

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Ponce Landing Referendum Committee
Regular Meeting
November 20, 2001

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Ponce Landing Referendum Committee was held on Tuesday, November 20, 2001, at 5:00 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Church, 3780 Highway A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gerald Heyes
Cynthia Ruitter
Paul Tritaik
Blair Witherington
Jim Rosasco

MEMBERS ABSENT

South Area Advisory Board Rep
Jim Culberson

STAFF ATTENDING

Chuck Nelson, Parks and Recreation Director
Karen Palus, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Greg Minor, Parks and Recreation Construction
Tina Webster, Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC

Dave Woodward, Kimley-Horn and Associates
Tom Yonge, Kimley-Horn and Associates

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Heyes called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Witherington made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from 9/18/01. Ms. Ruitter seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS:

Ms. Palus provided the committee with a map of Coconut Point as requested by Mr. Heyes at the previous meeting.

Project Review:

Mr. Woodward and Mr. Yonge informed the committee of the existing conditions of the site. They noted that the site contains pepper trees, as well as other vegetation. Proposal is to keep all the construction west of the coastal construction line as close to A1A as possible. They provided two conceptual ideas. One contained two crossovers and the other contained three crossovers, to show an alternate crossover location. The basic idea is to create two areas with a crossover at each, one maybe more family oriented and the other more for individual use (example: fisherman). Discussion ensued regarding family utilization versus individual utilization and how to structure the sites to accommodate one or the other. Having two separate crossovers will help detour citizens from utilizing the dunes.

The proposed idea is to increase beach vegetation due to structural parking element; possibility of fencing area to control public access; Mr. Nelson mentioned that a one-rail fence could be used; discussion of irrigating the vegetation, suggestion of creating a pond, filling it with plants, thus providing water to vegetation; discussed turf block versus asphalt to keep the parking area natural looking.

Mr. Woodward asked the committee if they would like to keep two separate crossovers, one more rustic to attract the individual use. Mr. Nelson mentioned that it might be difficult due to the restroom location; committee discussed the possibility of having two driveways (enter and exit).

Discussion ensued. Mr. Heyes mentioned that he would like to see one crossover and to re-vegetate the other area. Mr. Witherington agreed and asked of having a crosswalk over A1A. Mr. Nelson mentioned that DOT might not allow a crosswalk due to A1A being a main highway. Mr. Witherington questioned streetlights. The park closes at dark therefore would not require any parking lights. Discussion continued regarding eradicating pepper, providing swale for water, and re-vegetation, including sea grapes, spar tine grasses, etc. Palmettos and sea grape would help limit public access to the dunes. Mr. Witherington again mentioned that he did not believe that two crossovers are necessary. The advantage of two is if one is down, there is still another for that can be utilized. Mr. Heyes mentioned using fencing and run stop curbs along parking. Mr. Nelson mentioned that if stop curbs are used the fencing would not be needed for parking but would still be needed for vegetation. He also mentioned that stop curbs are a maintenance issue and a liability. Suggestion of making the sidewalk about 8 feet and running the parking up to the sidewalk. Mr. Nelson stated that the A&E firm and Parks and Recreation staff will discuss fencing ideas and bring this information back to the committee at the next meeting.

The committee spoke regarding information kiosk and historical marker at park. The size of the Archie Carr kiosk was questioned. Mr. Heyes will let Ms. Palus know the actual size. Ms. Palus believed that Archie Carr was going to provide Parks and Recreation with one side of the kiosk. Ms. Heyes will check into it. Suggestion of an observation deck. Mr. Witherington would like something unique-maybe 8, 10, 12 ft. elevated. Mr. Nelson mentioned that it would need to be ADA accessible. He also re-iterated his suggestion of one crossover. Mr. Nelson mentioned that there has to be at least one ADA accessible crossover and they are the ones that take the most damage due to the required location of the ramp in relation to the surf. Discussion of turtle nesting getting caught under crossovers. Mr. Nelson re-iterated that he suggest two crossovers. Discussion on entrance at north end versus south end. Due to exist ing sea grapes it would be more feasible to have the

entrance at the south end. Signage will be done through the kiosk. The committee stated that they all like the design. Mr. Witherington mentioned that a sidewalk would be very inviting to the public. Discussion of the Archie Carr trails. Most people utilizing the beach would drive due to absence of housing in immediate area. Mr. Nelson asked Ms. Palus to find out through Public Safety the ATV and Emergency Vehicle size for access. Mr. Witherington suggested the ramp meet the minimum access requirements for emergency vehicles. Mr. Heyes spoke again regarding turf block. Mr. Woodward will get estimates for both asphalt and turf block for comparison.

Mr. Rosasco made a **MOTION** to approve the conceptual plan as proposed with the following items: 20 x20 pavilion, two crossovers- northern and southern most ends; kiosk (four sides, one for Parks and Recreation and three for Archie Carr); water to south area; and modifications to accommodate ADA accessibility. Mr. Witherington seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Nelson discussed providing trees to protect the kiosk from the sun.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Witherington made a **MOTION** to adjourn and Ms. Ruiter seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church.