

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

Meeting held on Tuesday, March 11, 2003, at 6 p.m., at the Cuyler Park Annex, in Mims, Florida.

Members Present

Clarence Rowe, Chairman
Juanita Wright, Vice Chairman
J. Albert Diggs, Jr.
Ernestine Jamerson
Dr. Maxwell King
David N. Rich
Leroy G. Smith
Mildred Whitehead

Members Absent

Gloria Bartley
Juanita Barton
Rev. Joyce Harvey
Kathy Turnquest

County Staff Present

Charles S. Nelson, Parks & Recreation Director
Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER—Chairman Clarence Rowe called the meeting to order shortly after 6 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL—As shown above.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Leroy Smith, seconded by J. Albert Diggs, Jr., to approve the minutes of August 27, 2002.

AYE: Diggs, Jamerson, King, Rich, Rowe, Smith, Whitehead, Wright

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Report on Project—Mr. Nelson reported on events since the last meeting. Mr. Nelson was to go to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to request a loan for the Foundation, however the BOCC had to deal with the Capit issue. This presented a challenge in calculating millage and the budget was put on hold. There was the potential of \$6 million in budget cuts. Therefore, it was not possible to go to the BOCC to borrow money at that time. In November there was a ruling that Capit was unconstitutional therefore a non-issue.

In January the County received notice from the State that grants were being extended only through June of 2003 which is tied to the State's fiscal year. The State is currently dealing with the bullet train (rail) approved by voters and the class size issue. They were looking for funds anywhere they could find them. Any grants older than three years will not be extended.

The extension up to the June time frame was approved a week ago. Mr. Nelson recognized Chairman Rowe and Mr. Smith who appeared before the BOCC to secure their support and the support of the Legislative Delegation and lobbyists to get an additional extension.

The County is going to do everything possible to get the project done in the time frame. Road and Bridge (Roadways and Landscaping) started the site work this week, with clearing, and will place the building pad which should total about \$300,000. The County has project managers under contract who will price it from subs and come back with a price which is then negotiated. The advantage of that is the project doesn't have to go to the BOCC to go to bid, therefore construction could start by the middle of April. The exact amount will be known next Monday.

The reason it was planned to request a loan was because there wasn't enough money to start construction. The County's fiscal year starts October 1. The North Area budget had some savings and had about \$350,000 to be put towards the project. Based on that, it is possible to proceed with the project. The need to get the State to extend still exists. The State money will have been expended by that time, but an extension is needed to be sure the project is funded to completion.

Mr. Nelson reported that he met with the State budget director. What the field people were told was that if a project is moving forward, it will be funded until completion. The Committee has done a lot of work and that took time and it took extraordinary steps. The Committee needs to do a program of support of the project, to secure the governor's blessing for the continued funding. Individuals can prepare letters to request an extension through the end of the year at least. Mr. Nelson will prepare a letter for the chairman's signature asking for the support.

Based on Chairman Rowe's and Leroy Smith's presentation before the BOCC, the project does have the support of the BOCC, the Legislative Delegation and lobbyists. Representative Posey is ready to do that and is optimistic. The positive thing is that the funding has

been identified. The Foundation can secure funds to build the home. It looks like it won't be necessary to request a loan from the BOCC to the Foundation.

Chairman Rowe reported he asked for a year's extension because of hurricane season and other possible inclement weather. Mr. Nelson stated he will ask for a year, but plans to get it done sooner. Maxwell King thanked Mr. Nelson and staff for their work. He noted that once the project is underway, it is a lot easier for the State to authorize a continuation, and he suggested showing pictures. Mr. Nelson agreed with Dr. King and stated he will not put all the eggs in the extension basket. He will push to get it done within the time frame. Dr. King stated he has never seen a project that is underway not extended. Mr. Nelson stated that on the positive side, with Referendum funds and North Area Parks Operations budget, the County will have as much money into project as the State has. The County is putting in a half a million dollars.

Motion by Maxwell King, seconded by Ernestine Jamerson, with the help of staff, to authorize the chairman to sign a letter and authorize members to send letters as well to the State requesting an extension of State funding for the project.

AYE: Diggs, Jamerson, King, Rich, Rowe, Smith, Whitehead, Wright

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

Mr. Nelson offered to assist Committee members in writing letters as well.

Motion by Dave Rich, seconded by Maxwell King, to express appreciation to Cheryl Page and the North Area Parks Operations for being so frugal.

AYE: Diggs, Jamerson, King, Rich, Rowe, Smith, Whitehead, Wright

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

In response to a question from Mr. Rich, Mr Nelson stated the projected expenses will be part of next year's budget which will start about the same time.

Mr. Rich inquired about displays in the building. Mr. Nelson stated he will have to identify who to hire as curator and have that person begin that program closer to 90 days.

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Dr. King stated it would be nice of Mr. Nelson to communicate to Evangeline Moore the progress. Mr. Nelson stated that she made quite an impression in Tallahassee recently.

Leroy Smith suggested sending a request to Home Depot and Lowe's about providing supplies for the construction of the home as a tax writeoff. The dollar amount needs to be known. Chairman Rowe stated he has already spoken to both corporations. They need a list of what is needed, however Chairman Rowe prefers to concentration on the complex and later deal with that subject. If the County staff can get the list together, the corporations can make decision.

Mr. Nelson suggested meeting monthly during construction. The next step is to agree on what the home is to look like, then make the list. Mr. King noted it would be a real public relations tool in building the home. Many groups such as students can be enlisted to help with construction.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

In response to an inquiry from Brenda Gray regarding the number of trees to be removed for construction, Mr. Nelson reported many of the orange trees will have to go, but a tremendous amount, particularly oaks, will remain. The greatest change is in the center of the site and in the SE corner with gentle swales for water retention. Impervious surfaces such as parking require water to be treated.

VI. NEW BUSINESS--None

Mr. Nelson thanked everyone for coming on such short notice. Dr. King thanked Mr. Smith and Chairman Rowe for going to the BOCC. He also suggested using the start of the project for publicity in the newspaper. Mr. Nelson suggested doing that when ready to start the museum piece.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence Rowe, Chairman (Unavailable to sign)

Juanita Wright, Vice Chairman