

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee
Regular Meeting
January 15, 2002

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Church, 3780 Hwy A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Arthur
Jeff Berger
Vince Loglisci
Thomas Moore
Mike Slayton
Patti Smithson
Paul Tritaik
Ceil Wilson
Kathi Arms
Brian Hurley
Janet Adam
Susan Margaritondo
Marty Almberg
Keith Howard
Louise McDaniel
Susan Simoes
Don DeLucas

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF ATTENDING

Chuck Nelson, Parks and Recreation Director
Karen Palus, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Greg Minor, Construction Coordinator
Tina Webster, Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC

Tom Yonge, Kimley-Horn and Associates, A&E Firm
*The public attendance list is attached

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Berger, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

NON-INTERACTIVE PUBLIC INPUT:

Public Members, which included children, had a three-minute time frame to address the committee. The following items were presented:

- There was a request from a child to have a skate park and soccer field.
- Request to put in everything possible for the children. Comment that committee needs to plan for the future and younger people will move in to the area.
- Request to build the 18,000 sq. ft. Community Center. Comment that the state has been pushing for years for communities to come together and having this proposed Community Center would do that.
- Comment that the groves are not being maintained-they should be maintained as they are.
- Concern of the size of the community center. Suggested that the cost would not be greater, as mentioned at the last meeting, regarding a new plan for a smaller community center.
- Mr. Young-spoke on behalf of the Committee for a Better South Beach Park. Commented on the size of the community center being too large; wants in writing that lights will not be put in the park; says he has spoken to over 2500 people who want a smaller community center. Mr. Young's three minute time was up. He wanted to continue to speak asking if he could take another persons turn. The chairman denied his request. The chairman requested that Mr. Young be excused from the meeting.
- Comments continued in regards to the need of an 18,000 sq. ft community center.
- A member of the public commented that he did not want any lights in the park.
- A suggestion to not have league play on the proposed field.
- Public member in favor of a swimming pool.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Arthur mentioned that he may have been misunderstood at the last meeting and asked that a correction be made to the statement " Robert Arthur asked if it would be better to space out the elements" and say centralize the elements instead. Mr. Slayton made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes with the correction and Mr. Almberg seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Palus mentioned that calendars were provided to all the committee members in recognition of their dedication to the committee and project. Mr. Berger asked if there had been any change to the committee members. Mr. Hurley made a **MOTION** to re-open the minutes and Mr. Slayton seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Ms Palus mentioned that Marty Almberg replaced Jim Davis as of the November meeting. Mr. Berger asked Mr. Almberg to introduce himself. Ms Palus apologized for not mentioning it at the last meeting and mentioned that she would provide a copy of the resignation letter to the committee at the next meeting. Mr. Slayton made a **MOTION** to close and approve the minutes and Mr. Hurley seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Project Review:

Tom Yonge, A&E Firm:

Mr. Yonge informed the Committee that he provided a conceptual idea based on the discussion at the previous meeting. The plan includes some of the elements as proposed in the Referendum and the wish list of the committee including the availability to build in phases. He walked through the plan with the committee. Discussion ensued regarding the buffer between the property line and access road; the reason for having the elements in the northern end of the property versus centralized with in the property (utility issues, etc); committee asked for a price range of the project. Mr. Yonge could not give an estimated price at this time, but asked that the committee prioritize the elements. Mr. Slayton noted that the committee could not prioritize without knowing the cost of the elements. Mr. Berger asked if a lighting plan had been done per the request of Mr. Blair Witherington. Mr. Yonge mentioned that a lighting plan wouldn't be done at this particular time. Mr. Nelson stated that Mr. Witherington would be contacted for information when the lighting plan is developed.

Ms. Smithson asked when the committee is going to make a decision regarding the community center and/or plan. Discussion ensued and a few members felt that costs of the elements were needed before voting on the plan and Mr. Berger wants to receive more public input. The majority of the members felt that the committee should move on however Mr. Berger stated he is going to open the floor to the public. Discussion ensued including waiting for cost figures. Ms. Adams asked the committee to look at the folder that was given to the committee at the beginning of the meetings. A list of estimated figures on the elements was given to the committee. There is no reason to wait for costs. Mr. Howard commented that the information that was provided was 1) incorrect and 2) incomplete.

Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of the community center and the build-out of the south beach area. Mr. Nelson mentioned that he received a memo from Planning and Zoning stating that the estimated build-out was 12,200. Mr. Howard said that the number of 12,200 was ridiculous and that talking to realtors and builders in the area who said south beaches was 80% built out and if you take the census number of 6,533 and apply approximately 80% that comes out to about 8,500. Discussion ensued. Mr. Nelson stated that this park was meant for up to 25,000 people within a 5 mile radius of the park according to the comp plan. Ms. Simoes asked the population that the South Mainland Community Center-Micco serves. Mr. Nelson replied that the community center and gym serves a residential neighborhood of about 5,000.

Mr. Yonge mentioned that he could not move forward until the committee makes a decision, changes, etc. on the plan. Mr. Berger moved to public input.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Berger asked for public input at this time and asked that everyone be limited to three minutes.

- Comment that 18,000 sq. ft Community Center was too large for area; suggested that the committee move forward with a plan. This public member mentioned that the information received by Mr. Yonge was incorrect and provided misinformation.
- Request that the committee members introduce themselves at the beginning of each meeting. Mentioned that the public seems to be misinformed with wrong information.
- There was a concern regarding lighting and the size of the community center being too large.
- Request for feasibility study.

Mr. Hurley asked where the money goes should the committee not spend the allocated amount. Mr. Nelson noted that the money would be used for other projects.

- Concern that the proposed community center will not utilized and a waste of money if it is that large.
- Request that the committee make a decision so that public can then bring any concerns forward. It is hard for the public to keep going over the same concerns if there is no reason to, based on the committees decision.
- Request for the committee to set a deadline-bring all elements, costs, utilization information to the next meeting and the committee move forward. Suggestion of having a survey for the public on the county web site regarding the project.

Mr. Berger commented that a survey should be done as he has requested in past meetings. Mr. Berger mentioned a comment made by Mr. Moore at the last meeting in which Mr. Moore asked Mr. Berger how long he wanted to wait before voting on any of the elements for the project. Mr. Moore agreed he said that and asked that question again. Mr. Moore stated that he feels the committee needs to move forward.

- Public member stated that there would be someone at every meeting that is or is not in favor of the project. The committee members are suppose to be going out to their community and representing the information they have collected back to the committee so the committee can make the best decisions possible.

Ms. Adams mentioned that there are certain elements that are standard in every park including restrooms, etc. and the committee needs to move forward on the others.

- Public member commented that the committee is suppose to be representing their community and thinks the committee is allowing themselves to be harassed by one particular group, which is hindering the process. Not everyone will be happy with the decisions made, but the committee should work to make the best decision possible for everyone in the community, not just one particular group who is against it. Stated that by his research, the majority of the people in the area want the park as proposed.
- Public member stated that he use to live near a park of this nature and the lights were not the issue. The issue was noise and suggested that if lights do go into the park that they be on a timer to go out by a specified time. He believes that there should be some sort of compromise that still allows children a place to go in the afternoons without affecting residents at night.

- public member noted that he has received many bogus phone calls with incorrect information and concerns or items that the committee has already discussed in previous meetings. He suggested that the committee move forward with the project.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to discuss. Mr. Tritaik made a **MOTION** to adjourn and Mr. Slayton seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2002.