

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee
Regular Meeting
April 16, 2002

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Church, 3780 Hwy A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Berger
Thomas Moore
Kathi Arms
Brian Hurley
Janet Adam
Susan Margaritondo
Marty Almberg
Sue Simoes
Ceil Wilson
Mike Slayton
Don DeLucas
Robert Arthur
Harry Hicks
Kathy McInherny
John Eder

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Tritaik
Vince Loglisci

STAFF ATTENDING

Jack Masson, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Karen Palus, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Greg Minor, Construction Coordinator
Tina Webster, Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC

*The public attendance list is attached.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Slayton, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. and asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

NON-INTERACTIVE PUBLIC INPUT:

Mr. Slayton asked for the speaker cards and asked Mr. Moore to keep the three minute time limit. He then asked the committee if they would like to address someone who has a simple question rather than making them wait until the end. They agreed.
There was no input at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Slayton asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Mr. Slayton, "Hearing none, are there any objections to the minutes? Hearing none, the minutes are approved with no objection." Ms. Palus asked that the committee make a motion to approve the minutes to be consistent with how the other committees work. Mr. Slayton asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Almberg made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as presented and Ms. Simoes seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Mr. Slayton turned the floor over to Ms. Palus to lead the new member selection. Ms Palus, What we need to do is make a motion to approve Mr. Slayton as the chairman and then need to take nominations for a Vice-Chairman. Mr. Almberg

nominated Mr. Slayton as the Chairman and Mr. Moore seconded the nomination. Ms. Wilson nominated Ms. Simoes as the Vice-Chairman and she accepted. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

MEMBER SELECTION

Ms. Palus informed the committee that a list was provided in their packets of individuals who contacted the office interested in serving on the committee. She then explained the process that the Commissioners use in making the selections which is using a number scale of 1-5 with one being the first choice and so on. She asked the committee to allow the individuals interested to present themselves to the committee prior to them making a selection. The vacant positions are a representative from Woodlands, Candlewoods and Community Programs for Adults.

Ms. Palus called for the first presentation for Community Programs for Adults. The first person called was Ms. Laura Roy Dowling and she was not present. The following individuals were called upon and made a presentation to the committee: Harry Hicks, Mike Cronin, and Paul Schroeder. Mr. Slayton asked to proceed to the other vacancies and give Ms. Dowling a chance to arrive and speak on her behalf.

Ms. Palus proceeded to the Woodlands representative. She called Ms. Kathy McInherny, who made a presentation to the committee. Ms. Palus informed the committee that they could accept other nominations from the audience who maybe interested in serving as a Woodlands representative. There was not anyone interested at this time. The committee filled out their selection form for the Woodlands representative.

Ms. Palus moved onto the Candlewoods representatives. She called for John Eder and he made a presentation to the committee. Ms. Palus informed the committee that Ms. Judy Mattson was not present due to some computer and A/C problems she was experiencing at home. Ms. Palus asked if anyone wanted to speak on behalf of the individuals not present. Mr. Almberg spoke regarding Ms. Mattson. Ms. Simoes and Mr. Berger spoke on behalf of Ms. Dowling. There were no other nominations at this time.

Ms. Palus asked the committee members to rank the individuals on the sheets provided, she will collect them and Mr. Masson will tally up the votes. Mr. Moore made a comment that Florida is represented by three members already on the committee. Ms. Arms asked where the other nominees were residence of and the nominees responded. Mr. Slayton invited Ms. McInherny to join the committee since she was the only nominee for Woodlands. Mr. Slayton asked to move on to staff reports while Mr. Masson was tallying the votes.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Palus informed the committee that she provided the information regarding the dog parks; Mr. Moore's article; Mr. Berger's article; copies of the petitions per the request of Mr. Berger; Mr. Berger's letter; a letter by Mr. Margaritondo; and the demographic & project data requested by Mr. Berger. Ms. Palus explained that there were some items that were not applicable being that some of these are new facilities and elements that have not been developed. The information was provided by the Brevard County, Planning & Zoning and is the most accurate information available. She explained that a copy of the Parks & Recreation Fee Schedule was provided to them as well. Mr. Slayton asked the total budget available right now for this project. The answer was about 5.5 million which includes the land. Ms. Palus explained that when she receives additional information, it will be provided to the committee. Ms. Arms questioned if the census information is for year round residents or if they just have a residence here. Mr. Slayton commented that it is typically year round. Mr. Berger informed the committee that there have been several news articles about the impact of snow birds on the population in the south beach area and nobody knows for sure whether people are fulltime residents, snowbirds, etc. It seems to be a grey area in presenting tourists in the area. Mr. Slayton commented that he does not believe it includes tourists because it is done by census. Ms. Palus stated that she would verify the information. Ms. McInherny asked where the estimated build-out number came from. She said that it seems a little astronomical considering the total population is 6,533 in the year 2000. She asked if there were that many lots left here. Ms. Palus replied that the number was provided by the Planning and Zoning office in regards to the total build-out of the area. Mr. Slayton mentioned that this runs from Melbourne Beach south, so they mathematically calculate the number of buildable lots. Mr. Berger mentioned that this was a rubber cookie figure that has been in front of this committee a few times. Mr. Slayton asked him to explain. Mr. Berger replied rubber cookie means that it is something you chew on and chew on and don't get anywhere. He said he personally believes that there are very few lots left in the unincorporated area of Melbourne Beach and he can't see that it can double the amount. Mr. Slayton said that he thinks the 12,000 number is a swag based on mathematical calculation and he wouldn't put anymore weight on it; his concern is what is here now and what is going to be here in the future.

Ms. Simoes wanted to remind the committee that the end of Breakers is where Melbourne Beach stops and the Archie Carr Wildlife Refuge doesn't even start until you are at the end of Sandy Shores. She stated that there is a lot of area there and that is probably what is showing on the Platt books. She still thinks there is a question of the 6,000 amount, but Micco has a population of 5,000 and built their Community Center so she does not understand why we are discussing this again. Mr.

Slayton stated that he thinks the numbers we need to look at are here and people can take or leave whatever the build-out number is; his opinion is it is not a solid number and requested that the committee move on to project review if we are done with staff reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Masson read the selection results of the new members. Community Programs for Adults – Harry Hicks; Woodlands – Kathy McInherny; and Candlewoods – John Eder. The new members joined the committee. Mr. Moore asked the total number of committee members. It is 17. Mr. Moore asked if that was the max since there are many other residents interested in representing their area. Mr. Slayton replied that the committee was made up by South Area Advisory Board and it would be dependent on them to do that not this committee. Ms. Palus reminded the committee that the meetings are open to the public and anyone interested is voicing there comments or ideas are welcome to under public input.

Project Review:

Mr. Masson informed the committee that staff had sat down with the A&E Firm and made some changes based on the 12 pages of notes he took from the last meeting. Mr. Yonge has provided two plans for the committee review. Ms. Arms asked if the members could take a break to look at the plans. Mr. Slayton asked for a 5-10 minute break and the committee and the public took time to look at the plans. The meeting resumed and Mr. Slayton stated that he wanted the committee to come to grips with the priority recommendations in order to allow the A&E firm to finalize the plan. Mr. Slayton then discussed some of the cost elements associated with the project. He mentioned that the committee has about \$600,000 for elements within the project and the committee needs to tell the firm which features they like and want to do in the first phase. Ms. Simoes recommended looking at this as a site plan not a community center and elements. The site plans are to scale.

Mr. Yonge discussed each plan and discussion ensued with the committee about the plans. Discussion included the ability of keeping some of the grove. Mr. Berger recommended keeping a tree of knowledge within the park. Ms. McInherny mentioned that the plans did not include many elements for citizens 55 years old and over. Mr. Slayton asked the committee which plan they liked the best. He recommended plan C. The committee agreed. Ms. Simoes recommended the pavilion be moved closer to the multi-purpose field and noted that the Community Center could provide many activities for senior citizens as they do at the South Mainland Community Center in Micco. Mr. Slayton stated that the elements listed by Paul Schroeder seemed to be smaller elements that should be easy to include in the plan. Ms. Margaritondo asked how they could prioritize without knowing the costs of all the elements. Mr. Slayton stated that he believed that since the gymnasium includes indoor basketball, that the outdoor should be a second priority. He then started to name what he believed to be the most priority. Mr. Slayton believes the multi-purpose field is a must; the playground is must; he discussed the pavilions and thought the 40x60 could be reduced and could save in cost. Ms. Palus mentioned that the cost includes the bar-b-que grills, tables and trashcans. The smaller pavilions do not include the large bar-b-que grills. Mr. Slayton continued with his list and stated that maybe one tennis court could be done rather than two; he believes a skate park is a big request by the children. The committee discussed the ability of reducing the size and cost of a skateboard park and discussed the possibility of starting with one that is about \$100,000. Mr. Berger is concerned about the liability and noise generated by a skateboard park. He also commented that the surrounding residents would object to the noise. Ms. McInherny brought up that due to the number of children in the area that the community center was too big. (Many comments made over each other...could not understand what was said).

Ms. Simoes mentioned that many children have attended the meetings and have stated that they wanted a skate park. Mr. Hicks commented that the City of Sebastian built a small skate park and discussed the requirements of having a skate park. He said it is used by adults as well as children and has reduced the amount of vandalism in the area. Mr. Slayton recommended the possibility of having two smaller pavilions rather than one large pavilion. Discussion ensued regarding the pavilion size and cost. Ms. Margaritondo noted that she thinks the outdoor basketball courts will be well utilized by adults and children. Mr. Slayton recommended that the committee try to get the most in on the first phase as possible. Mr. Moore mentioned that Florida Air Academy has courts that accommodate both basketball and tennis in one. Ms. Simoes mentioned the idea of eliminating the caretaker's house. No response was provided at this time. Ms. McInherny agreed that two smaller pavilions are needed. Mr. Masson mentioned the utilization of an outdoor basketball court and noted that the \$50,000 cost figure provided is probably a little high for a basketball court.

Mr. Slayton went over the elements discussed: multi-purpose field; tennis courts (either stand alone or maybe combined with the basketball courts); playground; two pavilions of moderate size; senior outdoor rec facilities (Mr. Schroeder commented a grey play area). Mr. Slayton noted that he would like to see if these elements can be done within the budget and then discuss the elements if needed. Mr. Almberg asked about a handout of the plan. The firm will come back with a modified plan. Ms. Arms noted that she did not hear the bike path being included in the plan (not paved but a stabilized path way). Mr. Yonge stated that it could be easily added. Mr. Berger asked Mr. Yonge how much direction he gets from the Parks and Recreation staff. Mr. Yonge explained that staff provides information based on the operations of the park. Mr. Berger asked what happened to the figure eight design he recommended. Mr. Yonge replied that he did not hear any other interest from the committee for that type of design. Mr. Slayton moved to public input.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC INPUT

- Hillary Steinberger – is representing the BARC group to ask that the committee to approve a dog park. The committee received a copy of the elements required of a dog park in their packets. Ms. Arms questioned who maintains the park and the answer was the County. The size area needed would be between 3-5 acres. Mr. Moore asked the type of fencing used and the answer was about a four to six foot chain link. Ms. Palus informed the committee that the Palm Bay Regional Park Committee approved 3 acres to be designated for a dog park. She also commented that the dog park does not require many elements other than a water fountain, pavilion, benches and fencing. Mr. Slayton stated that more information would be needed prior to making a decision and asked to move forward.
- Elizabeth Reckert– her home backs up to the property. She feels that there are a lot of neighbors who are not looking forward to the park going in because of security issues and would like maybe a fence put up. Ms. Simoes explained that this was discussed at the last meeting and the committee agreed that a fence or berm was needed.
- Jim Rosasco – appreciates the committee adding the senior activities to the park. Thinks the elements will be used. Mr. Rosasco asked how far the access road would go and if it would be paved all the way to the private property or the caretaker’s house and explained that the more pavement there is the more costly the project. Mr. Slayton stated that the committee has given the A&E firm the direction to minimize the pavement and parking in the park and we will see what they come back with. Mr. Rosasco is concerned with the cost of the road. Ms. McInherny stated that she agrees with Mr. Rosasco because it is currently an access road to Mullet Creek road which is a dirt road and there is no reason to pave it for access to Honest Johns Fish Camp. Mr. Slayton stated that the committee did not need to debate this right now. Mr. Moore asked Mr. Rosasco if he served on several other committees and he replied yes. He then stated that Mr. Rosasco is always telling the committee to cut costs and asked him if he was trying to get additional funds for the other projects he is involved with. Mr. Rosasco replied that this is not permitted and that is not his agenda.
- Paul Schroeder – asked the committee to look at the demographic sheet provided to them. He recognized that the majority of the population is senior citizens. He reiterated the elements that he would like to see to accommodate senior activities including water fountains, picnic tables, etc. Ms. Simoes stated that the shuffleboard courts that currently exist do not get used.
- Becky Hoch – mentioned that volleyball was not on the plan. Thinks the park is great. (The committee mentioned that volleyball was on the list). She thinks numbers are not what the committee needs to look at in regards to the amount of children in the area but the activities that could be provided by these elements. She lives on the south side of the park and does not have a problem with the idea of children running through their lawn; she did it as a child and thinks it can be addressed easily.
- Pete Margaritondo – commented on the idea on a chain link fence to keep children from cutting through lawns. He feels that the children will climb the fence and it wouldn’t stop them. Ms. Simoes recommended a wooden fence with a berm on the other side to make it difficult for children to get over. Mr. Slayton commented that the wood would also offer some buffer.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to discuss. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.