

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
South Mainland Community Center Committee
Regular Meeting
January 23, 2002

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department South Mainland Community Center Committee was held on Wednesday January 23, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. at the South Mainland Community Center, 3700 Allen Avenue, Micco, FL.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Flo Canham
Eugene Gwinn
Jeanne Osborne
Scott McCullers
Phyllis McCullers
Bruce McMann

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ken Black

STAFF PRESENT

Karen Palus, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Barry Portnowitz, Recreation Superintendent
Yvonne Collins, Recreation Program Coordinator
Tina Webster, Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT

John Torres, Florida Today
Ed Ahrens, Micco Homeowners
Mike Cunningham, Micco Homeowners

Call to Order:

Ms. Osborne called the meeting to order at 2:28 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Osborne presented a correction to the minutes. Scott McCullers, Phyllis McCullers and Bruce McMann were stated as being absent but were in attendance. She also noted that the correct title for Tibby Parker is not the Executive Director, but the Community Manager. Ms. Osborne asked for clarification that Robin Tibbits was appointed to serve on the committee as a liaison between the South Mainland Community Center and the South Area Advisory Board. Ms. Palus agreed. Ms. McCullers made **MOTION** to accept the minutes from 12/12/01 as presented with the corrections and Ms. Canham seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Staff Reports:

Ms. Collins explained to the committee the upcoming events, the current and new programs, and the desired programs for the Community Center. She mentioned that staff is preparing for Summer Camp and introduced Pat Brink and Kacy Lankford, Recreation Leaders. Further discussion included the new gym and the utilization of the activity room in the gym as a game room. Ms. Osborne asked that Ms. Collins get together with Mr. McCullers to discuss ideas for the youth.

Ms. Osborne asked the public present at the meeting to introduce themselves.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Ms. Osborne explained that she had received several concerns in regards to the duplication of some of the elements proposed for South Mainland Community Center and Micco Park including the playground. Ms. Osborne stated that the feeling is that rather than duplicating, would it not be better to utilize the funds for the completion of the South Mainland Community Center projects including the covered walkway and an exercise trail since the multi-purpose field cannot be done due to the scrub jay findings. Some concerns were raised regarding the necessity of the two playgrounds including not having to walk children of the summer camp program a mile to a playground in the middle of the summer. Further discussion included the available elements based on the scrub jay findings. Ms Osborne asked for a report from Angela Bower, Ivey, Harris and Walls (IHW), A&E Firm.

Angela Bowers, IHW:

Ms. Bowers explained to the committee that playback stations were set up with territorial calls. She informed the committee that this procedure is used by the Fish and Wildlife to test for scrub jays because they are very territorial. She estimated about five acres to be there habitat out of seven, so the two acres directly behind the gymnasium could be utilized for active use and the rest of the area could only be used for passive activities including an exercise trail. Ms. Bowers mentioned that another test could be done around March to see if there has been any change due to the presence of the new gym. Ms. Palus stated that Mr. Black had asked for a second opinion to be done regarding the presence of scrub jays and that it was recommended not to do a second opinion because the results might not be any better and is an additional cost. However, if the committee strongly favored a second opinion, it could be done.

Mr. Minor provided the Community Playground Designs for the committee to review. Discussion ensued regarding the maintenance issues and costs of poured in place surfacing versus wood fiber mulch. Mr. Minor mentioned that different designs could be done in the poured in place surfacing. Mr. Minor explained that the playground would not affect the two acres behind the gym. Ms. Osborne brought up the concern of duplication regarding the playground. Ms. McCullers stated that a playground is needed at the Community Center and at Micco Park due to staff issues, safety issues, etc. Ms. Osborne requested a written report of the pro's and con's and cost elements for the playground. Discussion ensued regarding how the elements were determined for the Referendum Project. Ms. Palus explained the elements selected for South Mainland was based on the original plan. Ms. Osborne went around the table asked all the committee members to give their opinion on whether to move forward with the playground. All members agreed to move forward. Discussion ensued.

Public Input:

Ed Ahrens: expressed his opinion is that there is a lot of duplication between the two parks. Mr. Ahrens would like to see a spray park for the children. Ms. Palus mentioned that the spray park idea was discussed at the Micco meeting. Mr. Ahrens recommended that someone from the South Mainland Community Center Committee attend the Micco Park Committee meetings and vice versa. Ms. McCullers re-iterated that she does not agree with the duplication and the Community Center has been waiting for some of these items for years. Ms. Palus noted that the original plan was to do that, however many residents requested the Committees be separate and that minutes are available to anyone who would like them. All the meetings are open to the public.

Ms. Osborne requested that IHW, A&E Firm present a plan to the committee at the next meeting. The committee asked who represents South Mainland in regards to the Referendum and Ms. Palus re-iterated that the South Mainland Community Center Committee does. She explained the process and goals of the Referendum process for South Mainland.

Mike Cunningham: suggested that the committee select a member to attend the Micco Park meetings. Ms. Palus went over the Micco Park plan with the committee.

Further discussion included that Robin Tibbits is the liaison to bring information from the meeting back to the South Area Advisory Board to let the other members know what is going on with the project. Ms. McCullers was concerned with how much time Ms. Tibbits had spent in the facilities and Ms. Palus stated

that Ms. Tibbits is a Board Appointed, District 3 member to the South Area Advisory Board and was selected to be the liaison for the South Mainland Community Center and a member of the Micco Park Committee by the South Area Advisory Board as is consistent with all of the committees.

Ed Ahrens re-iterated that he is opposed to duplication and wants to see a spray park put in. Ms. Palus mentioned that there is very high maintenance and cost issues with a spray park. . He was concerned with the testing of the scrub jay saying that these tests call birds into the area whether they are normally in the area or not. Ms. Powers mentioned that the testing is what is approved by the State. The birds are territorial and will come in to defend their territory. He is very adamant about a spray park. Mr. McMann re-iterated that the A&E firm discussed the maintenance and costs issues at the Micco Park meeting regarding a spray park. He noted that the A&E firm did not recommend this activity at these facilities.

Mr. Cunningham noted that the Micco Homeowners Association donated four bookcases to the Community Center and Gym. He also mentioned that there is a problem with the water at South Mainland. He met with Mr. Nelson and Mr. Masson regarding the water, who stated they would have a water survey done. Ms. Palus noted that it has been done, since that meeting.

Ms. Palus re-iterated that all of the meetings are open to the public and is the forum to share ideas and develop plans for each of the projects.

Adjournment:

There was no further business to discuss. Mr. Gwinn made a **MOTION** to adjourn and Mr. McMann seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

The next meeting is February 27, 2002, 2:00 p.m.