

NOTE: Minutes of the Joint Meeting with the Equestrian Trails & Facilities Referendum Committee, October 18, 2004, 6 p.m., can be found under Equestrian Trails & Facilities on this website.

**Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee Minutes
Committees Appointed by the North Brevard Commission on
Parks and Recreation (NBCPR)
October 18, 2004 at approximately 7:30 p.m., at Mims-Scottsmoor Library**

Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee

Members Present

Lee Bird
Patti Franzetta
Doris Geis
Andy Root
Lorene Shafer

Members Absent

Katherine Bonnici
Shelly Kipp

NBCPR Present

Gigi Henkel, Liaison/Ex-Officio

Parks & Recreation Staff Present

Charles S. Nelson, Parks and Recreation Director
Marsha Cantrell, Parks Support Services Manager
Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager
Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Lorene Shafer volunteered to open the meeting.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Lorene Shafer was nominated as chair by Lee Bird, seconded by Patti Franzetta. The nominations were closed at the motion by Lee Bird, seconded by Patti Franzetta.

AYE: Bird, Franzetta, Geis, Root, Shafer

NAY: None

Carried 5-0

Doris Geis was nominated as vice chair by Andy Root, seconded by Lee Bird. The nominations were closed at the motion by Lee Bird, seconded by Andy Root.

AYE: Bird, Franzetta, Geis, Root, Shafer

NAY: None

Carried 5-0

III. STAFF REPORTS–None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Lorene asked each committee member to tell where they see the committee going.

- Lee Bird believes priorities should be settled and one priority should be any property considered for the community center should be located on a paved highway.
- Lorene Shafer thinks accessibility for the greatest number of people is important.
- Doris Geis thinks the community center needs to be further north.
- Any Root thinks utilities should be a consideration for cost saving and looking at the future population growth for North Brevard. There are two existing community centers and two schools in Mims where they have to meet in times of need, so consideration should be given for a little bit North. Lorene asked if there is any building in Scottsmoor in which to meet. Lee Bird stated only the Volunteer Fire Station.

Lee Bird asked staff if the list of criteria made at the joint meeting can carry forward, such as large enough for an emergency shelter. Mr. Nelson suggested going back to what the Referendum said and reminded the committee there were no funds in the Referendum to build a community center. Mr. Root asked if only half of the money were used for the land, could the other half be used for funding the building. Mr. Nelson read the original list: Land acquisition of 10 acres, which was a target number, softball field, soccer field, pavilion 40x60, playground and benches, parking, restroom.

Mr. Nelson stated the intent was for it to be large enough for a neighborhood park site with room, but not money, for a community center. The point is well taken that if money is saved on any of the individual elements, the committee can consider other things to further the development of the site which could include a building.

Mr. Bird asked if the committee is locked into providing a softball field. Mr. Nelson responded that the committee can, through the public process, ask for input regarding the elements. Mr. Bird stated the committee then is not locked into the words just read. Mr. Nelson indicated no, saying some committees have made multi-purpose fields.

Mr. Bird asked if it could be more or less acres. Mr. Nelson stated one never knows what size parcel is available and how much is usable. Mr. Nelson believes there should be a minimum of 10 acres. Lee Bird asked why it needs to be 10 acres. Mr. Nelson stated that a community park is more than just a building, but if you can never do the other things, the use would be limited. The County has a great facility in Port St. John, but it has no outside facilities and is therefore single dimensional. That creates a struggle to do community recreation. Andy Root believes 10 acres should be a minimum to accommodate special events like car shows and community garage sales. Mr. Nelson stated that if the committee were to want to build a building on 2.5 acres, it would go back to the NBCPR.

Mr. Root suggested getting a list of centers from the County and visit them to see what amenities they have that could be incorporated. Consideration would be age of the population. If visits were to existing buildings, the committee could pick separate amenities that would best benefit this community. Also existing drawings could be used. Mr. Nelson reported the South Brevard Referendum is going to build five community centers which run about \$2.5 million each. They are 18,000 sf, hardened to shelter standards for 150 mph winds which ups the cost. Mr. Nelson explained the Referendums were voted in each area and the money stays within the area.

Doris Geis noted the community has a lovely park in Scottsmoor with ball fields, and asked if the committee would have to put ball fields in again. Lee Bird noted there are ball fields in Mims

and in Scottsmoor which is why he wanted to know if the committee has to provide a ball field. Mr. Nelson stated, that growth is looked at. Mims starts at south of SR 46, then Scottsmoor is on the north end. The original idea was to find something geographically between the two so it would service a larger area. The original site considered was the 10 acres across from the Mims/Scottsmoor Library. If the community and the NBCPR said they wanted to build it at Parrish Park–Scottsmoor, then so be it. There wouldn't be land acquisition cost.

Walter Pine raised a point of order. Per the Government in the Sunshine Law, the first meeting, is to install the officers and determine the agenda and general sense for the second meeting. To discuss the items in depth or detail would violate Government in the Florida Sunshine because it hadn't been properly noticed. Anything the public brings in can be discussed, but not on the own volition of the committee. Mr. Nelson stated he agrees philosophically with what Mr. Pine said, and agreed with the need to have the next meeting and go into greater detail with these issues.

Mr. Bird asked, based on those comments, if the committee is allowed to discuss priorities. Mr. Pine stated the first meeting is to choose officers and set the agenda for next meeting. However, the exception is that any public comment can be discussed or decided. Mr. Nelson suggested setting the agenda for the next meeting and invite the public to discuss those at the next meeting. Mr. Bird asked if the public present could be invited to give input and then discuss that input. Mr. Nelson indicated the committee could discuss the agenda for the next meeting which is really a discussion about the site, but a decision should not be made tonight.

Walter Pine suggested for agenda for next meeting, one of the items be a clear definition of the committee's authorities in regards to different monies that might be available due to increased expense of the property, and volunteerism in construction or preparation of the land. He encouraged the committee to discuss the priorities to be considered for the next agenda. He further suggested considering a different site for the meeting, such as the fire station, as it would be more accessible for the public, and possibly move the meetings around periodically.

Thelma Roper stated she likes the way the committee has been going so far as the discussion of what is wanted and not wanted. Ms. Roper asked if there are any other properties adjoining Parrish Park-Scottsmoor that might be available. Mr. Root stated that is possible, but the committee had to get to this point before he could ask. Ms. Roper stated she thinks that putting it next to Parrish Park– Scottsmoor would be very wise or advantageous. She suggested the need to do something about the parking at Parrish Park–Scottsmoor. She thinks there, or the one piece the committee was looking at, anything that can be done to get the building, would be a priority.

Lorene Shafer suggested that each come back next month with suggestions about where the committee can look. Mr. Bird stated he agreed with Blaise Mancini as property values are going up and spoke for the need to do something. He asked, since there has been public comment, if a list of priorities could be made now. Mr. Nelson stated criteria can be set for land desired to be acquired, which basically was listed with the joint committee. Mr. Bird disagreed in that he doesn't want the community center to be at the trail. Mr. Nelson stated that basically the criteria is the same–water, sewer, without access to the trail, but other things like proximity to roads, environmental constraints would be the same.

Mr. Bird stated he would like to locate property around Parrish Park–Scottsmoor. There is a pavilion, utilities with a state-of-the-art water system, pavilion, ball field, but more parking is

needed. Mr. Nelson stated the parking is adequate for the size of the facility. Overflow parking is needed for special events. Mr. Bird suggested getting eight acres to be used as grassy field for flea market, tractor or auto show, or multi-purpose event area.

Mr. Pine stated that on that park, one thing needs to be checked. Depending on the monies used to purchase it, there may be the potential it would be transferred to the State, so be sure it would remain County property. Mr. Nelson stated that shouldn't be a problem. There is a grant and at worst case, the County would have to reimburse that at appreciated value. Doris Geis inquired about acreage at the park. Mr. Nelson stated there is some vacant land south of the ball field and caretaker, but land to the west is wet. Mr. Bird asked about the area to the east with the school ruins. Mr. Nelson noted that is where the largest trees are.

Mr. Bird recommended land at Parrish Park–Scottsmoor as property, and Richmond 15 section along US 1 be checked into, even if only half of the 57 acres. Mr. Nelson reminded the committee that the reason the property near Pinewood School was too much was because of US 1. Mr. Bird asked if committee members are allowed to solicit properties on their own. Mr. Nelson stated members can investigate, but not commit to anything on behalf of the County Commission. Mr. Bird stated he would like to know if the Storey and Chauvin property are on the market. Mr. Nelson stated he doubts that the Storey property is on the market. Marsha Cantrell stated that just acreage was looked at, not whether it is for sale. Doris Geis asked if there isn't some for sale along the east side of US 1 between Sunset and Coral. Mr. Nelson stated staff would have to look at that, but if going that far north, he suggested the focus be on land adjacent to the existing park because amenities are already in place.

Thelma Roper asked about property along the river and asked if all that is EELS property. Mr. Nelson stated that this far north, most of it is so wet it would not be able to be developed. It is basically marsh east of the railroad tracts. Also there is more damage from storms and hurricanes along the river. Mr. Nelson stated staff will do some research for property adjacent to Parrish Park–Scottsmoor. He will get a copy of the construction plans because the site was surveyed.

Mr. Nelson noted the committee has moved very far north and the committee needs to be sure the community is with the committee on that decision. The committee needs to get as much public input into this concept as possible, so it is truly a community decision.

Mr. Pine suggested the committee may want to request the County bring a map of facilities available to the next meeting.

Mr. Nelson recommend three items for the next meeting:

1. Discussion of park elements with list from 2/16/04 in the package for reference purposes.
2. Land availability including the three lands the joint committee looked at.
3. Land availability around Parrish Park– Scottsmoor.

Mr. Root would like a larger map of the area not developed at Parrish Park–Scottsmoor to show how the piece sits. As part of presentation, staff will bring a location of facilities for discussion purposes.

Lorene Shafer asked if there are old schematics of community centers that could be provided. Mr. Nelson stated he would need to know the size desired. The newest ones are around the

18,000 sf dimension. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Bird, Mr. Nelson estimated Sandrift is about 10,000 sf.

Mr. Bird suggested the agenda could include setting a time to look at other facilities and suggested staff draw up a list of four different facilities to see the differences. Mr. Nelson stated that one of the concepts used for the CDBG sites was to be able to add to them. Andy Root is concerned about what is done inside the building, i.e., kitchen, day care, computer room. Mr. Nelson stated staff will bring a representative sampling. Lorene Shafer inquired who built the senior center in Titusville. Mr. Nelson reported it was a combination of a series of grants. The County was involved in part of it, the seniors undertook some of it themselves, and now an addition is planned. That can be brought as well.

Lee Bird noted the agenda should include plenty of public input. He asked to talk about missing members and possibly setting a rule for remaining a member. Mr. Nelson stated the County has a standard of three non-excused absences in any six month period, or three consecutive absences, which staff will bring to the next meeting. Mr. Bird suggested contacting them verbally to find out if they are still interested in staying on the committee. Mr. Bird asked if there are any candidates waiting for appointment. Staff didn't believe so. Mr. Bird will hand out cards.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Pine stated that Government in the Sunshine can be met through written communication or email if the County maintains a copy for the public to discover what the government has been up to. He suggested setting up a reflector for sending email to each member.

Doris Geis asked if would it be legal if the committee discussed this at a Community Association meeting. Lee Bird stated that could be only in a informational way, announcing a meeting and inviting people there for input. Mr. Nelson said what can't be done is having the level of discussion that occurred tonight. Only one committee member could remain in the meeting unless there was a public notice of a joint meeting with County present to take minutes. Walter Pine suggested getting a copy of the Government in the Sunshine manual. Doris Geis suggested having a joint meeting. Andy Root stated the correct announcements will be made and people will be invited to attend and participate in forming plans. He stated the number of interested people will come to the committee meeting. It was determined staff will not attend the next Community Association meeting as only an announcement of the next meeting will be made.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

It was decided the next meeting will be November 15, at 7 p.m., at the Mims-Scottsmoor Library.

VII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. at the motion by Lee Bird, seconded by Doris Geis.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorene Shafer, Chair

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