

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Ponce Landing Referendum Committee
Regular Meeting
September 18, 2001

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Ponce Landing Referendum Committee was held on Tuesday, September 18, 2001, at 5:00 p.m. at the Melbourne Beach Town Hall, 507 Ocean Ave, Melbourne Beach, FL.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Culberson
Gerald Heyes
Cynthia Ruitter
Paul Tritaik
Blair Witherington
Jim Rosasco

MEMBERS ABSENT

South Area Advisory Board Rep

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
Jane and David Thompson
Scott Harthey

The meeting began promptly at 5:04 p.m.

Committee Overview:

Introductions of committee members. This committee will meet the third Tuesday of every month. Ms. Palus went over the packets provided to the members which included: welcome letter/time frame, committee members list, committee guidelines, proposed project review and a place for members to keep their minutes and notes. She mentioned that the committee would take action at the meetings regardless if quorum is present. She informed the committee that meeting dates, project information, minutes as approved, etc are available on the web page at www.brevardparks.com

Mr. Nelson explained that all members of the committee are required to vote. A conflict of interest applies only if financial gain is involved.

Election of Officers:

Ms. Palus asked the committee to select a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mr. Tritaik nominated Mr. Heyes as the chairman and Mr. Rosasco as the Vice-Chairman. They accepted. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Nelson went over the elements as listed in the proposed referendum project review. Discussion ensued regarding concerns from the public. Concerns included access to beach, existing users moving further south when park is built, questions of this project being needed in the community; how the project came to fruition for the Referendum.

Ms. Palus asked the committee to discuss the goals/objectives, challenges, and positive impact of this project. The results are noted below:

Goals/Objectives:

- Protect dune crossover
- Provide controlled use for historic users
- Utilize existing disturbed areas
- Limit vegetation removal for facility
- Retain naturalness
- Consider needs of turtle research
- Minimize linear footprint

- Cost comparison between concrete/turf block
- Native plants
- Educational signs (Archie Carr)

Challenges:

- Permitting
- Accommodating current users
- Fitting park within disturbed area
- Appropriate lighting
- Meeting budget

- ADA accessibility
- Increase usage potential

Positive Impact of Project:

- Easier beach access
- Dune preservation
- Environmental and Historical education
- Experience barrier island

Mr. Heyes asked for a copy of the layout for Coconut Point Park for the next meeting. Also requested was a survey of existing users. Archie Carr may have done one in the past. Mr. Tritaik will look to see if there is anything.

PUBLIC INPUT

Public input occurred during the meeting.

There was no further business to discuss. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting is schedule for Tuesday, November 20, 2001.