior to vote included Mr. Gossett noting a \$39,400 gain in fees will lose \$1 million in PR and suggested waiting until next year due to the cost of living and present economic condition. Mr. Lane stated the BOCC directed a 10% increase last year and eliminated fee waivers. He also noted \$40,000 saves one employee and that the citizens voted for Amendment One. Jan Alwine defended the reasonable fee for using park kitchens, noting the Indian River Civic Club charges \$250. Mr. Lane reported cities and counties around Brevard are raising their fees much more than what is proposed for Brevard County and some cities and counties are doing away with the parks and recreation departments. Mr. Lane responded to Dick Gossett that outdoor facilities are free if not previously reserved, noting reservations give guaranteed use.

Motion by Shawn Harris, seconded by Scott Johnson, to approve the proposed Parks and Recreation Department Fee Schedule.

AYE: Alwine, Beck, Bobay, Gainer, Gossett, Harris, Johnson, Newman

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

VII. REPORTS

A. Advisory Board Members on Assigned Parks—None.

B. City of Titusville Staff Report—No report.

C. North Area Parks Operations Staff Reports—Dick Gossett suggested receiving the agenda and supporting documents by Friday. Mr. Lane stated staff will attempt to have the packets ready sooner than in the past. Mr. Lane reported one of the boat ramps at Parrish Park—Titusville was opened today. The floating docks may be replaced with fixed docks. Hunt for Reds is the first weekend in October.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted M. Beck, Chairman

jbi