



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION *South County Boat Ramp Referendum Committee*

PUBLIC MEETING
May 17, 2006

A public meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South County Boat Ramp Referendum Committee, was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, 6:00 p.m., at the Grant Community Center, Grant, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jamie Seymour
Albert Malerk
Michael Rowland
Duane Ball

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ron Rincones
Mike Cunningham
VACANT (replacing Robin Tibbitts)

STAFF PRESENT

Jack Masson, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation
Greg Minor, Construction Manager, Parks and Recreation
Marsha Cantrell, Parks Support Services Manager
Jerry Gust, South Area Parks Maintenance Superintendent
Lisa Nicholas, South Area Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC

Attached.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rowland called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and introduced himself and thanked the public, Committee members, staff and representatives from Coastal Tech for attending. Board members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were provided with a copy of the minutes from the March 28, 2006, meeting. After review, Mr. Seymour made a MOTION to approve the minutes, and Mr. Malerk seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Cantrell stated that permission had been received from the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners to apply for a \$400,000 grant and that the status of that grant should be known in a couple of months.

Mr. Masson introduced himself and stated that, at the previous meeting, many good comments were provided by the Committee and the public. The consultants from Coastal Tech went back with many notes and many items to modify. Mr. Masson then introduced Mike Walther from Coastal Tech.

Mr. Minor stated that, with regard to the demolition, the project was out for bid. It took DEP longer to sign off than anticipated. DEP has been given permission to do a "wet demolition", however, and this should save somewhere between \$35,000 and \$38,000. The contractor should be onsite by the end of May, and demolition should be underway prior to hurricane season.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Walther from Coastal Tech indicated that his firm did not yet have all of the survey information required to finalize the site plan. However, some requests from the last meeting were able to be incorporated. Mr. Walther provided a document stating which requests could be fulfilled and which ones could not and the reasons behind each determination (attached).

Mr. Seymour noted that the parking lot should not only be lighted, but it should be over-lighted in order to make people feel safe. Mr. Masson responded that staff understands the importance of lighting, but there are certain ordinances to which the County must adhere. Mr. Seymour also stated that the traffic situation must be addressed and that there is a huge safety issue with current configurations. Mr. Seymour asked about having a buffer, and Mr. Walther indicated that a wall will increase privacy. Mr. Masson added that there is specific language in an ordinance concerning walls and buffers.

Mr. Ball inquired as to whether the concept of using floating docks had been considered. There are many advantages to them, such as they can be removed and stored prior to a hurricane and they will not get damaged. Mr. Walther noted that the concept could be discussed but that there may be certain maintenance requirements. Mr. Seymour noted that, at John Jorgensen's Landing, the middle dock is a floating dock; it works very well and has survived numerous hurricanes.

Mr. Malerk stated that he saw a potential problem with the four ramps and staging and noted that a staging area would be necessary if additional ramps could not be installed.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

The following comments were received from members of the public:

- Eva Kelly noted that, at the previous meeting, staff indicated that the soil had been tested but would need additional testing. Ms. Cantrell responded that was true and that additional testing had been completed. However, more testing would probably be done following the demolition.
- Garry Becker commended Mr. Walther for his thoroughness in trying to accommodate all of the requests and emphasized that the number of drive-through parking spaces should be maximized.
- Wayne Marshall stated that the ramp situation is ridiculous and is becoming worse. Mr. Marshall asked if the one entrance could be maximized in width, and Mr. Walther responded that, because of the configuration of the deceleration lanes, the entrance really could not be made much wider. Mr. Marshall also raised a concern regarding illegally parked vehicles, and Mr. Rowland responded that such an issue was beyond the jurisdiction of County staff. Mr. Masson did indicate, however, that staff could follow-up on enforcement.
- With regard to the issue of floating docks, Dan Robino noted that all docks up north float. They sustain very little damage, and they are easier to load and unload. In addition, almost all patrons at John Jorgensen's Landing use the floating dock because it is so much easier to use. Mr. Robino also inquired into what was going on with First Street Boat Ramp, and Mr. Masson replied that some maintenance has been done on it, but staff is limited by permitting. It is only for small boats.
- Kevin Trowbridge indicated that he works for a boat company teaching boating safety, and strongly agrees with the concept of utilizing floating docks.

- Dave Ayers asked what a wet demolition is, and Mr. Minor responded that the structure is kept wet during the demolition so that there is no escape of particles into the air. Also, barriers are put in place so clouds of dust will not be seen. The runoff will not go into the lagoon, and State DEP staff will be onsite during the procedure.
- Conrad Arman asked what would happen to the ramp at John Jorgensen's Landing, and staff responded that it will remain a ramp.
- Lisette Kolar requested that the boat ramp be named after Stephanie Anderson, who was struck and killed by lightning. Mr. Masson indicated that she should speak with him after the meeting.
- Denise Burr inquired into handicapped boat trailer parking, and staff indicated they would speak with the consultant. Ms. Burr also agreed with using floating docks.
- Keith Tuten asked who would be responsible for enforcement of the property, and Mr. Masson replied that it would be the Brevard County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Tuten also asked if there would be any restrictions if the grant was received, and Ms. Cantrell responded that there would be a couple: it would need to be kept open to the public; and, all user fees must be equal, i.e., non-County residents could not be charged more than County residents to use the facility.
- Tom Sammon noted that the traffic on US 1 was horrendous and that an acceleration lane should be allowed and that maybe there should be two lanes in and one lane out. Mr. Walther stated that he would look into it.
- Al Griffiths asked about the configuration of the ramps and whether it was two double ramps, and Mr. Walther responded that the plan had been changed to include four individual ramps.
- Mac Davidson stated that the river north and south of Grant Island is narrow and should be a no-wake zone. Mr. Rowland indicated that this was not the appropriate Committee to address that issue.
- Andrew Kittren asked if boat cleaning stations would be included, and staff responded that they could look into the issue.
- John Kendrick commended all parties involved for the amount of effort that has been put into the project and said he agreed with the idea of naming the facility after Stephanie Anderson.
- Bob Staples asked if concrete or shell would be used, and Mr. Walther replied that the issue was still being examined.
- Warren Wright asked if there would be any buffer on US 1, and Mr. Walther indicated that any design would have to meet FDOT's ingress and egress requirements.
- Various participants indicated that they felt a restroom building was a bad idea because it could become a safety issue.

Mr. Rowland then sought input from Committee members:

- Mr. Malerk said that he appreciated the efforts of Coastal Tech and the modifications Mr. Walther had made to the plan.
- Mr. Seymour noted that he had invited Commissioner Voltz to the meeting via e-mail and thanked Ms. Cantrell for her efforts on attempting to attain funding through grants.

- Mr. Ball indicated that he was looking forward to seeing the conceptual plan.

Mr. Walther indicated that it would take approximately six weeks to modify the plan and incorporate the additional requested adjustments.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Mr. Rowland thanked staff, Committee members and Coastal Tech and adjourned the meeting of the South County Boat Ramp Referendum Committee at 7:25 p.m. and noted that the next meeting would be held on July 19, 2006, 6:00 p.m., at the Grant Community Center.