

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee
Regular Meeting
May 21, 2002

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Church, 3780 Hwy A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Thomas Moore
Kathi Arms
Brian Hurley
Janet Adam
Susan Margaritondo
Marty Almberg
Sue Simoes, Vice Chairman
Ceil Wilson
Mike Slayton, Chairman
Harry Hicks
Kathy McNerny
John Eder
Vince Loglisci

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Tritaik
Jeff Berger
Don DeLucas
Robert Arthur

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Slayton, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:32 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. There was no input at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Slayton asked for a motion to approve the minutes if there were no changes. Mr. Moore made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Almberg seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Palus informed the committee that the Referendum Committee Guidelines have been revised as approved by the South Area Advisory Board (SAAB). The Meeting information which was originally due one week prior to the meeting was reduced to three working days. The public meeting notice will still be done two weeks in advance. Ms. Palus provided the committee with a copy of an article sent by Paul Schroeder; a letter that Mr. Moore received; and she explained that the SAAB met last night in which Mr. Berger was present to speak regarding the packet he had provided to the committee and asked the SAAB to consider dissolving the South Beach Committee and start over. The South Area Advisory Board denied his request and asked Ms. Palus to remind the committee that they need to work together.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Slayton asked if they could go over the cost estimates as provided to the committee. Mr. Slayton brought to the committee's attention page two of the cost elements. Mr. Masson went over the cost estimates with the committee. He explained that throughout the document is a 20% contingency which is standard for a conceptual and the number is usually reduced as they get through the process. These are estimates based on the elements as discussed previously. Ms. McInerny brought up the paving of the road, where is the money that could be saved if they decide not to do that? Mr. Yonge replied that the road will cost about \$10.00 a linear foot and there is about 15,000 feet. The staff recommends paving of the road and Mr. Masson stated that Brevard County Public Works, Road and Bridge Department would not accept the maintenance of a dirt road and it costs less to maintain a paved road. Ms. McInerny did not think that the road should be paved to accommodate Honest Johns. Mr. Yonge informed her that the paving would not go all the way to Honest Johns; it stops where the County Property stops.

Mr. Moore asked about the size regarding the pool. Mr. Masson replied 25 yards. Mr. Moore asked about the conditions of the jogging trail and Mr. Yonge replied that the cost does not include paving.

Mr. Slayton asked where the racquetball court would be. Mr. Yonge replied that he had taken it off but it could be located by the basketball court. Mr. Masson mentioned that bocci ball, shuffleboard and horseshoes were added and noted that he did not want to call it the grey area in respect to senior citizens.

Ms. Simoes asked about the fencing along the property lines. Ms. Simoes suggested a 6 foot wooden fence. Mr. Yonge replied that the cost is about \$8.00 a square foot and there is about 1000 feet. Mr. Moore asked about using berm rather than fencing. Ms. Simoes said she has spoken to many people on Carmen Street and they expressed that they would like a wooden fence. Mr. AlMBERG asked the life expectancy of the wood. Mr. Masson replied that they would rather not have wood but does recommend chain link. Harry Hicks stated that his experience is that wood fencing does not hold up very well and the maintenance is very demanding. Harry spoke regarding his suggestion of chain link and/or berm.

Ms. Adams spoke regarding the vegetation on the plan in reference to the buffer from the residence to the county road. Ms. Margaritondo said she drove down Carmen Street and there seems to be so much overgrowth now in terms of berm and does not see that much berm is needed in addition to what already exist. She also does not feel that a fence would stop the children anyway.

Mr. Loglisci spoke regarding the skateboard park. He asked about putting it near the grass area on the side of the senior activities (just north of the second access road). Mr. Yonge informed the committee that he spoke to the Planning Department in regards to the parking requirements. There are currently 96 parking spaces, which is just over the required need for the Community Center and he thinks this will be acceptable. Ms. Adams asked about the possibility of a small walkway going into Carmen Street as a pedestrian path. Mr. Slayton replied that the County would then have to purchase a lot in order to do that.

Mr. Loglisci asked about having a fitness center inside the gym. Mr. Masson spoke regarding the Community Center stating that staff could work on designing this if that is the direction the committee would like to go. Ms. Wilson agreed that she would like staff to move forward.

Mr. Minor spoke regarding the land acquisition. \$600,000 was saved in the purchasing of the land.

Mr. Masson stated that the design for the Community Center is available for the committee to look at. Mr. Slayton asked for a motion to utilize funds to provide a small fitness center in the gym. Ms. Simoes mentioned that during the field trip to other facilities, many of the children stated that they would like to have a weight room/fitness room of some sort in the gym. Ms. Margaritondo made a **MOTION** to allocate one of the rooms as a fitness center and staff to research the costs and elements. Ms. Wilson seconded. Ms. McInerny asked about combining the outdoor basketball and tennis court and to utilize the funds saved from that for a fitness center. Mr. Slayton mentioned that the problem with that is that you could only play one or the other at one time. Mr. Loglisci wants to make sure that it could be used by all ages. Mr. Hicks mentioned that the committee might want to look at low impact stations around the trail. Mr. Slayton is concerned with the use of combining the elements because the inside basketball courts are not always available. Mr. Moore stated that the basketball seems to be one of the most used elements in a park. Ms. Palus stated that she would research the cost estimates for a small fitness room and bring it back to the committee. Mr. Hicks spoke regarding the high use of outdoor and indoor basketball. Ms. Simoes stated that her daughter designed a small fitness aerobic room and could provide it to the committee. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Yonge spoke stating the current site is a citrus grove and recommended that the committee set aside funds for additional landscaping. Ms. Adams asked the committee to consider royal palms and magnolia trees as they grow quickly. Mr. Yonge

asked if the committee wanted an access from the cul-de-sac to the walking path. They did not want an access. Ms. Simoes spoke stating that the people of Mullet Creek Road that she has spoken with are in favor of the road being closed.

The rooms of the Community Center are about 20x25 a room. Mr. Loglisci questioned the square footage of the senior activities. Mr. Yonge just picked the square feet out based on the elements but it is not exact. Mr. Slayton asked if the committee wants a volleyball court. Where would it go? Ms. McNerny stated that they could not afford the pool, so why not take the pool out of the plan. Mr. Yonge replied that if the committee ever decided to put it in down the road, then a place needs to be allocated. Ms. Simoes asked Mr. Masson how a pool has been added to other facilities. He replied that staff has not had the opportunity to do that in the past, however, they are trying to allocate a location and space in the master plans should the committee have the desire to add it later if funds are available. Mr. Yonge recommended putting the volleyball courts where the pool is proposed because the volleyball could easily be relocated later. Mr. Slayton recommended switching the location of the playground and the pool. Ms. McNerny made a **MOTION** to add a volleyball court. Ms. Simoes seconded asking if it would be a sand volleyball court and yes it would be. The committee agreed to not place it where the pool is but to find another location. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Some members of the committee recommended moving the skate park to the east side of the overflow parking. Mr. Yonge made a recommendation to move the skate park north of the caretaker's house. They all agreed.

Ms. Masson and Mr. Yonge provided the Community Center Plan for the committee to discuss. The committee discussed the plan and spoke regarding the best location for the fitness center in regards to the noise and activities that it would create. Mr. Masson mentioned that the Community Center is hurricane hardened. Discussion ensued. The committee was pleased with the design.

Mr. Slayton dispensed with the agenda and asked to hear from the public before voting on the plan.

PUBLIC INPUT

Blair Witherington – commented regarding the landscaping. He encouraged the committee to increase the landscaping stating that it would enhance the park. He recommends allocating at least \$50,000 to put towards a few hundred trees, including mature sabal palms that could provide shade to the site. Magnolia might not do so well on the beach side. Ms. Adams and Mr. AlMBERG disagreed. Mr. Witherington reiterated that \$50,000 would at least get them enough to provide some shade in a timely manner. He recommended some trees that he thought would be conducive to the site.

Ken Patterson – recommended getting more shade trees. He believes the shade trees are needed in the park.

Pete Margaritondo – recommended more landscaping as well. He asked about an entrance walkway from A1A to the proposed walkway. Mr. Yonge stated that he will add one. He is concerned that having paved walkways will cause problems with skate boarders. Mr. Yonge stated that the sidewalk is a need in regards to ADA accessibility to each element throughout the park. Mr. Margaritondo also recommended having the skate park at the entrance of the park.

Donna Lee Crawford – recommended that the committee allocate one of the rooms in the Community Center as an arts and crafts room and noted that it would be nice to have outside access to allow use of a kiln and other equipment as may be necessary.

Nancy Crawford – would also like to have a multi-purpose room for arts and crafts and she spoke regarding the lighting needs and the need for a room with windows.

Jim Rosasco – mentioned that the fitness room would require specific ventilation. He also recommended that the committee consider the dog park and recommended that the committee not go to the fine line of the budget because the numbers can change.

OLD BUSINESS Continued

Mr. Masson stated that there are certain elements that need to be in the design and the committee should prioritize the elements in case we can't do everything. Mr. Slayton spoke regarding Phase I and II and the costs of the project and elements.

Mr. Slayton asked the committee to address the items listed by the public. Mr. Moore made a **MOTION** to allocate \$50,000 for landscaping. Mr. AlMBERG seconded the motion. Mr. Loglisci asked what staff felt would be available in the existing landscape budget (how much are trees, sod etc). Mr. Yonge could not answer at this time. Ms. Simoes amended the motion to include only shade trees. Mr. Moore accepted the amendment. Mr. Masson mentioned that a good portion of the \$100,000 allocated for landscaping could be used for sod. Mr. Loglisci asked Mr. Masson if someone could attend the

meeting to give a presentation. Mr. Yonge stated that his firm has someone who does the landscaping piece of the plan and could ask him to attend the next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of sodding and various trees. Ms. Simoes removed her amended motion. **The original motion PASSES 11-1.**

Mr. Moore spoke regarding the jogging path. He recommended paving at least an exterior loop around the facility and take away some of the inner paving. Ms. McNerny commented that she has heard that people want more of a natural trail, but likes the idea to add the stations along the path. Ms. Simoes mentioned that she saw a paved path at Gleason Park and was pleased with all the different activities it could accommodate. Ms. Arms agreed with Ms. Simoes. Mr. Hicks spoke regarding use of shell rock versus a paved walkway.

Mr. Slayton stated that the committee is agreeing to provide \$10,000 for fencing along the back of Carmen Street and \$50,000 for equipment of the fitness center. Mr. Eder made a **MOTION** to approve \$10,000 for fencing along Carmen Street and \$50,000 for equipment of the fitness center. Ms. Margaritondo seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Moore inquired about the cost of paving the jogging trail. Mr. Minor replied \$10.00-\$12.00 a linear foot. Ms. Simoes suggested that the committee stop before making any further allocations and wait to see what happens with the other elements discussed this far.

Mr. Slayton asked the committee about the idea of the arts and craft room. Mr. Eder made a **MOTION** that staff take into consideration the location of the Community Center in regards to the lighting for arts and crafts. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Slayton suggested holding off on any recommendations for the dog park at this time.

Mr. Eder made a **MOTION** to approve the plan as discussed and Ms. Wilson seconded. Ms. Simoes asked about lighting. Mr. Masson stated that there is no outdoor lighting in the plan with the exception of security lighting. Mr. Hicks suggested the addition of another pavilion. Mr. Yonge will add one more pavilion. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to discuss. The committee decided to take the next two months off and resume the next meeting on August 20, 2002. Ms. McNerny made a **MOTION** to adjourn and Mr. Loglisci seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.