

HARRY T. & HARRIETTE V. MOORE MEMORIAL PARK REFERENDUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Memorial Park Referendum Committee meeting held on Tuesday, August 28, 2001, at 6 p.m., at the Cuyler Park Annex, in Mims, Florida.

Committee Members Present

- Clarence Rowe, Chairperson
- Ernestine Jamerson
- Dr. Maxwell King
- David N. Rich
- Kathy Turnquest
- Mildred Whitehead

Committee Members Absent

- Cleave S. Frink
- Rev. Joyce Harvey—excused
- Rev. W. James McClam, Jr.
- Leroy G. Smith
- Dr. Frank E. Williams
- Juanita Wright, Vice Chairman

County Staff Present

- Jack Masson, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
- Greg Minor, Special Projects Coordinator IV
- Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER—Chairman Clarence Rowe called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL—As stated above. Rev. Joyce Harvey was excused because of illness.

Motion by Mildred Whitehead, seconded by Ernestine Jamerson, that Juanita Wright, Jay Diggs, Cleave Frink, Rev. McClam, Leroy Smith, and Dr. Frank Williams are absent from the meeting and not properly excused.

AYE: Jamerson, King, Rich, Rowe, Turnquest, Whitehead

NAY: None

6-0

III. STATUS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS—No one responded to Chairman Rowe’s inquiry if any could not fulfill their duties as members of the committee. He noted Ronald Barton’s resignation and asked the secretary to send a letter thanking him for his services and wishing him well. Judy Inman reported Mr. Barton indicated he would volunteer at the homesite when it is open.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 27, 2001, meeting were accepted at the motion by Maxwell King, seconded by David Rich.

AYE: Jamerson, King, Rich, Rowe, Turnquest, Whitehead

NAY: None

6-0

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. 501(c)(3) Status—Chairman Rowe reported he spoke with Shannon Wilson who asked that staff not contact Tallahassee, but give her an opportunity to expedite the incorporation. Mrs. Wilson told her that she requested the fees be waived which Chairman Rowe understands may be in the \$500-\$600 range. Chairman Rowe asked her to let him know the amount of the fee so he can ask the County Commissioners or some other body for a donation in order to expedite the process. She had planned to be here today, but her husband was in the emergency room, and Chairman Rowe suggested she take care of her family. Chairman Rowe stated he will have some information regarding the status of the 501(c)(3) before the next meeting. If there is a fee, Chairman Rowe requested the board’s permission to do a presentation to see if some contributions can be obtained from individuals or the County Commissioners.

Dr. King stated he finds it unusual for this to be so bogged down and requested Jack Masson personally look into it. David Rich indicated there was no fee even approaching \$500 when the Enchanted Forest was established.

Motion by David Rich, seconded by Maxwell King, to authorize the chairman to go out and raise the funds to pay whatever fee is necessary to obtain the 501(c)(3).

AYE: Jamerson, King, Rich, Rowe, Turnquest, Whitehead

NAY: None

6-0

B. Report on Project Design—Jack Masson reported Greg Minor has been working diligently on the project and indicated staff feels they have a fairly firm estimate on the project, including phase one and the Referendum portion of the project also. The legislative appropriation of \$700,000 was slightly less than what was requested the State provide. The Referendum provides \$110,000 for additional elements for the park. Staff estimated all the improvements are approximately \$1,266,000. Obviously that is more than the revenue available. Mr. Masson noted the project will be completed in phases. Staff would like to make a presentation at the next meeting with recommended cost savings to make the revenue and expense portions equal and then receive approval from the committee as to the direction desired so staff can bid the project.

Mr. Masson explained the \$110,000 Referendum side which was approved would basically be improvements on the west side:

- Parking area
- Two 20' x 40' pavilions. Mr. Masson noted Chairman Rowe suggested at the last meeting that be one larger structure which staff can look at.
- Playground
- Fencing

The original phase with dollars from the State appropriation would include:

- Infrastructure
- Interpretive Center
- Parking
- Amenities

Mr. Masson reported Mr. Minor has worked very closely with Thaddeus Cohen in working on the 100% plans. Mr. Minor displayed and explained the drawing for the park and reported the project is fully permitted. The St. John River Water Management District (SJRWMD) required extensive retention areas. In response to an inquiry from Chairman Rowe, Mr. Minor reported of the 9.92 acres at the site, approximately 2.2 acres are needed for retention. Mr. Minor explained the County attempts to make the retention aesthetically pleasing, to a shallow depth of 1 to 1-1/2 feet, with a gentle slope as required by code.

One of the elements not included in the Legislative funding or the Referendum is the restroom on the west side near the pavilion. The prototype used by Parks and Recreation costs \$102,513 which includes supporting elements, provides for longevity, and addresses maintenance and vandalism. The 40' x 60' pavilion is not in the funding. Mr. Minor reported all projects have a 10% contingency for unforeseen problems such as muck and other variables. If the contingency is not spent, it goes back to the user group or the funding source.

Chairman Rowe inquired if the contingency also includes possible sink holes. Mr. Minor agreed it would and testing is performed to determine that. The location of the retention was reviewed. In response to inquiries from Mr. Rich, Mr. Minor indicated it is permitted as wet retention, but may not always be wet. Elevations were discussed. Mr. Rich noted orange groves were usually built on scrub land so it may

usually be dry. Mr. Rich noted it should be available as a play area a lot of the time. When asked, Mr. Minor indicated that is not typically what the County does. Chairman Rowe noted the retention area near Cuyler Annex which appears to be dry most of the time and suggested looking at it after the meeting. Discussion regarding retention ensued.

Mr. Minor reported the experience of the County is it is best to permit the entire master site plan to save costs. The SJRWMD permit is good for five years. The County Site Plan requires construction to commence within a year.

Mr. Masson stated the County is ready to go to bid, but with the dollar difference, staff needs to go back and look at some innovative ways to save money such as in-house work. The information will be brought to the committee at the next meeting.

Dr. King spoke for moving ahead with the project and get some of the construction started. More money can be raised if necessary.

Chairman Rowe stated he is in agreement with Dr. King, however, he had a question as to whether or not the committee can move ahead without the 501(c)(3). He would like to see it move straight ahead and put it out for bid and staff come back and say what is needed.

Mr. Masson indicated the construction side can move ahead without the 501(c)(3), but the County is limited to those dollars available from the appropriation and the Referendum. The 501(c)(3) is the vehicle for the committee to raise additional funds which are not currently budgeted. Mr. Masson indicated staff would like to come to this body at its next meeting to give ways to reduce the estimate and then receive approval from the committee to move forward with the bid. It is too early to bid at this point due to difference in the estimate and funds currently available.

Chairman Rowe stated he would like to follow staff's recommendations. Mr. Masson indicated this is an important project and wants to follow the committee's recommendation.

Dr. King stated he thinks staff will do a professional job in getting it ready, but this committee needs to stand ready to meet as quickly as possible before there is an escalation in costs.

Chairman Rowe again agreed with Dr. King. He thanked staff for their foresight in getting the necessary permits. He also stated that based on the seriousness of getting the project off the ground, once staff has the information, the committee should meet following proper notification. Mr. Masson stated he and Mr. Minor will discuss the time required and let Mrs. Page contact Chairman Rowe to schedule a called meeting.

Mr. Masson stated the bottom line is obviously there are some elements which were not funded, but staff wanted the A&E to come back with an estimate in order to design a good project of which all should be very proud.

Chairman Rowe inquired if it is too late to put together a package for legislative appropriation. Mr. Masson reported that has been completed for this year. Chairman Rowe suggested making a request next year.

Motion by Maxwell King, seconded by Ernestine Jamerson, to have a plan for next year's budget cycle for legislative funding.

AYE: Jamerson, King, Rich, Rowe, Turnquest, Whitehead

NAY: None

6-0

C. Referendum—Mr. Masson indicated the Referendum was addressed earlier in the meeting. Chairman Rowe noted the Welcome and Referendum Guidelines attachments to the agenda.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT & PERSONAL APPEARANCES—

A. Sonny Ellison introduced Mary and Jim Harrell who are retired school teachers and some of New Smyrna's finest citizens. They put together the Black Heritage Museum which was built in a restored church. They organized a Martin Luther King parade for many years. Mr. Ellison indicated he brought them here because they have had experience with obtaining a 501(c)(3). Mr. Ellison stated they want to spread the word in New Smyrna about the Moore family and look forward to the day to celebrate the park's opening.

Jim Harrell stated he is impressed with what the committee is doing and the business session today. He reported they restored the old Colored Mission Church in New Smyrna Beach, obtained funding from the State, and received very generous local contributions for the museum. Mrs. Harrell chaired the restoration committee and now is director of the museum and Mr. Harrell is in charge of the building and grounds. Funds are limited and in kind contributions are made. They are applying for grants.

In response to inquiries from Mr. Masson, Mrs. Harrell indicated the renovation grant was a general grant from Tallahassee and they are applying for an operational grant. Because the mission was a Catholic church, much of the funding came from the diocese and other churches around the state. They had the 501(c)(3) before going to the state for funding. Mr. Masson stated he wouldn't want to compete with the Harrells, but would like to know what state agencies fund operation.

Kathy Turnquest stated she will be attending a Neighborhood Alliance Seminar in Orlando, September 7-8, which includes seminars on applying for grants. She suggested looking for grants on the Internet under HUD.

Sonny Ellison invited people to the museum which is open Thursday through Sunday or by appointment. Chairman Rowe suggested using a County van for the committee to visit the museum after it is out from under this pressure.

Mrs. Harrell reminded the committee of the Make a Difference Day program. Chairman Rowe requested that information be submitted to the secretary who will make proper notification to the committee. Dr. King stated he hopes that includes the Harrell's brochure and suggested the committee needs to be thinking about their initial brochure.

Sonny Ellison reported a portion of the museum will be dedicated to the Moores and asked for any letters they wrote or pictures of the family which would be appreciated.

Chairman Rowe inquired if the County has a grant writer. Mr. Masson responded the department writes their own grant requests within the office. Chairman Rowe suggested staff keep an eye on the Internet for other sources of funding.

Juanita Barton reported she is hoping in a short while the site will be ready and be used for festivals which can be a means of successful fund raising. Ms. Barton stated she is a social person and would like to be a part of the committee that works on something like that. She would also like to be a part of the dedication ceremony which should be really spectacular and different than any other Parks and Recreation has had. She offered to volunteer her services for that as well.

Chairman Rowe reported the fair in Orlando is funded through the State Legislature which assures they have money every year to initiate the fair. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Barton, Chairman Rowe stated he thinks they began with Legislative support.

Ms. Turnquest reviewed the various types of grants which need to be applied for within a certain amount of time.

Mrs. Harrell suggested the committee has a great opportunity to have a Moore Festival, much greater than any with which she has been associated.

Dr. King suggested most grants are given for good causes and there is no better cause than the Moores. He suggested once this is off and running, big requests will be coming in to help support the project.

Chairman Rowe lamented the fact that more from the public and community don't participate. Three out-of-town guests and only one from the community attended this meeting. He stated he thinks it is important the community be involved on the ground floor and wanted that to be part of the minutes. Proper notification is made and only a few meetings have been well attended. He stated the need to get the word out to the community.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Chairman Rowe announced Juanita Evangeline Moore's birthday is September 3 and suggested cards be sent.

B. Chairman Moore drew attention to an e-mail from Mrs. Boettcher regarding Unity Day on November 3 in Brooklet, Georgia, in honor of Juanita Evangeline Moore's parents.

C. Chairman Rowe distributed a booklet from Malone, museum professionals, featuring their services. He noted there will be public proposals for whomever gets the contract.

Ernestine Jamerson announced she attended an event honoring Rev. William Stafford at St. James Church in Titusville last weekend. On Friday morning, August 24, Crandall Warren passed away. The funeral is August 29 at 3:30 p.m. at St. James Missionary Baptist Church. The family requested donations to East Mims Progressive Civic League Scholarship Fund for children in this community in lieu of flowers. Ms. Jamerson suggested sending a card and said she had one at home she could send.

Motion by Maxwell King, seconded by Mildred Whitehead, to send a sympathy recognition to the family of Crandall Warren, former committee member.

AYE: Jamerson, King, Rich, Rowe, Turnquest, Whitehead

NAY: None

6-0

Chairman Rowe directed staff to send the card.

VIII. MEETING SCHEDULE--The next meeting was tentatively set for September 25, 6:00 p.m., but can be earlier based on progress of the staff.

IX. ADJOURN--Meeting adjourned at about 6:20 p.m. at the motion by Dr. King.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence Rowe, Chairman jbi

On August 29, 2001, Juanita Wright called the North Area Parks Operations office to report she was unable to attend the meeting due to the death of Crandall Warren.