

MARINA PARK REFERENDUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the April 28, 2003, meeting of the Marina Park Referendum Committee, appointed by the North Brevard Commission on Parks & Recreation (NBCPR), held at 5:00 p.m., in the Brevard Room at the Brevard County Government Complex North in Titusville, Florida.

Members Present

JiJi Connolly
Tommy Grimes
William Horner
Charles "Pat" Lafferty
Rick Manning
Paul Nydam
Mark Leslie, City Ex-Officio
Ted Beck, then Scott Johnson, attending in place of Ken Carlson

Members Absent

Mary Pistel
Ken Carlson, County Ex-Officio

County Staff Present

Charles S. Nelson, Parks & Recreation Director
Jack Masson, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Chuck Mays, Construction Coordinator
Cheryl K. Page, North Area Parks Operations Manager
Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ted Beck, Chairman of the North Brevard Commission on Parks on Recreation (NBCPR), called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Cheryl Page introduced staff present and asked the committee members to introduce themselves and state their interest in the project.

- Mark Leslie is dockmaster at the Titusville Municipal Marina and liaison for the City.
- Ted Beck, Chairman of the NBCPR was filling in for Ken Carlson who is liaison for the County.
- JiJi Connolly, a native Floridian, is interested in horticultural, wildlife, and native plants.
- Paul Nydam is interested as an added voice as he has traveled around the world and has seen quite a bit.
- Rick Manning has been associated with Titusville Little League (TLL) for the past nine years as board member or coach and would like to give input on the ball park.
- Pat Lafferty, a 34-year resident, has been with TLL 11 years as manager or coach, with obvious interest.
- Tommy Grimes, born and raised in Titusville—24 years, represents the interest of the Jay Dickenson Skate Facility, and North Brevard Coalition of Skaters.
- Bill Horner, a native Floridian, moved to Titusville in 1966, has six children and his two boys played LL. He has six grandchildren all of whom are involved in LL.
- Mary Pistel was not present, but Mrs. Page stated Ms. Pistel is past president of TLL and still has children in LL.

Mrs. Page reviewed Florida in the Sunshine information in the packet. All meetings must be scheduled and advertized as public meetings. Committee members must not discuss the project with each other outside of a public meeting. All must vote unless a fiscal conflict of interest is stated. Minutes are generally mailed prior to the next meeting. There were no questions on the Sunshine Law.

II. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Ted Beck asked for nominations for chairman. Bill Horner nominated JiJi Connolly who declined. JiJi Connolly nominated Bill Horner, seconded by Paul Nydam, however Mr. Horner asked to withhold.

Nomination by JiJi Connolly, seconded by Bill Horner, for Paul Nydam to serve as chairman of the committee.

AYE: Connolly, Grimes, Horner, Lafferty, Manning, Nydam

NAY: None

Carried 6-0

Ted Beck turned the gavel over to Paul Nydam who asked for nominations for vice chairman.

Nomination by Rick Manning, seconded by Tommy Grimes, for Pat Lafferty to serve as vice chairman of the committee.

AYE: Connolly, Grimes, Horner, Lafferty, Manning, Nydam

NAY: None

Carried 6-0

III. STAFF REPORTS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Meeting Agenda—Bill Horner suggested changes to the agenda by adding public comment immediately following approval of the minutes as an accommodation to those who may not be able to attend the entire meeting, allowing them three minutes for general comments. Discussion ensued and he decided to withdraw that from his recommendation and suggested that those who complete speaker cards to comment on agenda items be given five minutes, and then public input be like the City's petitions and requests where speakers would be given three minutes. After considerable discussion, Mr. Horner made a motion that the public be allowed to speak to an agenda item for five minutes and under public input have three minutes. The motion died for lack of a second.

Ted Beck left the meeting during the following discussion and asked Scott Johnson, who had just arrived, to take his place representing the NBCPR.

B. Project—Chuck Nelson handed out a packet of documents between the County, City and DEP which give a synopsis of what has transpired related to the project.

The first document relates to direction given by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to Mr. Nelson and the Parks and Recreation Department to proceed with the design for Marina Park, and as practical, staff can look to parking and water retention. In the key points of discussion at the Board of County Commissioners' meeting, Mr. Nelson suggested the need to go through the process, design the park with the Referendum elements, then as beneficial and practical, look at other issues. Mr. Nelson's report to the BOCC is included.

The next two documents relate to the City rescinding the withdrawal of five acres from Marina Park.

The last document is a letter from DEP to the Mayor regarding the dedication and indicating any change will take approval of the Governor and Cabinet.

Mr. Nelson reported on beginning the process of the park design. First there was a pre-meeting to talk about the process. The second discussion was regarding a concept plan for the project, but that is not ready as yet. He stated that the normal process is for the staff to work with the A&E to prepare a project that reflects the Referendum. It then comes to the Committee to comment, review and send to the NBCPR. The Interlocal Agreement with the City provides for Brevard County Parks and Recreation to be in partnership with the City to develop and manage parks. The City of Titusville has the ultimate right of approval because Marina is a City park. The BOCC has the right to comment. If still at odds, the process will be determined.

Mr. Nelson reported that Bill Horner has a set of the plans, but they were reluctantly given because the

drafts will change along the way. There are things staff doesn't like and doesn't want to have to defend in revisions. He would like this Committee to meet as needed to get the project going. The Committee needs to approve a plan.

Paul Nydam stated he hasn't seen the plans as yet and asked how Vectorworks affects the plan. Mr. Nelson stated that at this point in time staff has not looked at the park in terms of any needs other than the Referendum elements and the Titusville Municipal Marina as the boat ramp launches into the marina. At this time the process of developing the park is without Vectorworks. When the plan comes to the Committee, staff will defend where things are located and the Committee can challenge. The fields are the typical quad design with the concession in the middle. A unique feature is the waterfront element for fishing, walking, and passive uses. One thing staff discussed is the finger on SE corner which is actually marina property. Staff would like to see some improvements made there and would use Boating Improvements Funds to pay for that part.

In response to JiJi Connolly's inquiry, Mr. Nelson stated the park/project encompasses about 20 acres, from the top of the marina bank on south end, to the fence by manufacturing on north, at the river on east, and Marina Road on west.

Paul Nydam inquired if this Committee would address traffic at U.S. 1 and Marina Road. Mr. Nelson stated, it could, but not necessarily. The Sand Point Committee did discuss softening the impact. Pat Lafferty inquired if any road work or intersection changes would be part of the money for project. Mr. Nelson indicated that if told improvements are needed on the roadway, it could, but probably the intersection is too far removed and there has been use of the area by softball. Mr. Nydam then asked about Vectorworks. Mr. Nelson stated the expansion of Vectorworks is another issue, and would be at their expense. Staff is looking at utilization of the right of way to maximize use, saving waterfront space. Mr. Nydam inquired if there is any public property across the railroad tracks. Mr. Nelson indicated the City has some property. Mr. Horner stated the City owns land generally under the railroad overpass, but parking would be too far west, and FEC won't let people cross the tracks. Also the property is too low and wet.

Tommy Grimes inquired how soon the Committee will see a draft. Mr. Nelson responded that within three weeks, staff should be ready to discuss the plan. He will attempt to get the plans to the Committee and the public in advance. Rick Manning inquired how long staff and the A&E have been working on the plan. Mr. Nelson stated that couldn't begin until the direction from BOCC in March and then discussion with City. Mr. Horner stated this has been going on for about two years this month when Vectorworks first formally approached City Council with the idea for them to have 10 of the 20 acres and has since been through several different configurations. Committee hasn't met because of all the politics involved. Mr. Horner stated Vectorworks expressed an interest in "our" park in June of 2000 when they approached the City. The Referendum was voted in November 2000.

Rick Manning inquired if the plans now take no consideration of Vectorworks taking some of the land. Mr. Nelson stated the design the Committee will see next is the park design only. Staff is designing for park needs.

Scott Johnson inquired about the timeline. Mr. Nelson stated the project is probably at least 1-1/2 yrs before there is a shovel in ground. He further explained Chain of Lakes is in the final stages of permitting, and then has an 18-month construction period which includes a lot of water retention. Softball will move to Chain of Lakes, then Marina can be developed. When TLL moves to Marina, the Sand Point project can start. There may be some elements that can be done at Sand Point before softball moves out of Marina. The timing is good and there hasn't been a delay up to this point. Scott Johnson stated there was no urgency for this Committee to meet prior to this point.

Mr. Horner suggested the Parks & Recreation initial tentative preliminary design from April of 2002 would help mesh what was going on in the past with what is going on now. He had copies which he

distributed to the Committee following the five-minute break he requested.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

A. Susan Canada stated she submitted a proposal to the City and County which is not attached to the packet. Her comments related to park improvement included:

- More pavilions and more covered tables implemented in the plan.
- There are only 13 or so spots for boaters.
- More handicap spaces are needed.
- She saw nothing for skaters.
- She noted some have expressed interest in a dog park.
- Need more shelters for low income residents to enjoy.

Ms. Canada's comments related to Vectorworks included:

- There is a State dedication for public and recreational use, not for Vectorworks.
- Vectorworks is working second shifts and weekends at times.
- DOD sometimes requires a fenced parking lot.
- The road which was to be shared is locked at night.
- Vectorworks has several loans that collateral all roads current and future and any government agreements.
- There are not 100 jobs at Vectorworks as was stated.
- Vectorworks is not needed for TLL to be a win-win situations.

B. Molly Farace stated she has lived here 30+ years and voted to restore this area. She spoke against raising taxes, against making the park too elaborate, and wasting her time. She wants to see the children have a beautiful park they can enjoy. She asked the Committee to keep in mind single parents that own their homes and to have a nice park without spending extra money for extra things.

C. Walter Pine noted the lack of hearing devices and not being provided accommodation as required by ADA. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Pine stated he's the one who got the plans for Mr. Horner. He stated major problems being the A&E also produced the Vectorworks plans. Truman Scarborough was assured another engineer would work on the plans. The dedication is a very important document. The 1966 dedication can never be taken away, unless the State and City agree for it to be put into the disposable property list. As long as it isn't changed, it will always be a park. If changed it will be brought up to date under current laws. He spoke for maintaining the historical uses of the park. **At this point Mr. Pine was given two more minutes to speak at the motion by Rick Manning, seconded by Bill Horner, carried 6-0.** Mr. Pine spoke for first historical uses, public benefit, and defining the cost, suggesting the Committee should develop priorities. He encouraged the Committee to look into the history of these things. As to the violation of dedication for Vectorworks, even parking in a pre-existing park, with no agreements, was considered a violation of dedication in another part of the State. He stated it is important to understand history.

Mark Leslie inquired if there are historical uses other than baseball and boating. Mr. Pine responded there has been launching fireworks, training for firefighters, fishing. Mr. Leslie noted storage of fill material.

Mr. Nelson noted that part of the package is a letter regarding the dedication which was provided by Joan Wheeler.

D. Thelma Roper stated she has heard a lot of different things at different meetings, and one of the things that she has noticed is the group of citizens which have been most vocal say "our" park, meaning it is the citizens' park, not belong to City government. Another thing, by virtue of it being "our" park, that has irritated her is that historically baseball fields are one of the big things. All the deference that has been given to the LL is a sore spot with her in that the park doesn't belong just to the LL. There are a lot of things that can be put out there. There is the opportunity for a very beautiful park, and the rest of space should be used for the best of it's ability, so once other areas are built up and it is made more attractive,

there will be a lot more people out there if there is more than one pavilion and the seawall is used for fishing. She would like that to be kept in mind in the design process.

Paul Nydam asked Ms. Roper if she had any specific ideas. She suggested pavilions and walkway around the outer edge. She stated FEC doesn't usually object to an overhead walkway which she feels would be very beneficial, and provide a connection for Chain of Lakes and greenways. Also the City does have parking over at the old water treatment plant that could be utilized by Vectorworks instead of taking part of the park, by using overhead walkway. That would be a good connection and provide a sand pit for kids to play.

E. Joan Wheeler, a Floridian and Titusville resident, stated her concern about the deed dedication and that it seems there is no urgency to get this done since Chain of Lakes must be done first. She stated there is one urgency that Vectorworks use of the property must go to Tallahassee which can be quite time consuming and could take the park away from the City if used for private use.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

It was determined the next meeting will be held May 19, at 6 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Paul Nydam
Chairman

jbi