

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, January 24, 2005, at 7:00 p.m., at the Cuyler Park Annex.

Members Present

Dwight Seigler, Chairman
LeRoy Fogle, Jr.
Shawn Harris
Deborah Rodwell

Members Absent

Corine Saunders—Excused

Dr. Ron Bobay, Ex-Officio (NBCPR)

County Staff Present

Cheryl K. Page, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager
Tommy Myers, Community Center Coordinator
Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dwight Seigler called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Shawn Harris arrived just after roll call and Corine Saunders was unable to attend due to illness.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by LeRoy Fogle, Jr., seconded by Deborah Rodwell, to approve the minutes of September 17, 2001.

AYE: Fogle, Harris, Rodwell, Seigler

NAY: None Carried 4-0

IV. STAFF REPORTS

Terry Lane reported the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation appointed LeRoy Fogle, Jr., in the seat formerly held by Juanita Barton who is now on staff.

Mr. Lane announced Tommy Myers is the community center coordinator at Cuyler Park, so there is now a recreation leader vacancy. In response to an inquiry from Shawn Harris, Mr. Lane reported candidates for a position are interviewed by a panel of two or three staff in the North Area, which for this vacancy would be Tommy Myers and Charlene Neuterman, recreation superintendent. The policy is to select the best person for the position.

Mr. Lane presented the newly published Parks Directory which is also being placed on the Internet at brevardparks.com and will be updated as things change. Chairman Seigler stated he has seen many around the state and this is the best. Mrs. Page gave credit to Jan McLarty in Parks and Recreation Administration.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Use of Remaining Funds—Terry Lane reported the remaining balance for the project is \$15,166.

Chairman Seigler stated the Committee needs to decide what to do with remaining \$15,000 because it is not enough to fill the hole.

In response to an inquiry from Shawn Harris regarding time frame for spending the money, Mrs. Page indicated the Referendum is for 20 years. It is in the bank and drawing interest. Mrs. Page confirmed for Deborah Rodwell there is not a worry about time lapse.

Shawn Harris asked if there are any ideas or recommendations coming from staff as to what to do with the money. Terry Lane responded, as staff, there are few things that have been discussed, and ideas have come from the community. There is a depression in the new area which if filled would be usable for festivals. Parks and Recreation Construction Services provided an total estimate of \$60,300 for clearing, 5300 cubic yards of fill dirt, removal of trees and vegetation, seeding and mulching. Mrs. Page noted estimates can go up and down.

Chairman Seigler reported Mr. Brown suggested using dirt from Fox Lake, but that project was almost completed at the time. There has been recent discussion of using fill from Chain of Lakes. Mr. Lane reported the fill dirt estimate is at \$5/cubic yard for 5300 cubic yard and totals \$26,500. If the dirt were to come from County property, then there is the cost of trucking and other issues. Chairman Seigler inquired how many truck loads would be required and asked if Parks and Recreation has trucks. Staff wasn't sure of the number, and stated the trucks would have to come from Roadways. LeRoy Fogle, Jr. inquired if dirt from Chain of Lakes is an option. Mrs. Page reported that has been discussed but staff won't know until further into the project, possibly in the next two or three months, if there will be any extra dirt.

Shawn Harris stated he is trying to make sure the Committee takes a new approach to things and that all are on the same page. He asked if Tommy Myers is in agreement with this. Mr. Myers responded whatever the community wants, he will support. Mr. Harris stated if staff has any concerns, he would like to know. Mr. Myers stated he really appreciated that, because when getting a pool was discussed, it shook him that staff was not

consulted. Mr. Harris stated the focus is on a positive future rather than a negative past.

Mr. Lane reported two other projects have been identified. One is the softball field which is currently 280'. The standard for slow pitch softball field is a minimum of 300'. An estimate for extension of the field by relocating the backstop and dugouts backwards to the light poles totals \$49,300 for demolition of existing backstop, bleacher pads, dugouts and storage building, relocation of electrical panels, pump and control panel and installation of new backstop, well, clay, new fencing to existing outfield fencing, dugouts and bleacher pads. The largest expense is \$12,000 for new backstop and \$23,000 for new chain-link dugouts. Mrs. Page reported the prototype for dugouts is at Holder Park for Mims Little League. Chairman Seigler inquired who would do the construction. Mr. Lane reported it would be bid for a general contractor, or the department can contract each portion to save money. Chairman Seigler reported the fields are not being used because of small size. Shawn Harris thought Parks and Recreation had a league playing at Cuyler. Mr. Lane confirmed that is true during the summer when NBYSA plays at Marina. Mr. Harris stated it would help being able to host tournaments and improvements would benefit Parks and Recreation. He remembers years ago working real hard to get the field up and running, built dugouts, etc. Mr. Harris wants to see how this can be approached together. He can find some funds, but doesn't want to have to raise 100% of it. Mr. Lane reported Mike Barnes is the current athletic coordinator. Mr. Lane confirmed for Mr. Harris that Parks and Recreation staff is in favor of extending the field. Chairman Seigler inquired if there is any additional funding to get the project going. Mr. Lane reported staff is starting the budgeting project next month and he is putting together a list things to be put in the budget for next year and this can be included. Mr. Harris stated willingness to help and the need to find out what is important.

Chairman Seigler stated it is in previous minutes that he wasn't happy about a \$15,000,000 Referendum and the amount Cuyler received. Mr. Lane stated he will submit it in the budget.

Mr. Lane reported the other item that has been identified by the community and staff is the gymnasium. The north wall has a steel covering, but the other three walls are bare insulation that has been ripped and taped continuously. That has been identified as a need. Shawn Harris noted he coaches basketball so the gymnasium is important to him and asked if the backboards are fiberglass. Mr. Myers indicated they are [glass backboards with] break away [rims], which Mr. Lane reported were purchased about two years ago. Mrs. Page stated, to Terry Lane's credit, repair of the insulation was submitted in the budget request for the

past two years. Chairman Seigler stated he was not finished with the gym yet. There have been times when people wanted to book more than one activity. Before it was available for multi-purpose use. The air conditioners (A/C) are so loud no one can hear over them. New outside A/C units like at Gibson Gym are needed, so the gym could serve two purposes. He requested costs for replacing the A/C.

Deborah asked if the lighting is still dim. Mr. Lane explained the halogen lights are yellowish. Staff tried to brighten it up by painting the walls off white. The rubber floor being orange-tan contributes to the problem. The lights need to be upgraded.

Mr. Fogle asked if the Committee could look at the need to upgrade to hurricane shelter standards and work it together. Mr. Lane reported Bob Lay was looking at the facility to see what would have to be done to make it a hurricane shelter. Mrs. Page indicated that would be very expensive. Mr. Fogle stated that if that is a possibility, the Committee wouldn't want to spend money for something that might be torn apart. Chairman Seigler mentioned Cuyler could even be an after hurricane shelter and suggested finding out from Mr. Lay before hurricane season starts. Mr. Harris stated FEMA money might be available and he spoke with Mr. Nelson who said he wasn't opposed to it, but didn't want to have to spend any money. Mr. Harris questioned the life cycle of the A/C's. Mrs. Page thought they may have been replaced. Chairman Seigler suggested perhaps they could be installed differently, using ducts. Mrs. Page stated sometimes renovations cost more than new buildings and asked if the community had asked CDBG for funding. Chairman Seigler stated CDBF funding this year will be slim to none because there are so many projects on the books County-wide that haven't been started. Shawn Harris reported he will look into that as he is on the board and will see what is available. He made sure Mims received their fair share in years past. Mrs. Page reported a lot of funding is going to Sharpes Community Center. Mr. Harris reported East Mims got everything they could get years ago, and maybe it's East Mims' time again. Chairman Seigler noted the \$1 million Harry T. Moore Avenue [road] project has been on the books for years and hasn't started yet. Now they are saying it should start any day.

At the request of Deborah Rodwell, Terry Lane listed the projects discussed as follows:

- \$ Depression in new property
- \$ Softball field renovation
- \$ Gymnasium walls/insulation
- \$ Gymnasium A/C brought up by Shawn Harris
- \$ Shelter upgrades brought up by Chairman Seigler.

Chairman Seigler reported that before bad news was received about CDBG funding, some were looking at a dressing room addition behind stage in the Annex. CDBG funding could be used to enclose the open area between the gym and Annex.

Mr. Lane reported staff will continue to ask for funding for Cuyler Community Learning Center which has been a great program where children have grown up and gone to college.

Deborah Rodwell asked if the decision needed to be made tonight. Mr. Lane stated it is an opportunity to go on record to show what the community needs. Shawn Harris stated the need to talk to people before prioritizing the projects. Ms. Rodwell suggested prioritizing could be an agenda item for East Mims Civic League. Mrs. Page reminded the Committee that only one of the Committee members can be present during discussion of Referendum money because of the Sunshine Law.

Shawn Harris stated he would like some kind of input from staff on how would staff would prioritize it. Terry Lane stated that as far as staff prioritizing, safety is a number one concern. The insulation is safe, but not good looking. Softball dugouts may be a safety concern as roofs are gone, so they need to be removed or repaired. Mr. Harris inquired about FEMA funding for damage. Mr. Lane reported FEMA auditors are currently reviewing requests. The third auditor is correcting what was done before.

Mrs. Page commented on one of the projects and noted when East Mims had a carnival last year, the carnival wouldn't go in the new area because it was soft, so there may be more problems with the depression. Chairman Seigler stated it is not soft there.

Chairman Seigler stated it seems like if it will benefit not just Cuyler Park but North Area Parks Operations and everyone in the North Area as a whole to have the softball field, so in his opinion it should be priority number one. There would actually be more use in the park. Maybe some revenue can be found for the other two projects.

Shawn Harris suggested that since there is no time frame, to see if other things will materialize and then set the priority to spend the money.

Chairman Seigler stated the Committee doesn't want to miss an opportunity for dirt from Chain of Lakes. Mrs. Page stated staff mentions it at the project meetings. Mr. Lane reported work has started from the north at Jay Jay Road doing soccer fields first and then moving south. Mrs. Page reported there will be softball fields at Chain of Lakes

also. Mr. Harris, stated the community still needs a field at Cuyler. In response to Chairman Seigler's inquiry as to the Chain of Lake time table, Mr. Lane reported the soccer fields need to be done by August 1, 2005, and the rest of the project completion is estimated as January of 2006 for substantial completion.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Seigler mentioned small in-house projects such as lights in front under the walkway to gym. Mr. Myers reported that was discussed today and there will be a meeting about that tomorrow. Mr. Lane reported this is Mr. Myers' first week and he is putting together a list, safety first, and then moving on to the rest of the list. Chairman Seigler reported the spotlight on corner of gym has been out for a long time. Mr. Lane reported there have been issues with timers which will be checked. Mr. Lane reported Mr. Myers promised things will be correct within the next two months. He asked that suggestions be passed on because staff wants to do all that can be done this year.

Chairman Seigler noted the men's restroom faucets are dirty, which Mr. Myers reported have been replaced. Deborah Rodwell noted the ladies' restroom was dark. Mrs. Page reported it is brighter now. Shawn Harris stated Tommy Myers will do a good job.

It was decided the next meeting will be April 18, 2005, at 6 p.m. Mr. Lane stated that by then it will be known what has been submitted in the budget request. The budget process is started in February and usually budgets are submitted to Parks and Recreation Administration in March, then reviews are scheduled and final approval is in late September.

VII. PUBLIC INPUT--None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. at the motion by Shawn Harris, second by LeRoy Fogle, Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Seigler, Chairman