



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION Wickham Park Advisory Committee

REGULAR MEETING
November 4, 2009

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Wickham Park Advisory Committee, was held on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, 6:30 p.m., at the site of Wickham Park Senior Center, 2785 Leisure Way, Melbourne, Florida, 32935.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Kilianek (Chair)
Phyllis Principe
Ed Newell
Mike Nowlin
Greg Jones
Ted Whitlock
Liz Lee

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Greg Minor, South Area Operations Manager
Don Lusk, Parks and Recreation Director
Fred Poppe, South Area Recreation Superintendent
Dave McGovern, Community Center Coordinator, Wickham Park Equestrian Center
Mechelle Cook, Administrative Secretary, South Area Operations

PUBLIC

Please see sign in sheets.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ed Newell called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were provided with a copy of the minutes from the September 2, 2009, meeting. Mr. Newell asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes and called

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for a motion to approve to minutes. Mr. Nowlin made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes, Mrs. Lee **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mrs. Karen Kilianek arrived after the meeting had begun, Mrs. Cook then called the roll with seven members present.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Greg Minor gave an overview of the 2009-2010 Parks budget and stated we are trying to do business as usual. Committee members were provided with the monthly reports for Wickham Park for the months of September and October 2009. It was announced to the committee that Mr. Josh Henderson had submitted his resignation and that he would be returning to his home state of Iowa. The position has been posted and interviews will be scheduled after the position closes. Mr. Greg Jones stated that Mr. Henderson had done a great job and that everyone appreciated his efforts.

Mr. Poppe stated that the fencing for the second arena, the sub-surfacing and the lighting for both arenas were underway, also the electrical improvements in the campgrounds are also currently in the works. Mr. Poppe also stated that the Holiday Hayride would be held on December 20th and that we would be pre-selling tickets starting on November 14th. Mr. Poppe stated that we were anticipating attendance of approximately 1800 people.

Mrs. Kilianek then asked the public audience attending the meeting that if they wished to speak at the meeting they would need to fill out a speakers card and submit it to speak after the meeting business was conducted. Mrs. Kilianek asked if the Archery Range was still active and if there were any plans to move the location of the range. Mr. Minor stated that the group was still very active and there were no plans to move the range. Mr. Poppe stated that discussions about moving the range had been held several years ago and that no safety concerns had been raised since that time.

Mrs. Kilianek asked what the revenue figures were for the horse stables. Mr. Minor stated he did not have the figures available at that time, Mr. Poppe said that we are anticipating 42 shows for the year and are working on other projects at the EQ center such as a Farmers Market. Mrs. Kilianek asked if the Wickham Park Advisory Committee meetings were advertised, she was advised that all public meetings were posted on the County web-site and that a press release was issued for each meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Julie Cain introduced herself to the committee and provided copies of her proposal to each committee member. Mrs. Cain stated that she had found a need in the community

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for a secure and positive place for families and children to have a skatepark facility. Mrs. Cain provided the members with a package of information outlining the public/private collaboration, letters of endorsement and support from the City of Melbourne and an overview of the programs/classes offered at The Park. Mrs. Cain advised that they could host televised events that would bring large groups to the area creating a revenue stream for local merchants and hoteliers.

Mr. Jake Wise introduced himself and began his presentation providing a conceptual rendering to the members of the proposed area in the park. Mr. Wise presented information as to the site location, the purpose and benefits of the facility, the costs, liability, and funding sources, why this site was selected, proposed ingress/egress for the site, the layout and design and how it preserved the vegetation on the site, a green site, parking concerns, grass parking, bus and RV parking, and bus-line access. Mr. Wise said they had been working with the King Center and they had agreed to provide parking for events if required. The ingress/egress for the park is designed to provide only one point of entry to the park and that it would enable them to keep track of people in the park.

Mr. Wise stated that they planned to use “green” materials as much as possible and they planned to keep the integrity of the area intact. The plan is to create two or three skate pools or bowls for skating. Mr. Wise also stated that they had planned buffers to contain lights, noise, and retention areas for runoff from the site. An artwall is planned for the park to provide another expression outlet for the kids with an area for murals. Mrs. Cain explained to the committee members how this art wall and the planned art classes were a connection with child abuse events in the area.

Mr. Wise stated that the facility would not open until noon. Mr. Wise said that all those involved with the project had a personal interest and that they also lived in the area and understood the demographics and requirements of this area. Mrs. Cain stated that traditional sports such as football, soccer, and basketball only provided an average of 52 days a year for the sport, but that skateboarding was available 365 days a year.

Mrs. Kilianek then requested Mr. Lusk to address the group, and he introduced himself to Mrs. Cain and the members of the public attending. Mr. Lusk stated that he had heard much about the proposed skatepark, but that he had not previously met or discussed with Mrs. Cain any options for the park. Mr. Lusk stated that he did not feel that the timing was right for this project and he also stated that no county funding was available to build such a facility. Mr. Lusk said he did not think this particular location was the best location for the park as it was public lands and he also did not think the advisory board would support this location.

Mr. Lusk said that Parks and Recreation has done private partnerships before and that it was possible that they could be done within the County, and that they typically were done with not-for-profit organizations. Mr. Lusk stated to the advisory committee members that this was something they needed to consider and then to provide their input to him.

Mr. Lusk stated that such a project could take years to accomplish from a permitting standpoint.

Mr. Whitlock stated that he felt this was an awesome undertaking and asked Mrs. Cain if she was aware of the Recreation Partner Agreement with Brevard County and if she felt this was the correct avenue for her project. Mr. Whitlock voiced his concerns that this was a commercial venture. Mrs. Cain explained how the park would be staffed and how supervision would be handled at the facility.

Mr. Jones expressed his concerns as to the financial solvency of the project and stated that he did not want to see the county have to absorb this facility in five years. Mr. Jones asked Mrs. Cain to provide the members with information as to her financial solvency and her financial plans for the facility. Mr. Jones suggested that the committee members take an opportunity to visit Mrs. Cain's facility (The Park) to gain a better understanding of how the concept worked and the requirements of such a facility.

Mr. Nowlin addressed traffic concerns with Mrs. Cain and she advised him that they had previously contacted BCC and were working with them on these issues, and that BCC had pledged their support to Mrs. Cain. Mr. Nowlin discussed the lighting concerns with Mrs. Cain and she stated that they would be using special site lighting to contain the lighting to the site with zero foot candles and no glow to the area. Mr. Nowlin inquired about the water feature aspect of the park and Mrs. Cain explained that it was not a water park but a feature that provided cooling in the summer and could be utilized by the summer camp program.

Mr. Newell inquired about the 501c3 status of the project and what the involvement of the church was with the project. Ms. Lee stated that she had concerns over the funding sources available to Mrs. Cain and said that funding was highly competitive in these times. Discussion ensued on various aspects of the project with committee members asking questions of Mrs. Cain and discussion of committee members visiting the current site location. Mr. Lusk advised the committee members of the Sunshine Law requirements and advised that if they did such a venture as a committee, that it would need to be advertised as a public meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Thirteen members of the public requested to address the committee, all speakers spoke in support of the proposed skatepark facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Mrs. Karen Kilianek asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ed Newell made a **MOTION** to adjourn, Mr. Ted Whitlock **SECONDED**, **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. Mrs. Kilianek adjourned the November 4, 2009, meeting of the Wickham Park Advisory Committee at 8:25 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 6, 2010.

Approved, 01/06/2010