



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION

Wickham Park Advisory Committee

REGULAR MEETING **November 2, 2005**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Wickham Park Advisory Committee, was held on November 2, 2005, 6:30 p.m., at the site of Wickham Park, 2500 Parkway Drive, Melbourne, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ken Baker, Chairman
Ben Elliott, Member
Eleanor Munton, Member
Karen Kilianek, Member
Thomas Seaman, Referendum Member
Carol Mulligan, Referendum Member
Ralph Earrusso, Referendum Member
Greg England, Referendum Member
Bill Connor, Referendum Member
Greg Welsh, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sally Richardson, Referendum Member
R.L. Jones, Member
Cheryl Palmer, Member
Lauren Milne, Referendum Member
John Corelli, Member
Greg England, Referendum Member

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Ross, Senior Construction Coordinator
Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Lisa Grizzle, South Area Recreation Superintendent
Josh Henderson, Park Supervisor III, Wickham Park
Lisa Nicholas, South Area Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC

None.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Nicholas called the roll, and Mr. Baker noted that a quorum was present and that the meeting would be conducted.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Ross informed the Committee that construction was progressing but that the time frame previously discussed would not be met. Restroom structures were anticipated to arrive in mid-December, and work was being done to install the footers. The new restrooms would be placed right next to the current structures so that the present buildings could be utilized up until the last minute. It was also noted that there had been some delays in the progress because of FP&L's response to hurricane damage in the southern part of the state.

Construction of the bandshell was underway, and it was reported that demolition of the stage had occurred. The bid to install the bandshell was \$133,000, but that amount could increase if charges from Dixon Electric were incorporated into the contract.

The pavilion could be completed as early as November 28 if some issues relating to permitting with the City of Melbourne could be resolved.

With regard to the equestrian area, Mr. Ross commented that there was not much new to report. There had been a meeting with I.C.E. Construction in Titusville, at which time I.C.E. requested termination of the existing contract. Parks and Recreation representatives informed I.C.E. that termination of the contract was not the desired course of action because it would require paying some damages to I.C.E. and then having to start over again. The Department remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached, but the two entities are not close to agreement on the dollar figures. Another meeting has been scheduled with I.C.E., and the County Attorney is intending to conduct additional research. A deposit has already been paid on the stall walls and paddocks, so being able to reach a consensus is the preference of the Department.

Mr. Ross informed the Committee that Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, Inc. was close to offering a proposal for subsequent phases, including the POW-MIA memorial and a visitors' center.

Mr. Whitehead reported that a remote-control sailing club was interested in offering \$4,500 for the purchase of one of the pavilions. Mr. Earrusso inquired as to where this pavilion would be located, and Mr. Henderson responded that it would be in the area to the southeast of the back lake. The only time this organization would need the pavilion would be on Saturday mornings and Wednesday afternoons; the remainder of the time, it would be open to the public.

Mr. Whitehead complimented Ms. Grizzle, Mr. Henderson and his staff for the great job they did in informing the campers of what they needed to do during the hurricane. Mr. Whitehead also informed the Committee that Dixon Electric would not be doing any more repairs to ballfield lighting due to a very serious accident involving one of Dixon's employees and that this decision could potentially impact any necessary repairs to the soccer fields at Wickham Park. Mr. Whitehead continued that Mr. Ross and Mr. Minor were seeking an alternative company to perform such repairs. Mr. Whitehead then informed the Committee that Ms. Grizzle would be relocating and, as such, this would be her final meeting.

Mr. Henderson remarked that the roads were being repaired and that the current flag pole was being replaced to allow room for both the U.S. flag and the POW-MIA flag to be flown during the Veterans' reunion. Mr. Elliott offered the name of a paving company where he had contacts if additional assistance was needed with patching the asphalt.

Ms. Grizzle reported that a sinkhole would force the closure of the road north of the archery entrance after the holiday light-fest, further stating that the culvert would need to be replaced.

Mr. Seaman informed the Committee that members of the Running Zone organization had spray painted certain trees in the park and that it was not anyone affiliated with his club. Certain individuals from the Running Zone have been adamant about not wanting blacktop utilized as the surface for the pedway, and Mr. Seaman indicated that they had been invited to the meetings in order to voice their opinion.

OLD BUSINESS

ARCHERY

Mr. Baker inquired into the status of the archery group, and Mr. Whitehead responded that a six-month Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been drafted and approved but that a new location was still being sought for the group.

NORTHEAST AREA

Ms. Kilianek provided pictures of the bike path in the northeast area of the park. The photos revealed various hazards on the path that could potentially pose safety concerns. Mr. Whitehead assured the Committee that the hazardous items would be removed and directed Mr. Henderson and his staff to rectify the problem.

Mr. Seaman provided pictures of a kiosk that had been constructed on property belonging to Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) and indicated that if a structure similar were to be constructed in the future that wood might not be the best option, as it tends to become cracked and weathered. Mr. Whitehead replied that Stormwater had been requested to locate kiosks in recycled plastic. Mr. Whitehead further remarked that the plastic now utilized resembles real wood and it is difficult to discern any difference. Ms. Kilianek inquired as to whether such a kiosk would be cemented, and Mr. Baker responded that it more than likely would not.

Mr. Baker commented that the northeast area of the park is out of control, and Mr. Seaman responded that any hazardous structures that had been placed in that vicinity were not discussed with park management. Mr. Baker inquired as to whether a fence could be constructed on the north side by the Jaycees' area, but it was noted that such a venture would be cost prohibitive. Mr. Baker further noted that the area is difficult to patrol, and Mr. Henderson added that the area is very rough and that it is difficult to enforce what occurs because of the terrain and the topography.

Mr. Seaman indicated that implementing a trail system would be beneficial for the purpose of designating specific trails for biking or hiking, or walking or horseback riding. If there were particular trail designations, then certain groups would not have to be subjected to the activities of another group. Mr. Seaman continued that park staff could work with individuals from the various groups to ensure proper utilization of the trail system. Ms. Grizzle responded that, although the idea is sound, there is neither sufficient staff nor time to oversee the entire area. Mr. Seaman recommended that the trail system become a higher priority, and Mr. Henderson indicated that he would attempt to attain staff to assist but that weekends were too busy with events. Mr. Seaman stated that he would be willing to take vacation time for the purpose of assisting park staff, and Mr. Whitehead responded that, even if a trail system is implemented, the larger problem is still monitoring and enforcement. Mr. Henderson added that oversight would be difficult and that, because it is a public park, non-bikers cannot be forced to stay off the bike-only trails and so forth. Mr. Seaman then inquired as to how a trail system could have been effectively implemented on EEL property, and Mr. Whitehead replied that neither horseback riding nor ATV riding was permitted on EEL property and that individuals, not staff, were responsible for enforcement. Mr. Seaman volunteered to be involved in enforcement and indicated that there was sufficient property available on the west side of the park for equestrian trails and activities. Mr. Henderson noted that the west side was already being developed and that it was slated to be the location of the new entrance. Mr. Baker noted that there were no referendum dollars

allocated for constructing trails but that, as the pictures illustrated, there is certainly a problem that exists in the northeast area.

Mr. Seaman remarked that he and many others had a vision for the property that they would like to see fulfilled but that the group with the decision-making authority was not agreeable to their requests. Mr. Whitehead stated that any decision that is made must be in the best interest of all citizens of Brevard County. Mr. Henderson commented that all individuals should perhaps be able to utilize whatever area of the park they desire, but at their own risk. Mr. Seaman raised the issue of liability and that the area in which there is a blind curve could create a hazardous situation and that some trails need to be designated in order to avoid a potential disaster. Mr. Whitehead indicated that he was open to suggestions on how to control the situation, and Mr. Seaman stated that Mr. Babione, former Wickham Park supervisor, prevented horseback riders from entering the soccer area by using signage. Ms. Grizzle reiterated that the crux of the issue is enforcement. Mr. Seaman suggested that individuals could call a ranger if they noticed any suspicious activity. Mr. Baker indicated that there would be enhanced development in the future and that would be the time to consider additional personnel.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Whitehead informed the Committee that the property where the water tower was formerly located (at the corner of Croton and Post Roads) had been acquired and that a "Wickham Park" sign was being constructed and that the area was being landscaped.

Mr. Baker inquired as to whether the area north of the soccer fields was going to be patrolled in the future, and Mr. Henderson responded that rangers already monitor that area on foot.

Ms. Kilianek expressed her appreciation for how staff has proceeded with park activities and development. Mr. Whitehead assured the Committee that it was the Department's intention to leave as much of the park as natural as possible and that any additional development or expansion would only take place after Committee approval.

Mr. Whitehead indicated that a new bridge was being constructed by Roadways and Landscape over to the Brevard Community College (BCC) pavilion.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Earrusso made a **MOTION** to adjourn, and Mr. Connor seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. Baker adjourned the November 2 meeting of the Wickham Park Advisory Committee at 7:33 p.m. and informed the Committee that the next meeting would be held on January 4, 2006, 6:30 p.m., at Wickham Park.