



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION Rodes Park Referendum Committee

Regular Meeting
July 25, 2007

A Regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Rodes Park Referendum Committee, was conducted on Wednesday July 25, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the West Melbourne City Hall Council Chambers, 2285 Minton Road, West Melbourne, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe LaPointe
Steve McKibben
Bart DeNitto
Debra Thompson, Chairwoman
Keith Barton
Ted Whitlock
Ken Dyke

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carol Burns
Mallena Urban
Jan Lieson, ex-officio
Al Genchi

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Larry Wojciechowski, Finance Manager
Fred Poppe, Recreation Superintendent
Gustavo Vergara, South Area Special Projects Coordinator

PUBLIC

Mark Mannarino

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Mr. Vergara 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 May 23, 2007, meeting. Ms. Thompson noted that a typo was present on the second sentence of the first paragraph. After review, Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to approve the June 27, 2007, minutes as corrected, and Mr. DeNitto seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Jeff Whitehead

Mr. Whitehead presented the committee with a project status report from PBS&J (attached). Mr. Whitehead stated that any documents Parks & Recreation received, he would share with the Committee. Mr. Whitehead stated that the dates on the report were benchmarks, and that some of those dates could change. Mr. LaPointe asked about where the status report stated "out for Bid", he asked for clarification on what is going out for bid, to which Mr. Whitehead replied that the construction portion of the project, and that the county's Road & Bridge department was going to clear the internal road work. Mr. Whitehead stated that it was his understanding that an outside contractor would be needed for part of the clearing and grubbing, and that Road and Bridge would try to get road ways established. Mr. Whitehead stated that he would like the committee to help with the naming of the loop road. Mr. Poppe added that the Road & Bridge Department was also going to help with the tortoises and putting up silt fencing. Ms. Thompson asked for clarification on the process of naming of the road, and Mr. Whitehead replied that once the committee chose a recommendation for a name, he would take that to the south Area Advisory Board, who would then take it to the Board of County Commissioners. Discussion ensued about how and which parks have named roads inside their perimeters. Ms. Thompson asked that Mr. Vergara contacted Florida Today and asks for their assistance in naming of the road. Mr. Whitehead stated that the proposed names should go through the Parks & Recreation Department, and then the department would bring them to the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding possible names of the road. Mr. Whitehead then introduced Mr. Larry Wojciechowski and stated that Mr. Wojciechowski could answer any of the financial questions that the committee may have.

Larry Wojciechowski

Mr. Wojciechowski stated that as of the meeting date, Mr. Lusk had not gone before the Board of County Commissioners to allocate all the funds to specific projects, so he had not allocated any of the money to any project and that it was all in reserve. He then stated that what has been done with 59 million was that it was invested with Morgan Stanley and the county was receiving 4.5% interest for the life of the money. He then stated that as the county needed the money, Morgan Stanley would release it. He stated that the investment was called a GIC investment. Mr. Wojciechowski Stated that the plan was still to allocate 27,000,000 to Rodes Park, and that as of the meeting date, the county had made 1.2 million in interest already. Mr. LaPointe asked about the amount of money that was borrowed, and Mr. Wojciechowski stated that they could have borrowed up to

sixty some million, but that the county could only afford to bond out 59 million. Mr. LaPointe asked where the money for the out parcels was coming from, and Mr. Wojciechowski responded that the 273,000 was coming out of the original dollars that were set aside for the park. Mr. LaPointe asked if the county was collecting interest on the 2 million left from the original referendum, and Mr. Wojciechowski responded that yes, but at a lower interest than the 59 million. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the final pricing of the out parcels was still in the court system, and that all the owners were willing to sell the out parcels, but the final price was still being negotiated. Ms. Thompson asked that for the sake of not getting confused, that the project budget from the day of this meeting was 27 million and asked that the committee does not refer to the past budgets. Ms. Thompson asked what happens to the interest earned on the 59 million dollars, and Mr. Wojciechowski stated that Mr. Lusk would desire to finish the projects with the 59 million and turn back the interest to pay back the bonds. Ms. Thompson was concerned about a project that was over budget using part of that money, and Mr. Wojciechowski stated that Mr. Lusk would not move any extra money without the consent of the Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Thompson asked that the committee be notified in case any over spending issue goes before the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that there were two milliges; one for the debt and one for the operating side. He stated that the one for the debt had to be paid back by law, and the 59 million was there and that all the parks would be built with that money. He also stated that as of yesterday afternoon, the south area millige was set at the maximum, so all operating dollars were there for all the parks. Mr. LaPointe asked about a newspaper article about the South Beach Community park, and that it would cost 900,000 per year to run a community center, and Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the original start up cost for 1 year would be that amount, but after that first year, the cost would go down to \$600,000 per year. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the example they used to estimate that amount was the Sharps Community Center, and that this community center was putting in a computer lab, and that is why their cost was so high, Mr. Whitehead stated that it cost the county 444,000 to run the South Mainland Community center, and that the whole compound was close to 18,000 sqft. Mr. Mannarino asked about charges for the community center, and Mr. Whitehead stated that there was a fee schedule and that due to the budget situation, most of the fees in the county were going to change. Ms. Thompson added that the fees charged were not set up to be an income provider and Mr. Whitehead responded that all of the Parks & Recreation programs were subsidized, and that each facility brought back about 22% of all money spent on them. Mr. Dyke asked how the proposed budget shortfalls affected the county's prior willingness to do the road improvements necessitated by the construction of the park, and Mr. Whitehead responded that issue was still on Mr. Denninghof's desk and that it was still a live issue. Mr. Whitehead stated that he would check with Mr. Denninghoff before the next meeting. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that if the January 29th vote passed, that would have huge impact on the county's ability to staff the community centers, the money would be there to build them, but not to staff them. Mr. Whitehead stated that parks & recreation had to give up 2 million dollars from their budget, and explained how that translated into lost staff. He stated that the dog parks would now have to be unmanned, and that there were 121 dog parks in the state of Florida, out of which 14 were manned, 7 private and 7 public, and 4 of the 7 public dog parks were in Brevard

County. Ms. Thompson asked if Mr. Wojciechowski had any idea when the money was going to be allocated, and Mr. Wojciechowski responded that Mr. Lusk had been very busy with the budget cut issues since April, so he hadn't had any time to present his plan to all the commissioners, but Mr. Wojciechowski felt that by late September Mr. Lusk would be able to present his budget to the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the financial aspect of the new website would be updated on a quarterly basis, because once a big contract goes out, payments are made on a quarterly basis. Ms. Thompson asked what was happening in August, and Mr. Whitehead responded that turtle relocation was starting in September. Mr. Whitehead stated that if the committee wanted, they could skip the August meeting and meet in September, which would give Florida Today time to run the article for naming of the internal loop road. The committee agreed that the next meeting date would be Wednesday September 26th.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC INPUT

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Ms. Thompson called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Whitlock made a MOTION to adjourn and Mr. Dyke seconded. Ms. Thompson adjourned the meeting of the Rodes Park Referendum Committee at 7:50 p.m. and noted that the next meeting date was scheduled for September 26, 2007.