

CUYLER PARK REFERENDUM COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Cuyler Park Referendum Committee, appointed by the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation, an advisory board, held Monday, September 17, 2001, at 7:00 p.m., at the Cuyler Park Annex.

Members Present

Dwight Seigler, Chairman
Juanita Barton, Vice Chairman
Corine Saunders

Members Absent

Shawn Harris
Deborah Rodwell
Dr. Ron Bobay, Ex-Officio (NBCPR)

County Staff Present

Cheryl K. Page, North Area Parks Operations Manager
Anthony Britt, Community Center Coordinator
Jill Hill, Recreation Leader

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dwight Seigler called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Juanita Barton, seconded by Corine Saunders, to approve the minutes of August 20, 2001, with a correction to the second paragraph under Staff Reports Referendum Projects deleting the words Cuyler Park Referendum Committee.

AYE: Barton, Saunders, Seigler

NAY: None

Carried 3-0

III. STAFF REPORT ON REFERENDUM

Cheryl Page gave the committee a brief synopsis on all the Referendum projects that are in progress. She further stated that information regarding Referendum projects can be obtained on the web page at www.brevardparks.com. There will also be a monthly newsletter available to those who are current on the mailing list.

Juanita Barton stated that there had been previous discussion that there may be money left over from other Referendum projects that may be useable for the Cuyler project. Cheryl Page stated that although this is true, all projects would have to be completed to determine if there would be any left-over money. Mrs. Page stated that the projected goal for completion is 3-5 years. Ms. Barton then inquired what steps the committee should take as far as planning and the lack of funds available at the current time. Cheryl Page replied that the committee should make decisions on what they would like to see at the park and then seek funding, possibly through grants or other funding sources. If there were any Referendum money left, it would not be available for at least 3-5 years. Dwight Seigler also reminded the committee that Chuck Nelson was going to check with stormwater to see about possible funding and using the retention area on the Cuyler property for drainage.

Juanita Barton stated that the Civic League has a web site and inquired if the minutes could be put on the web site once they were approved. Cheryl Page replied that they could be only if they were approved minutes.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT FOR FUTURE USE FOR CUYLER PARK

Cheryl Page explained that staff had provided two modified maps of the park. One of the maps was modified by Anthony Britt, the Community Center Coordinator for Cuyler Park and one by Mike Rubacky, Parks Maintenance Superintendent. The modified maps provided staff suggestions for the future changes and beautification to the park. Mrs. Page showed the committee a current map of the Cuyler Complex and the modified versions. Staff suggestions are as follows:

1. Keep the same entrance to the park.
2. New large pavilion area with a kitchen and restrooms.

3. Move the exercise equipment to the area near the playground area.
4. Move the retention pond to the north and use the current retention area for parking.
5. Add bleachers and Bermuda grass to the softball field.
6. On the new property purchase, enlarge the small pond that exists for beautification and add small picnic shelters.
7. Additional restroom by the basketball courts.

Cheryl Page stated any additions that would be done would have to be ADA accessible. She further stated that there are some ADA issues in the facility now that will be addressed with the North Area budget when funding becomes available.

An audience member questioned if the area that Mrs. Page was speaking about for the large pavilion was the area that could be used for a pool. Mrs. Page stated that a pool was previously discussed for that area, however staff is not recommending a pool because of the costs to build the pool. She further stated that if the committee wanted a pool, staff could explore that option. Mrs. Page stated that there is an agreement in place with the School Board to use area school pools during the summer.

An audience member stated that she had been to other parks that had outside restrooms with air-conditioning and inquired if that was possible for this facility. Cheryl Page stated that this was a funding issue but it could be investigated. Another audience member inquired if the trees would stay on the property recently purchased. Cheryl Page stated that staff would like to keep the trees that are on the property.

Cheryl Page stated that fencing would be needed and that the committee could choose decorative fencing rather than chain-link fence.

Juanita Barton inquired what projected activities these drawings were based on and how it would improve the quality of life for all ages in the community. Cheryl Page stated that the drawings were based around the fixed structures that are unmoveable. Ms. Barton further stated that the Civic League had sent a letter to Parks & Recreation approximately six months ago about improvement to the park and a place to hold dances and have scout meetings. Ms. Barton felt that none of these concerns had been addressed in the drawings Ms. Page was reviewing with the committee.

Ms. Barton and Mr. Seigler then discussed the possibility of getting funds from Stormwater for drainage to the retention pond on the Cuyler property. Juanita Barton was concerned that by doing this it would prevent expanding the park and purchase of future property. Mr. Seigler stated that using the property for drainage would not affect the purchase of property in the future. A brief discussion ensued about possible purchase of property and additions to the current buildings in the future.

Juanita Barton inquired if the County employed an architect. Cheryl Page stated that the County does not employ an architect directly. Ms. Page then stated Parks Construction has experience in these types of projects and she could ask estimates on costs based on previous projects.

Juanita Barton stated that she is not undermining what staff has done on these drawings. She would like to make sure that the property is maximized.

Cheryl Page requested that the committee prioritize a list of the improvements the community would like to see at the park. Dwight Seigler suggested moving the exercise equipment along the exercise trail so it would be more frequently used. Parking issues were then briefly discussed.

Juanita Barton suggested that everyone take their drawings home and think about what they would like to see in the park. She further requested that staff review the letter that was sent by the Civic League previously to address the issues that the Civic League brought forward.

An audience member questioned why the annex building was so cold. Cheryl Page replied the original construction of the air-conditioning unit was overbuilt for the size of the facility. There is a report on the issues that is available. Pending funding, minor adjustments to help the problem will be done.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting date was set for Monday, October 22, 2001, at 6:00 p.m, at the Cuyler Park Annex.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:03 p.m. at the motion by Juanita Barton, seconded by Corine Saunders.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Seigler, Chairman

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