



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

PUBLIC MEETING  
August 25, 2008

A public meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South County Boat Ramp Referendum Committee, was held on Monday, August 25, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at the Grant Community Center, Grant, Florida.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Jamie Seymour  
Mike Cunningham  
Michael Rowland  
Ron Rincones

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Albert Malerk  
Duane Ball

### STAFF PRESENT

Greg Minor, South Area Operations Manager  
Bill Ross, Parks and Recreation  
Denny Bert, Parks and Recreation  
Jerry Gust, South Area Parks & Recreation Maintenance Superintendent  
Gustavo Vergara, South Area Parks and Recreation Special Projects Coordinator  
Mechelle Cook, Parks and Recreation

### PUBLIC

Names of the public attending are listed on the meeting sign in sheet.

### MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Michael Rowland called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. He introduced himself as the chairman, Mr. Gustavo Vergara called the roll and Mr. Rowland stated that a quorum was present.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were provided with minutes from the June 23, 2008 meeting, Mr. Jamie Seymour made a MOTION to approve the minutes, Mr. Michael Rowland SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

### Guest Speakers

None.

### STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jerry Gust introduced Brevard County Parks and Recreation staff and new staff members. Mr. Bill Ross stated that he did not have the SJRWMD permit yet. Mr. Ross stated that SJRWMD staff have finished their review and are recommending approval to the SJRWMD Governing Board who are meeting on September 9, 2008. Mr. Ross stated that the Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Florida Fish and Wildlife were still involved in the process. Mr. Ross stated that the Army Corp was

aware of the FIND grant, and that the Trim Meeting was scheduled for September 18, 2008 and that they intend on funding the \$500,000.00 when the permits are in place. Mr. Ross stated that Army Corp is doing everything in their power, but they need to get comments from U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Florida Fish and Wildlife. Coastal Tech has done everything in their power to speed the project along and BCP&R staff has done everything in their power to make sure Coastal Tech has everything they need.

FDOT meeting is September 18, 2008 and BCP&R will present the 1-way in- 1-way out plan, and there are large hurdles to cross with the appeals committee. The main points are, left turn lane on the median, decel lane north or south, and no u-turns. We may have to go back to 1-way in/out and be prepared to argue against u-turns and that might help get the plan approved. A video has been made referencing the U-turns and will be presented at the FDOT meeting in DeLand. Mr. Ron Rincones asked where did the question of U-turns come up and Mr. Ross stated that FDOT wanted the public to make any U-turns at Grant Road. Discussion then ensued regarding safety of U-turns and traffic plans, and the making of the video. The plan presented did show a median cut, you would go thru median cut and then turn south, and there were concerns about median cuts already in the area. Mr. Seymour had demonstrated how to make a turn with a boat on a trailer, the issues were to stay in the lane, could not see oncoming traffic, attempted the turn at 4 different places, and the boat could not stay in the lane. They were able to film additional real-time footage of boats not being able to stay in the lane while filming the video.

Mr. Rowland asked Mr. Ross about the Army Corp permit and the FIND grant and asked if we miss the September 18<sup>th</sup> deadline could we apply next year? Mr. Ross stated that FDOT has nothing to do with the FIND grant and that once we have the SJRWMD and Army Corp permits in hand we can turn the contractor loose on the project. Mr. Ross stated that any decision to move/change monies would have to be made by the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Jamie Seymour stated that the City of Grant/Valkaria has reviewed and accepted the plan and would be there to help present it to FDOT.

Mr. Rowland asked if all angles were being worked simultaneously, Mr. Ross stated FDOT didn't matter for FIND, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife could be done in Merritt Island and that if we did not get the FIND Grant this year, they could get it next year.

Mr. Bill Ross added that 5200 cubic yards of muck would be dredged from the shoreline of the site and that more contamination was found on site and that he was working on that. For muck mitigation, a containment pond would have to be established; when the marine contractor starts work he will be doing the buoy markers first. A question was raised were there any issues with the sea-grass beds and Mr. Ross responded that there were no statistics available. Sea grass mitigation continues and West Coast Companies believe that once the muck is removed, the area would be good for transplanting sea grasses. The company stated that the sea grass is laid out like sod, and all reports up to now are favorable for establishment and growth of sea grasses.

Mr. Ross stated that within the next couple of days he will be contacting the County landfill to see if they can use the silt for the landfills and stated that he was looking at all options. Issues are costs involved with moving the silt from the site.

Mr. Rowland stated that September 9<sup>th</sup> was the next milestone when the SJRWMD Governing Board would be meeting and considering approval of the permit. Discussion ensued regarding the urgent need for the boat ramp and the people who were involved in the project.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## PUBLIC INPUT

None.

## ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Mr. Mike Rowland thanked the public, BCP&R staff, and Committee members for attending.

Mr. Mike Cunningham stated that in July he had met with Representative Mitch Needleman and Mr. Needleman had said that if by July 15 there were no permits to call him, after July 15th Mr. Cunningham called Mr. Needleman and Mr. Needleman stated he had done everything in his power to help the project along. Mr. Cunningham stated that when people go to the public meetings with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, etc., the people should be diplomatic if they want to get results, they should go as a unified group, and use their 3 minutes to say what you have to say. Discussion ensued regarding the FIND Grant, BCP&R is in contact with Mr. Dave Roach and it is at the top of the list. We have a Marine Plan in place and the State of Florida and other counties are looking at it.

Mr. Mike Cunningham made a **MOTION** to adjourn, Mr. Jamie Seymour **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Rowland adjourned the meeting of the South County Boat Ramp Referendum Committee at 6:50 p.m. and noted that the next meeting would be contingent upon the facility being available for use on September 22, 2008.