



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION *Rodes Park Referendum Committee*

REGULAR MEETING April 24, 2006

A regular meeting of the Brevard County Department of Parks and Recreation, Rodes Park Referendum Committee, was conducted on Monday, April 24, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at the Council Chambers of West Melbourne City Hall, 2285 Minton Road, West Melbourne.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Thompson
Joe LaPointe
Ken Dyke
Mallena Urban
Bart DeNitto
Keith Barton
Carol Burns

MEMBERS ABSENT

Steve McKibben
Ted Whitlock
Al Genchi

STAFF PRESENT

Jack Masson, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation
Marsha Cantrell, Parks Support Services Manager
Fred Poppe, Park Supervisor II, Rodes Park
Lisa Nicholas, South Area Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC

Robert Medina
Dick DeLauder
Jasper Trigg
Albert Keet
Bill Palmer
Mark Mannarino

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Ms. Nicholas called the roll, and Ms. Thompson noted that a quorum was present and that the meeting would be conducted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were provided with copies of the minutes from the March 27, 2006, regular meeting and the April 3, 2006, special meeting. After review, Mr. Dyke made a MOTION to approve the March 27, 2006, minutes, and Mr. DeNitto seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. DeNitto then made a MOTION to approve the April 3, 2006, minutes, and Ms. Burns seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Poppe reported that there had been some recent vandalism and a fire at the site of the new Rodes Park. Some individuals had broken in and pulled up all of the stakes that were being used for surveying. Accordingly, no survey information could be provided to the architect and engineering of PBS & J, and that is why representatives from the firm were not present. Mr. Poppe noted that signs designating the area as a construction zone had been ordered and that he was attempting to have the completion of the signs expedited. Mr. Poppe further noted that he was pursuing the Sheriff's Department to take action.

Ms. Thompson inquired as to when PBS & J might have some information to provide to the Committee, and Mr. Masson responded that, as soon as representatives from PBS & J were ready, a special meeting could be called if the time frame was sooner than the regularly scheduled meeting date.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Masson introduced Dick DeLauder and Jasper Trigg from the South Brevard Senior Center for the purpose of addressing the Committee with regard to the possibility of relocating the Senior Center from its current location on the Melbourne Airport's property to the new Rodes Park.

Mr. DeLauder provided some background information on the matter, noting that the Senior Center was originally situated on the site of the Henegar Center, but the building had to be demolished in 2004 because it could not be brought up to code. At that time, the South Brevard Senior Center was shifted to the Melbourne Airport's property. A new building would need to be constructed to meet seniors' needs, and the cost would be \$3.8 million, and the building would be located on airport property. In addition, the property would have to be leased from the airport at a cost of \$300,000 per year for 30 years. After 30 years, \$9 million would have been paid to the Airport Authority, and the County would not even have a building to show for the expended money. It was reported that the South Brevard Senior Center was one of the original referendum projects and stressed that no funds would be taken from the Rodes Park referendum moneys to complete the Senior Center.

Mr. DeLauder also informed the Committee that the concept had been brought before and approved by the Wickham Park Advisory Committee but that having an alternative site for relocation would be beneficial. At Wickham Park, the Senior Center would be placed on a 12-acre plot and would share parking with the new Community Center. Seniors would probably have activities four nights per week, and the Senior Center could be used by the community on the remainder of the evenings.

A question arose as to whether the relocation of the Senior Center to the new Rodes Park would have an impact on the grant moneys that were being received, and Ms. Cantrell responded that, when the plan was submitted, it was made clear that it was still in the very conceptual stages.

Mr. LaPointe indicated that space within the park was already tight.

Mr. Dyke noted that the Committee had only talked briefly about parking but adding a Senior Center to the park may increase congestion.

Ms. Thompson stated that if staff went back to PBS & J with another change, then more time and more money would have to be expended. In addition, it would probably not be feasible to have the South Brevard Senior Center be in such close proximity to the Palm Bay Senior Center.

Mr. LaPointe noted that there were a lot of unanswered questions. Ms. Burns suggested that, once the Community Center at Rodes Park was up and running, then seniors could rent it out, but Mr. DeLauder responded that the facility would be utilized by seniors seven days per week.

Mr. Masson indicated that, from all the comments he had heard, the most significant issue would probably be the proximity to the Palm Bay Senior Center.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Ms. Thompson called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. LaPointe made a **MOTION** to adjourn, and Mr. Barton seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. Ms. Thompson adjourned the meeting of the Rodes Park Referendum Committee at 7:55 p.m. and noted that the next meeting would be held on May 22, 2006, unless PBS & J had a revised conceptual plan to share with the Committee sooner than that.