



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION South Area Advisory Board

Regular Meeting April 19, 2010

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South Area Advisory Board, was conducted on Monday, February 15, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Pineda Landing (POW/MIA), 5995 North Highway U.S. 1, Melbourne, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jerry Jagrowski, Chairman
Damian Wilson
John Kendrick
Mary Goelz
Richard Contreras
Jack Smink

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ted Whitlock
J. Keith Farquharson, Vice Chairman

STAFF PRESENT

Jack Masson, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation
Greg Minor, South Area Operations Manager
Fred Poppe, Recreation Superintendent
David Moore, Maintenance Superintendent
Jerry Gust, Maintenance Superintendent
Gustavo Vergara, Recreation Superintendent
Troy Cox, Recreation Program Coordinator
Jan Conrad, Aide to Commissioner Bolin (D4)
Lori Helton, Aide to Commissioner Infantini (D3)
Mechelle Cook, Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC

Udo Schenadzky, Viera Soccer Club
Cassandra Mueller, Viera Soccer Club
Tom Szuba, Space Coast Soccer Club
Heather McDonough, Space Coast Soccer Club
Bill Heiselman, Space Coast Soccer Club

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jagrowski called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The board members, county staff, and members of the public introduced themselves around the room, it was noted that we had quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jagrowski called for the members to review minutes and for a motion to approve. Mrs. Mary Goelz made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes Mr. Richard Contreras **SECONDED** the motion, **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Greg Minor stated that we have a couple of items to report, Mr. Masson is now our interim Parks Director, Mr. Howard Tipton, our County manager, states we may have a new Parks Director by May 1st, there were 107 applicants for the position. Interviews have not begun at this time. The next item is that we continue to work to massage our budgets, we did submit our original budget showing 20% cuts to the general fund and ad valorem tax but hopefully we will not experience the full 20% cut. Mr. Jagrowski inquired if the Directors were worried, Mr. Minor said we are certainly worried as we have taken significant hits to our budget already. Mr. Minor stated that on June 1st when the property values come out possibly things will improve.

Mr. Minor stated we began registration for our summer recreation camps and Mr. Gustavo Vergara stated that we are currently ahead in our registration numbers compared to last year, we began registration early on April 1st of this year. Mr. Vergara stated that this year we are being more proactive in our programs such as summer camps and athletic leagues and everything seems to be on the rise. Mr. Vergara stated that we received an interesting statistic today, our Movies in the Park program, on Facebook, in one month logged 550 fans compared to Florida Today Facebook fans at 1000.

Mr. Minor stated that we had a very bad winter but we saved \$50,000 last year by not overseeding our fields, Mr. David Moore stated that by not overseeding the fields our turf is not as hardy, Mr. Moore said we have a lot more field use, but we are working with leagues as much as we can to move goals around and prevent areas of wear on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Moore said what we are doing now is trying to maintain safe, playable ballfields. Mr. Moore said our fields are not as good as they were two years ago, and this is the first year he has had complaint calls concerning the field conditions. Mr. Jerry Gust stated that the fields are starting to come back, we had six or seven nights that were below freezing which is unprecedented.

Mr. Gust stated that we are doing an invasive plant removal program at Rodes Park working on removing Melaleuca trees, Mr. Jagrowski inquired if we had received any assistance from St. John's Water Management, Mr. Gust replied no. Mr. Contreras asked when was the expected

opening date of the new Rodes Park. Mr. Gust stated that Phase 1 consisted of land clearing and infrastructure and is scheduled to be completed this summer, weather pending, Phase 2 consists of the football and soccer complex construction, community center building, road work and utilities programs (FP&L, water and sewer) and they are scheduled to be completed in October 2010. We just had a pre-bid meeting on Phase 3 on 26 April with completion beginning in 2011. Phase 3 includes baseball and soccer, playground areas, and outdoor basketball areas.

Mr. Jagrowski inquired if there was any new construction, Mr. Masson replied that the Brevard Zoo Trail is in final design and could reach completion as early as 2012. Mr. Jagrowski inquired if anyone else on the board had any questions for the county staff. Mr. Minor stated that on the construction side of the house they have begun Phase 4 at Wickham Park. Mr. Minor stated that Phase 4 of Wickham Park consists of pedways and community center construction, and the bidding process would probably start around August or September of 2010. Mr. Gust stated that the South County Boat Ramp structure, now called Christenson's Landing, is near completion.

Mr. Jagrowski inquired about the plaza for the POW/MIA, Mr. Minor replied that it will be incorporated into Phase 4. Mr. Jagrowski inquired what would be the completion date? Mr. Minor replied that we would be looking at a 10 month project ending the last quarter of 2011. Mr. Wilson inquired how the horse stables were doing at Wickham Park. Mr. Fred Poppe stated that we are making money, there are minimal expenditures, we have partnered with the agricultural center, doing farmers market, we have 18 equestrian shows scheduled, and we are showing profitability. Mr. Poppe stated we are discussing with the agricultural center moving their equestrian activities to our arena, Mr. Poppe said there is a Wickham Park equine club that was formulated a few months ago and they are going through the process of acquiring their 501C3 status.

Mr. Jagrowski inquired if we were giving cards for sports field lighting, Mr. Minor stated that the article in the Florida Today newspaper was concerning the cost of sports lighting for two different groups. Mr. Minor stated that prior to us bringing in Sports Link, we had card holders on each sports field and the Rec partners would purchase cards to run the lights for one hour or so. Mr. Minor stated that we identified problems with that area and we made an investment in Sports Link. Now the lighting operates in the South area when the leagues are playing, we have the lights turned on and when the league is finished playing they can call an 800 number or go online and have the lights turned off by entering a code. Mr. Minor stated that we have saved approximately \$670 so far, granted that it's a small thing now and the lights are still subsidized and the rec partners are paying \$10 an hour ,but we believe this will be a better way to control utility costs.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Jagrowski noted that under new business, United Third Bridge was on the agenda, but was not present for the meeting and requested that the item be moved forward to the next meeting date. Mr. Kendrick made a **MOTION** to move the presentation by United Third Bridge to the June 21st agenda, Mr. Wilson **SECONDED** the motion, **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Minor requested to revisit where the matter was left from the last meeting held on February 15, 2010. Mr. Minor stated that the Space Coast Soccer Club had come to the South Area Advisory Board and requested basically to use the fields at Viera Regional Park, and as everyone knows there is an existing soccer club at Viera Regional Park, Space Coast United Soccer Club (SCUSC) and Viera Soccer Club (VSC) is an upcoming organization. At the last meeting it was stated by two VSC representatives attending the meeting that they presently had 240 children enrolled. The situation being discussed this evening is based on the time request VSC is requesting to use the fields, that the fields are already in use with United Space Coast Soccer Club soccer players. There was discussion between the groups and the direction given to VSC by the SAAB board was to go out and basically make contact with any schools, churches, or any areas that they could use to practice in and play and when the board met again in April they were requested to report their findings to them.

Mr. Schenadzky stated that they had searched for some spaces, and that they did find some space in which they were interested, they had made contact with the management in charge, and he stated that the manager had decided not to give it to them but to someone else based on the fact that there was no parking.

Mr. Schenadzky stated that VSC had done some research on the fields at Viera Regional Park during the past two months and that based on the times they had requested, 5 to 6 p.m., they felt that the fields were not in use and had taken pictures of the vacant fields. Mr. Schenadzky stated that the two clubs have differing philosophies, Space Coast Soccer has approximately 230 kids enrolled at this time and that all they are requesting at this time is one soccer field. Mr. Schenadzky stated that he is working with soccer clubs within the state of Florida.

Mr. Damian Wilson asked Mr. Schenadzky if all he was requesting at this time was one soccer field, Mr. Schenadzky stated that yes they only required one field at this time. Mr. Richard Contreras inquired what was the difference in opinion or philosophies between the two clubs. Mr. Schenadzky stated that their club is year round and that private education comes first. Mr. Schenadzky stated that the two clubs offered different programs, that Space Coast Soccer Club only played once a week and only for fun. Mr. Contreras inquired if they had received their 501(c)3 yet. Mr. Schenadzky stated they had received it. Mr. Contreras stated that he would like to hear from Mr. Heiselman also concerning the different philosophies.

Mr. Jagrowski inquired what age groups were involved. Mr. Jagrowski stated that basically both groups offered the same curriculum. Mr. Schenadzky stated that Viera Soccer Club was a member of the US Club Soccer which was the largest organization available, and they were sanctioned and ensured through them. Mr. Wilson asked if they lived in Viera and Mr. Schenadzky replied that he lived in Suntree. Mr. Schenadzky stated his club charged \$59 per person and that they received a real soccer jersey upon sign up.

Mr. Contreras stated there are limited resources that the County can provide to these groups Mr. Schenadzky stated he was not aware of this. Mr. Jagrowski stated that Parks and

Recreation had sustained budget cuts. Mr. Wilson inquired if there could be some type of compromise between the groups. Mr. Minor stated that Space Coast United Soccer had submitted schedules to Brevard County Parks and Recreation for field use. Mr. Minor stated that peak time was from 4 to 6 p.m., and there will also other groups using the fields. Mr. Jagrowksii stated that on Saturdays the Park was at capacity and you could barely find a place to park. Mr. Contreras asked if Mr. Schenadzky if he could substantiate his claim that all his kids enrolled had come from Space Coast United Soccer.

Mr. Gust stated that Mr. Schenadzky had originally stated to him that his philosophy was to have a tournament team at a competitive level. Mr. Gust stated that he was not aware of two competitive teams being based in the same facility anywhere in the State of Florida. Mr. Smink stated that the kids are what is important here and that the two clubs needed to merge and work together. Mr. Schenadzky stated that he had played professional soccer in Germany. Mr. Gust stated that the State of Florida is affiliated with Florida Youth Soccer Association which is the governing body of US Soccer. Mr. Gust stated that Florida Youth Soccer has a law that you cannot form a new organization in 15 geographical miles of an existing organization and he believes that Viera Soccer Club circumvented that law by not joining Florida Youth Soccer organization and by affiliating themselves with US Soccer Club and it would be difficult to have sanctioned games. Discussion ensued concerning affiliations for soccer clubs.

Mr. Bill Heiselman was next to address the board, Mr. Heiselman thanked the board for the opportunity to address them and stated that they had a large recreational program 900+ kids ranging from 4-18 years old, they have a mini kicker program, and a program for disabled kids. They have both recreational and competitive teams, and a youth development program that the kids can progress through. Mr. Heiselman stated that if the fields were vacant at the time stated it was most likely due to the fact that the coaches were volunteers who worked and possibly were running behind, or had an emergency, or canceled the practice due to the weather. Mr. Heiselman stated they could not have three-year-old children on the field due to insurance purposes. Mr. Heiselman stated that he had at least a dozen people who had stated to him that they had signed up with the wrong club. Mr. Heiselman stated they had spent more than \$20,000 on goals and other items at Viera Regional Park to date. Mr. Heiselman stated that he believes they will be nominated for a rec club of the year award in the state of Florida this year. Mr. Heiselman stated the club has spent over \$8000 this year in scholarships for families unable to meet the fees. Mr. Heiselman stated that during the downturn of the economy the club continued to grow. Mr. Heiselman stated they had paid \$90,000 for the lights at Wickham Park and had shared them with the frisbee group and others, and that they were not trying to shut out other groups,.

Mr. Wilson inquired if there was room for compromise between the two groups, and stated that the fields were not owned by Space Coast United Soccer or Viera Soccer Club, they were owned by the taxpayers. Mr. Heiselman stated the compromise was they had a functioning club in the area already, but they needed the kids to be in the club to maintain the same level and to continue to grow. Mr. Heiselman stated they were the grass roots organization that helped to bring Viera Regional Park into creation. Mr. Heiselman stated that they were already sharing fields at a low-cost and that other organizations were also looking to share field space. Mr. Cox stated that they should not have two separate groups in the same Park, that they should be in

different parks. Discussion ensued concerning the costs borne by the recreation partners and the benefits received by the citizens and children of the area, and the 15 mile radius rule.

Mr. Tom Szuba of Space Coast United Soccer Club was next to address the board members and provided a history of the club and its activities and accomplishments. Mr. Szuba stated this is a tough situation and that they were trying to do the right thing, and explained the reason Mr. Schenadzky was not chosen to coach at the club. Mr. Jagrowski then provided three minutes for Mr. Schenadzky to rebut.

Mr. Jagrowski advised the members of the letter provided by Mr. Whitlock stating his opinion, Mr. Minor read the letter into the minutes, and each member was provided with a copy.

Discussion ensued between the board members concerning the request of Viera Soccer Club. Mrs. Goelz stated that the club had a partial place to practice, but she did not feel the clubs would be able to work together, and stated that Spyglass is a starting point for the Viera Soccer Club. Mr. Kendrick stated he saw no way for the clubs to compromise and encouraged the clubs to attempt to work it out with an agreement. Mr. Wilson stated he felt both groups could use the same facility, that it was possible to get along with compromise, to put away emotion, that Viera Soccer Club deserved a chance, and competition is a great thing. Mr. Contreras complimented both groups and stated that groups are competing for the same resources. Mr. Contreras stated that hearing the historical portion of where the Space Coast United Soccer Club began is where the Viera Soccer Club is at now, and the issue was the bottom line. Mr. Contreras stated the group would have to weather it out, as all the groups had done previously, wished them well, and stated he could not support them at this time. Mr. Damien Wilson made a **MOTION** to support the Viera Soccer Club, Mr. Jagrowski asked for a **SECOND**, no **SECOND** was received, the **MOTION** failed, and Mr. Jagrowski asked if there was any other **MOTION** before the board with no response.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jagrowski stated there was no further business and adjourned the meeting at 9:06 PM. The next meeting date is scheduled for June 21, 2010.