



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION Rodes Park Referendum Committee

Regular Meeting
January 23, 2008

A Regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Rodes Park Referendum Committee, was conducted on Wednesday January 23, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the South Area Parks & Recreation Office Conference Room, 1515 Sarno Road, Melbourne, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe LaPointe
Ken Dyke
Bart DeNitto
Al Genchi
Debra Thompson, Chairwoman
Keith Barton
Ted Whitlock

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carol Burns
WM Rep.

Steve McKibben

STAFF PRESENT

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

PUBLIC

None

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 October 24, 2007, meeting. Mr. After review, Mr. Dyke made a **MOTION** to approve the October 24, 2007, minutes, and Mr. LaPointe seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Whitehead stated that it would be about time to start organizing a ground breaking ceremony for the new park. Discussion ensued regarding some details. After discussion the following things were agreed on; the ground breaking ceremony date would be March 29, 2008, and the theme for the celebration would be an athletic theme with blue, gray and white colors. The actual time would be determined after discussion with Commissioner Colon.

Mr. Poppe stated that the work being done on site was remarkable, and that the Road and Bridge department was getting ready to speed up their work once a contractor was chosen to haul all the wood, mulch and debris from site. Mr. Whitehead asked about how many acres had been cleared to date, and Mr. LaPointe and Mr. Poppe agreed on about 40 acres so far. Ms. Thompson asked about the security issue on Site, and Mr. Poppe responded that after the original incident which involved about 2,000 linear feet of silt fencing being torn down, the Road and Bridge Dept. installed a cable at the entrance to the site with a no trespassing sign on it, as well as signs throughout the perimeter of the property, and that since then, there has been no more vandalism on site. Mr. Whitehead stated that all paper work has been signed with the Sheriffs department to designate that site a construction zone and that trespassing would be a punishable felony. Mr. Vergara stated that all silt fencing has been installed around the property, and that clearing was in progress. Mr. LaPointe asked for clarification on what was going to happen with the pine trees in the wetlands, and Mr. Whitehead stated that he would research the answer for him. Mr. Whitehead stated that he was going to be a good neighbor to Mr. Lapointe, and stated that he wanted to take some before pictures of the property line, and once the park was built take some after pictures and make sure that that property represented the original vision for the park. Mr. LaPointe asked how wide the trails on site were going to be, and Mr. Whitehead stated that he would find an answer for him. Discussion ensued regarding what the landscaping for the park was going to be like, and Mr. LaPointe asked how much money was allocated for landscaping for the park. Mr. Whitehead responded that the plan was a building block, and that landscaping would be part of the project but he would not give the committee an exact figure. Mr. Poppe stated that the reviewing agencies had requirements for landscaping, and that there was already money allocated for landscaping the facility. He also stated that in all the parks he has built, he has added extensive amounts of landscaping to facilities after they have been built. Ms. Thompson asked for a quarterly budget report which stated what had been spent and how much was left. Mr. Whitehead stated that this would be made available to the committee. Mr. LaPointe asked for a breakdown of exactly what was covered in the Road and Bridge contract. Mr. LaPointe then asked how deep the ponds on site were going to be, and Mr. Whitehead stated that he would find an answer for him.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Thompson stated that due to the groundbreaking ceremony taking place in late March, the issue of naming the interior loop road will take place at the April meeting. Mr. LaPointe asked if the future proposed baseball field could be made into a handicap field. Mr. Whitehead responded that there were talks where the current Rodes Park may not have to be sold, and that that park could be made into a specialty park with handicap fields, using the community center for the disabilities program, and providing a greater service to the citizens of Brevard County. Ms. Thompson stated that she just wanted to make sure that if funding for the new park ran short, that selling that property was still part of the plan. Discussion ensued regarding possibilities for the naming of the old park, and its possible uses. Mr. Whitehead stated that that was a dream for Parks & Recreation, and that it was a vision for the future. Mr. Barton stated that the regulation size for football fields may go up to 100 yards, and Mr. Whitehead added that 120 yards would be needed. Mr. Poppe added that what was shown on the site plan was dimensioned, and that what the fields would be huge grass fields.

PUBLIC INPUT

NONE.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Thompson stated that the next meeting date would be the 27th of February and that the site of the meeting would be at the South Area Parks & Recreation office. Seeing no further business, Ms. Thompson called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dyke made a MOTION to adjourn and Mr. LaPointe seconded. Ms. Thompson adjourned the meeting of the Rodes Park Referendum Committee at 8:00 p.m.