



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Micco Park Referendum Committee

REGULAR MEETING
August 18, 2005

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Micco Park Referendum Committee, was held on Thursday, August 18, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the Palm Bay Community Center, Palm Bay, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Arens, Chairman
Ken Tworoger
Albert Malerk
Al Thorn (for Diane McCauley)
William McCready
Robin Tibbitts

MEMBERS ABSENT

Corky Priepp

STAFF PRESENT

Jack Masson, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation
Greg Minor, Construction Manager
Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Jerry Gust, South Area Maintenance Superintendent
Denny Bert, Supervisor, South Mainland – Micco Park
Lisa Nicholas, South Area Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC

Fannie Salerno, Micco Home Owners Association
Sandy Malerk
Joan Lewis

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Arens called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. Because no flag was present, the Pledge of Allegiance was dispensed with. Ms. Nicholas called the roll, and Mr. Arens noted that a quorum was present and the meeting would be conducted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Nicholas read the minutes from the previous meeting, which was held on December 9, 2002. Mr. Tworoger made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as written, and Mr. Malerk seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Project Review: Mr. Masson called on Mr. Whitehead and staff to provide the project review. Mr. Whitehead commended Mr. Gust and Mr. Bert for their efforts in the demolition of the bathrooms, fence

and rubber under the playground and noted that, because the demolition was conducted in-house, a great deal of money was saved. Mr. Whitehead further remarked that Roundup was being sprayed in the area of the pavilions and that 419 Bermuda sprigs would be utilized in that vicinity.

Mr. Masson suggested that Mr. Minor provide a copy of the landscape plan and description of the perimeter path that circles the park. Mr. Minor distributed a handout, which included a copy of the master plan, as well as a plant list. It was noted that the landscaping and buffer area would have to be in compliance with County regulations. Mr. Minor informed members that the entryway would be heavily landscaped and buffered and that some additional trees would be added to the back side and south side of the park, which would have to be of a certain size. The grassy area would be sprigged and an irrigation system installed.

Mr. Masson explained that the landscape plan exceeds the Code requirements and that the planting list contained all species native to Florida. Mr. Thorn commended the plant list and the work of Mr. Terry Stoms, Planner I. Mr. Thorn inquired as to whether the East Palatka Holly produced poisonous red berries. Mr. Minor indicated that he would obtain an answer to Mr. Thorn's question. Mr. Thorn suggested replacing the Hollies with Jacarandas, and Mr. Masson responded that what was in front of the members was the current landscape plan but that staff would discuss the plan with Mr. Stoms and note the concerns of Mr. Thorn. Mr. Masson further noted that East Palatka Hollies are prevalent in Brevard County parks, as well as subdivisions. It was noted that planting Bulk Cypress and Red Maples at the front fence was a good combination. Mr. Masson referenced the importance maintaining some visibility from the front for security purposes and informed the members that black vinyl fencing would be used, instead of galvanized chain link fencing.

Mr. Arens recommended that the sign should be scaled down to something that fits in better with the park.

Mr. Thorn stated that, because of the use of all native plants, there were not a lot of splashes of color and suggested perhaps incorporating some Azaleas or Blue Porter Weed. Mr. Minor indicated that he would recommend utilizing some color to Mr. Stoms.

Mr. Arens raised a concern about the location of the flag pole, and Mr. Masson responded that it is important that the pole does not impede fire trucks and other emergency vehicles from being able to enter the front circle.

Mr. Malerk inquired into the growth time of the trees, and Mr. Masson indicated that growth time is dependent on the particular species, the size of the plant when installed, and the care given to the plant. Mr. Masson further noted that the maintenance and care of the plants is extremely important. Mr. Minor stated that a horticulturist had been on site and that aggressive soil mixes may need to be identified.

Mr. Tworoger inquired into the condition of the Oak Tree, and Mr. Masson responded that an arborist had determined that it could not be saved. Mr. Tworoger then asked if the field had been repositioned, and Mr. Masson responded that it had. Mr. Tworoger also inquired as to whether it would be possible to minimize the asphalt. Mr. Masson replied that travel-ways would be paved, with the exception of the circle. Handicapped parking spaces would be paved and the spots stabilized.

Mr. Masson explained that there had been questions regarding the type of surface that could be utilized for the path, including crushed coquina, concrete and asphalt. It was the recommendation of staff to utilize a harder surface so that additional activities could be supported aside from running and walking, such as rollerblading and bicycling. It was noted that, while it is a stabilized surface, crushed coquina rock is the softest material and would require the most maintenance. Mr. Minor stated that weather can

also be problematic when it comes to crushed coquina and that the previous path was made of crushed coquina. Mr. Malerk inquired whether concrete would last longer than asphalt for the relative cost involved. Mr. Minor noted that asphalt is a smooth surface, but concrete requires the use of joints, which poses a potential safety concern. Mr. Arens asked if asphalt was jogger-friendly, and Mr. Masson replied that to use a material such as crushed coquina rock for the path would allow access for walkers and joggers only – persons pushing carriages and strollers would have a difficult time navigating the surface, as would cyclists and rollerbladers. Mr. Masson also noted that the Saint John's Water Management would not allow runoff.

Mr. Arens informed members that consensus was necessary on this issue, and, as chair, offered that asphalt seemed to be the least of all the evils as it is seamless and individuals desiring to jog could do so on grass. Mr. Tworoger asked what had been discussed previously, and Mr. Masson indicated that asphalt and concrete had been deliberated. Mr. Tworoger further inquired into the negative aspects of concrete, and Mr. Masson replied that the cost can be prohibitive and safety can be a concern because of the expansion joints that are used – the surface would not be seamless.

Mr. McCready asked whether the water line covering two-thirds of the perimeter would remain, and Mr. Whitehead replied that it would be the last thing to be taken out of the park. Mr. Masson added that good landscaping of the trees and having the plants established correctly is the key. Mr. McCready noted that water washes out the parking lot, and Mr. Masson indicated that a new grading plan is being established and that the elevation is going to be raised to promote better drainage and natural run-off.

Mr. Arens advocated for asphalt. Mr. Thorn inquired into the life of the materials. Mr. Masson explained that concrete lasts longer than asphalt. Mr. Whitehead added that the life of concrete is approximately 30 years, while asphalt lasts 15-18 years. Mr. Masson explained that the maintenance of the edges is a concern with both materials and that an asphalt road cannot be compared to an asphalt path.

Mr. Tworoger asked representatives of the homeowners' association about the number of strollers, and the representatives responded that there are many strollers. Mr. Gust added that more young families are moving into the area that will perhaps want to take advantage of the park.

Mr. Thorn indicated that he was leaning toward concrete, while Mr. Arens expressed his desire to see asphalt utilized, noting that 15-18 years was still a very long life for a pedway. Mr. Malerk stated that he felt concrete was a better choice aesthetically and noted that concrete is always utilized in residential areas with few problems and that it is cooler than asphalt.

Mr. Tworoger inquired into ramifications on the budget, and Mr. Masson responded that if the costs are comparable, then it would not be a major concern. Mr. Minor provided some preliminary figures, stating that concrete would cost approximately \$28,512.00, while asphalt would cost around \$19,288.00, a difference of about \$8,000.

Mr. Masson posed a technical question regarding whether a concrete truck would be able to get into the back of the park. Mr. Minor said that it is possible and just would require some coordination. Mr. Whitehead added that the route into the park would have to be stabilized.

A representative of the Micco Homeowners' Association inquired as to whether concrete could be colored, and Mr. Minor replied that, while a color would be more aesthetically pleasing, maintenance would be more difficult because of having to be refurbished and re-colored over time. Mr. Masson added that it may be difficult to colorize the entire pedway, but that staff would look into it.

Mr. McCready, Mr. Tworoger, and Ms. Tibbitts expressed their preference for concrete.

Mr. Arens recognized that there was a consensus on utilizing concrete for the pedway and recommended that a formal motion be made with regard to the pedway and the landscaping plan. Mr. Tworoger made a **MOTION** to adopt the landscaping and pedway plans, and Mr. Malerk seconded the motion. There was a call for discussion, and Mr. Thorn requested feedback on the East Palatka Hollies. There was consensus to utilize concrete for the pedway, with the opportunity to perhaps add some color, and to provide an alternative for Mr. Thorn on the Hollies. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Masson brought up the second issue of the evening, which had to do with the tennis court and the basketball court. In an attempt to bid the two items as a package, it ended up being twice as costly, as it is difficult for most vendors to work with both products. The bid came in at approximately \$132,000, while only \$68,000 was allotted in the budget. The project now has to go back out for bid. Both courts will be asphalt but not black.

Mr. Whitehead noted that California Products is a vendor that produces a special covering that is good for the feet, and it has become the accepted way of doing courts. Mr. Whitehead further stated that the previous court was asphalt and constituted a tripping hazard. Mr. Whitehead also informed the members that the basketball nets would be adjustable, from 6 feet to 10 feet, in order to accommodate a wide range of individuals.

Mr. Thorn inquired into whether there was a budget for the plants included on the master plant list. Staff indicated that the numbers would be obtained and provided to the Committee.

Mr. Arens inquired into how things were progressing with the budget, and Mr. Minor responded that the budget was within the parameters. Mr. Minor further stated that much of the cost had been reduced by having the Parks and Recreation staff perform the necessary demolition and would be further mitigated by having staff install the irrigation and complete the landscaping.

Mr. Masson brought up two additional items for the information of the members: First, three lots had been acquired that were not zoned as park property. It was necessary to return to the Zoning Board, which addressed the situation and approved the rezoning. Ratification by the Brevard County Commissioners is to ensue. Secondly, Mr. Masson noted that Mr. Minor had been elevated to Construction Manager and had been serving in that capacity for three weeks. Mr. Masson extended congratulations and stated that the Department was looking forward to Mr. Minor's leadership.

Mr. Tworoger thanked the staff for all of their efforts.

Mr. Malerk made a **MOTION** that, if any additional funds were to be available, they should be used for the enhancement of Micco Park. Ms. Tibbitts seconded the motion, and discussion ensued. Mr. Masson suggested that staff could look for outside activities on which the money could be utilized. It was also noted that community input could be sought in order to see how any supplemental moneys should be used. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Arens inquired about the berm behind the all-purpose field, and Mr. Minor replied that it would be two feet wide and would be for people to sit on.

Mr. Tworoger asked if the bid results included the landscaping, and Mr. Minor responded that it did not because landscaping was going to be completed in-house.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tworoger made a **MOTION** to adjourn, and Mr. Malerk seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** The meeting concluded at 8:12 p.m.