



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

### PUBLIC MEETING June 23, 2008

A public meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South County Boat Ramp Referendum Committee, was held on Monday, June 23, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at the Grant Community Center, Grant, Florida.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

Jamie Seymour  
Albert Malerk  
Michael Rowland  
Duane Ball  
Ron Rincones  
Mike Cunningham

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

#### STAFF PRESENT

Helen Voltz, Brevard County Commissioner, District 3  
Cheryl Page, Parks and Recreation Assistant Department Director  
Bill Ross, Parks and Recreation  
Denny Burk, Parks and Recreation  
Jerry Gust, South Area Parks & Recreation Maintenance Superintendent  
Gustavo Vergara, South Area Parks and Recreation Special Projects Coordinator  
Mr. Dale Yonts, Mayor, Town of Grant-Valkaria

#### PUBLIC

Attached.

#### MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rowland called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Presented himself as the chairman, determined that we had quorum, followed by a request for the pledge of allegiance and thanked everyone for coming and announced that slips were available with contact information and addresses for Saint Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and they would be handed out at the end of the meeting. Mr. Gustavo Vergara called the roll and introduced everyone.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were given minutes from the April 28, 2008 meeting, Mr. Mike Cunningham made a MOTION to approve the April 28, 2008, minutes, Mr. Ron Rincones SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

#### Guest Speakers

None

## STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Bill Ross stated that the 4 ramps and 50 parking spaces are a non-issue and said we are making progress. There are some mitigation issues that need to be overcome. The District is working well with us, have had 4 meetings with SJRWMD, one issue he is facing is that in September he will be going before the Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) Committee and has to have permit in hand in order to get the grant.

Mr. Mike Rowland asked where was the bottleneck? Mr. Michael Walters responded that the bottleneck was the process of permitting with SJRWMD, for example - conservation easement, minor changes in an analysis of stormwater systems designs and a lot of nuances that needed to be ironed out, the bottleneck is just the permitting process and resolving what mitigation impacts are acceptable to issue a permit for a state aquatic preserve. Mr. Michael Walters stated that he will have an application finished by the time the next meeting takes place. Mr. Michael Walters felt that the Army Corp should have no issues because the ramp will not affect marine traffic.

Mr. Steve Perusich, a member of the public, asked what the public could do to help, Mr. Michael Walters stated that the public input was a great.

Mr. Al Griffiths, a member of the public, asked for names and addresses and e-mail addresses of who he could contact for assistance with issues at the boat ramp.

Mr. Jamie Seymour stated that he felt the same as the people, about SJRWMD, that they did not answer to anybody except the government. Mr. Michael Rowland stated that the big hurdle of justifying the necessity has already happened and that upsetting SJRWMD would not help the process move forward.

Mr. Steve Wessler stated that the government was not in charge of the District, the Board of Governors makes the decisions.

Ms. Bonnie Roberts read the latest RAI's and stated that people were begging SJRWMD and felt the RAI's were a stall tactic.

Mr. Dale Yonts asked if SJRWMD was working with the County and Mr. Mike Rowland stated that he felt that SJRWMD was working with us.

Ms. Trudy Infanti asked what was the County's specific budget amount available to be spent for this specific project and wanted to know the SJRWMD permit number to do research on the RAI's.

Mr. Jerry Gust stated that money was budgeted and that Commissioner Voltz had stated that money was encumbered for this project and that the boat ramp builder was in place and that the only other aspects were land clearing, excavation work, and landscaping, a pre-fab restroom building was waiting in the wings. County Budget amount was 6.9 million.

Mr. Jerry Gust stated that the County had adopted the naming of the facility, to be referred to as Christensen's Landing.

Mrs. Cheryl Page said the county will be asking for an additional amount of \$500,000.00 from the FIND committee with a September deadline. More discussion ensued as to where the bottleneck in the permitting process was occurring.

Mr. Gary Becker stated that there are always delays and that the delay is not SJRWMD and that the delay is a person.

Mr. Mike Rowland stated that the regular meetings were helping in these communications and that unfortunately the committee just had to play the game.

Mr. Steven Webster read the RAI and asked questions from it.

Mr. Mike Rowland stated his experience is that usually if SJRWMD gives a permit, Army Corp will issue one also.

Mr. Michael Walther stated that he couldn't get a permit from Army Corp until he had a permit from SJRWMD.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Dale Yonts asked if each RAI was a whole new set of questions or if they were fine-tuning the details of the permit.

A member of the public asked if at any point someone could come in at the last hour and challenge the permit, and Mr. Michael Walters. responded that the possibility did exist for an outside party to challenge a permit as long as the permitting agency felt that the challenge was warranted.

Mr. Michael Walters felt he would have a permit before September, and stated that once he submitted a final response to the latest RAI. He felt that he was encouraged and saw the finish line at the end of the tunnel. Ms. Bonnie Roberts asked about the status of the submerged land lease, and asked where Coastal Tech was on the process.

Discussion ensued about parking in the median, accident history, and deceleration lanes being installed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business, Mr. Mike Rowland thanked staff, Committee members and Coastal Tech and adjourned the meeting of the South County Boat Ramp Referendum Committee at 7:05 p.m. and noted that the next meeting date would be announced at a later date.