



**SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
*South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee*

**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
March 13, 2006

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee, was held on March 13, 2006, at the Melbourne Beach Public Library, Melbourne Beach, Florida.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Janet Adam  
Thomas Moore  
Marty Almberg  
Robert Arthur  
Susan Simoes  
Maureen Pecor (for Ceil Wilson)  
Kathy McInerney  
Dean Given  
Celena Bardos

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Don DeLucas  
Susan Margaritondo  
Mike Slayton  
Paul Tritaik  
Kathi Arms  
Donald McDonald

**STAFF PRESENT**

Bill Porzio, Construction Coordinator, Parks and Recreation  
Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager  
David Moore, Parks Maintenance Superintendent  
Frank Lanza, Park Supervisor I, South Beaches Area  
Lisa Nicholas, South Area Administrative Secretary

**PUBLIC**

Mike Lake  
Malcolm Wilcox  
Mark Wood  
Jim Rosasco  
Marie Montagnino  
Thomas Montagnino  
Gary Goode  
Angi Eazzetta  
Scott Rich

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Simoes called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. Ms. Nicholas called the roll, and Ms. Simoes indicated that a quorum was not present but that an update would be provided by staff.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Because a quorum was not present, minutes from the February 13, 2006, meeting could not be officially approved. However, members that were present did not have any modifications to the minutes.

## STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Whitehead introduced Mr. Porzio, Mr. Moore and Mr. Lanza. Mr. Whitehead invited the Committee to an unveiling ceremony at Juan Ponce de Leon Landing on April 2, 2006, for the purpose of dedicating the state historical marker that was created for that area.

Mr. Porzio reported that a contract was forthcoming and that a site plan and landscape plan had been designed. Construction vehicles would not be permitted to utilize Mullet Creek Road, and Ms. Simoes inquired as to when the new road would be complete enough for traffic. Mr. Porzio responded that completing the new road would have to be one of the first priorities.

Mr. Porzio noted that, unless it was absolutely necessary, no fruit trees would be removed. Ms. Adam asked whether the existing citrus trees would be maintained, and Mr. Porzio responded that it was staff's intent to groom and maintain the trees on a regular basis. Mr. Arthur asked about the citrus canker situation, and Mr. Whitehead replied that the state had abolished its efforts along those lines because it was becoming too expensive to try and eradicate the problem. Ms. Bardos asked if the fruit would produce many bugs, and Mr. Lanza responded that Mosquito Control services the area on a regular basis. Mr. Whitehead indicated that fruit trees require a lot of manpower and that the actual fruit can do damage when thrown or run over by a mower. If the fruit becomes problematic, the trees may have to be removed.

Ms. McInerney commented that, at a previous meeting, it was reported that eight out of ten permits were in place and asked about the status. Mr. Porzio replied that all ten permits were currently in place. Ms. Simoes asked whether it would be possible to have a few smaller pavilions rather than just a couple of large ones, and Mr. Porzio responded that he could inquire into substitutions before the notice to proceed was issued.

Ms. Adam noted that she was not in favor of a dog park, and Mr. Porzio indicated that the dog park was part of the master plan, which could be amended in the future. Mr. Whitehead reported that the dog park was a desire of the previous board and previous staff. Ms. Simoes asked about the liability involved with a dog park, and Mr. Whitehead replied that, at the direction of the County Attorney, any dog park established in Brevard County would have to be attended and that dogs would be required to have documentation of shots. If shots are not current, dogs will not be permitted to enter.

Ms. Simoes raised the issue of the Mullet Creek Road renaming and noted that Honest John's Fish Camp could be kept as the last address on Mullet Creek Road, and then the new road could begin. Mr. Whitehead added that the only address that would be eliminated would be that of the Caretaker's house, and the only entity on the new road would be the park. There appeared to be consensus among members and staff that this was a sound concept. Mr. Porzio noted that there were sign issues between Honest John's and the Florida Department of Transportation regarding where the sign sits on Highway A1A, and Mr. Arthur stated that this was not the appropriate forum for discussing that issue.

Mr. Porzio reported that a study of the traffic flow had been performed on A1A and that it was determined that it would be necessary to install a left-turn lane when coming up A1A from the south but that a deceleration lane was not required on the right when traveling down A1A from the north.

## OLD BUSINESS

It was noted that, at the last meeting, staff indicated that general fund money from the South Area Parks operating budget could be utilized for future projects not included in the referendum. The skateboard park had been eliminated from the plan even though the skateboard park had been agreed upon previously by the Committee. Although staff previously indicated that a concrete slab could be poured to accommodate a mobile skateboard park, it was noted that residents of the community were disturbed that the skateboard park would only be temporary. It is the desire of the children in the

South Beaches community to have a skateboard park, and it has become a concern. Mr. Whitehead stated that the park project was currently \$2 million over budget and that a skateboard park could be added in the future. Ms. Simoes asked about having the slab poured for a temporary skateboard park, and Mr. Whitehead noted that, even though it was not part of the bid package, the slab could be poured by using money from the South Area Parks operating budget. Mr. Whitehead stated that all skateboard parks currently operating in the County were run by municipalities. Ms. Simoes asked if that was a result of liability issues, and Mr. Whitehead responded that everything conducted by Parks and Recreation created liability issues but that staff would have to confer with the County Attorney in order to determine exactly what the stipulations of liability would be with regard to a skate park. Mr. Arthur asked if the County had liability caps, and Mr. Whitehead responded that staff could check into that.

Mr. Almborg asked if there were any plans for what was going to be included in the outdoor activity center, and Mr. Whitehead replied that there were not any plans at present but that shuffleboard and/or bocce ball courts could be added at a later time.

Ms. Adam stated that the residents of the South Beaches area are very much into physical fitness and asked if there would be any type of weight room. Mr. Whitehead responded that there would be room space in the 18,000 square-foot community center but no equipment.

Ms. McInerney inquired as to where all the money had been spent with so many projects not being completed. Mr. Whitehead responded that the South Area Parks and Recreation projects alone were at a \$28 million deficit. Recently, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners approved an additional \$35 million, with roughly \$19 million to be designated for South Area projects. Mr. Whitehead further stated that the approval of the additional funds by the Board was being challenged by the Clerk of the Courts and that a final determination will be made in court; however, in the interim, staff had been directed to proceed. Mr. Whitehead noted that construction costs have skyrocketed, and Mr. Porzio stated that costs have practically doubled.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Almborg asked if an estimated time frame could be provided for breaking ground, and Mr. Porzio responded that staff was in the process of attempting to wrap up all of the details but hoped there would be a deal by the end of the week. The first priority would be to develop the new road, which would involve establishing a drainage pattern.

### PUBLIC INPUT

A question was raised concerning the retention pond and whether it would be used for fire safety. Mr. Porzio responded that it would not be utilized for that purpose and that it was a dry retention pond. There would be a well that has been rated and tested for fire-flow, which would provide water for irrigation and fire service.

A member of the public asked whether the County's eradication of invasive species would be on par with the State's program and whether more natives would be planted. Mr. Whitehead responded affirmatively and indicated that the County also maintains over 100 acres of *Save Our Coast* property.

It was suggested that the County consider constructing a cell phone tower because reception in the area of the park is practically non-existent, and that could pose a safety concern and a potential liability issue down the line.

A resident of Indian Landing praised the efforts of staff and indicated that he thought what the County was doing was great.

A member of the public raised the issue of the skateboard park and noted that skateboarding had been a tradition for a long time in the area. A mobile park like what is being considered is a "streetpark",

and a "flowpark", which contains more curves and motion, is really what is necessary for the area. The individual expressed that a mobile "streetpark" would not get a positive response in the South Beaches community, and to pour a slab for such an endeavor would be a waste of money.

Mr. Moore arrived at 8:28 p.m. and a quorum was then present.

Ms. Simoes stated that she had a signed petition in her possession from numerous children in the community stating how important a true skateboard park was to them and provided a copy of the document for the record. Ms. Simoes reiterated the importance of the skateboard park and how it would be a benefit to the entire community and would keep children out of trouble.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business, Ms. Simoes called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. McNerny made a **MOTION**, and Ms. Pecor seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. Ms. Simoes adjourned the meeting of the South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee at 8:42 p.m. and stated that the next meeting would be held on Monday, April 10, 2006, 6:30 p.m., at the Melbourne Beach Public Library.