



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION Rodes Park Referendum Committee

Regular Meeting
February 26, 2007

A Regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Rodes Park Referendum Committee, was conducted on Monday February 26, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of West Melbourne City Hall, 2285 Minton Road, West Melbourne.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ken Dyke
Ted Whitlock
Joe LaPointe
Debra Thompson, Chairwoman
Carol Burns
Al Genchi
Keith Barton

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bart DeNitto
Duke Salberg, ex-officio
Steve McKibben
Mallena Urban

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Fred Poppe, Recreation Superintendent
Gustavo Vergara, South Area Construction Coordinator
Alicia Webb, South Area Administrative Secretary
Bernice Smith, South Area Office Assistant

PUBLIC

Sid Kingery
Mark Mannarino

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:17p.m. Ms. Webb 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 a copy of the minutes from the November 27, 2006, meeting. After review, Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to approve the November 27, 2006, minutes, and Mr. Dyke seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Jeff Whitehead

Mr. Whitehead began the staff reports by introducing his staff. Mr. Whitehead noted that Mr. Vergara would be the main focal point on the referendum issues. Mr. Vergara will be keeping track of all the projects, funding, keeping members up to date and answering any questions they may have.

Mr. Whitehead stated that the audit has been completed. A copy of the audit would be provided to the members at the next meeting.

Mr. Whitehead also stated that the Parks and Recreation Department was working with the St. John's River Water Management District and trying to establish a jurisdiction for the wetland area. Mr. Whitehead noted that there is an environmental issue with retaining storm water. St. John's will have to take this matter in front of their Board of Governors. However, Commissioner Colon's office is aware of the situation and will do what is necessary to expedite the permitting issues.

Mr. Whitehead noted that allocated funds have been distributed to the parks for completion of projects. Rodes Park has been allocated approximately \$27 million for the completion of the project. It is the largest, most environmentally sensitive and most time consuming of all the projects in the South Area.

Ms. Burns inquired about a start date for construction of the park. Mr. Whitehead noted that St. John's would have to finish their surveying before an estimated construction date could be presented.

Ms. Thompson inquired about the gopher tortoises and if anything has been done to move them. Mr. Whitehead noted that the EELS program is currently searching for places to re-locate the tortoises.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. LaPointe inquired about monies that may have been released from FEMA during the hurricane season to repair Rodes Park. Mr. Whitehead stated that FEMA had released monies after hurricane Jeanne. Funding went to repair the fencing around the ball field.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Mannarino inquired about the completion of the preliminary design of the park and if a priority list or estimation has been given. Ms. Thompson noted that the preliminary design had been completed and that the priority list, along with an estimation, would not occur until after said permitting with the wetlands. A prioritization meeting would follow after all environmental issues had been cleared.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Ms. Thompson called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. LaPointe made a MOTION to adjourn and Mr. Dyke seconded. Ms. Thompson adjourned the meeting of the Rodes Park Referendum Committee at 8:08p.m. and noted that the next meeting date was scheduled for March 26, 2007.