



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION Wickham Park Advisory Committee

REGULAR MEETING
January 6, 2010

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Wickham Park Advisory Committee, was held on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, 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
Ted Whitlock

MEMBERS ABSENT

Greg Jones
Liz Lee

STAFF PRESENT

Fred Poppe, South Area Recreation Superintendent
Mechelle Cook, Administrative Secretary, South Area Operations

PUBLIC

Julie Cain
Elwood Smith
Alan and Pearl Osborne
James Mallden
George Adams
Sharon Andrews
Ed and Eileen Mikulas
Richard Hillyer

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Karen Kilianek called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Mrs. Cook called the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present.

Approved March 3, 2010

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee members were provided with a copy of the minutes from the November 4, 2009, meeting. Mr. Newell made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes, Mr. Nowlin **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Committee members reviewed the Wickham Park monthly reports for November and December. Mr. Poppe stated that highlights of the previous months were the 3rd Annual Holiday Hayride on December 20, 2009 and that it was a very successful event, Over 2,000 people attended the event. We are doing a follow up meeting next week to look at improvements next year. One issue was the time crunch, with almost 1,300 people going on the hayride in a 3 hour time span, the maximum wait time was 35-40 minutes. Mr. Poppe said that we would be working with the Road and Bridge Department to use a large tractor trailer next year to shorten the wait time; we would like to move more people through the event quicker. Mrs. Kilianek inquired how long this ride lasted; Mr. Poppe responded approximately 15 minutes.

Mr. Poppe noted that we had made progress at the Equestrian Center; the lighting at the Equestrian Center has been installed. Mr. Poppe said that we were able to do the sub-surfacing and get the fencing up on the second arena and warm-up area, and we have ordered materials for the footing and hope to have that installed in the next few weeks, this will help with hosting the bigger shows, running two-day shows and will increase the utilization of the day stalls.

On the evening of January 14, 2010 the 1st Certified Farmers Market will be hosted at the Equestrian Center. This is a joint event with the Brevard County Agriculture Center. We chose Thursday evening to offer an opportunity to working folks and to not be in competition with the local Farmers Market already in place on the weekend.

Mr. Poppe stated that we have replaced Joshua Henderson with Dave McGovern, who served as interim Parks Supervisor after Josh left. Mr. McGovern has been with the department for several years in different capacities, he has been well received by staff, and Mr. Poppe said that we will not miss a beat.

Mrs. Kilianek asked if the Jaycees had vacated the area, Mr. Poppe said that was not under the park, Mr. Nowlin responded that the property in question was owned by the City of Melbourne. Mrs. Kilianek stated that she had not seen anyone in weeks and that the gate was locked. Mrs. Kilianek inquired about the dog park and if there had been any fires in the park. Mr. Poppe stated there had been no fires. Mrs. Kilianek asked about the status of the pedway, Mr. Poppe said we are still going through the master planning and review process, which would include the pedway, campground improvements, and a new ranger station. Mrs. Kilianek inquired how long this would take; Mr. Poppe anticipated that once we received the permits we would move quickly through the process. Mrs. Principe inquired about the new road and entrance into the Senior Center, Mr. Poppe said

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that he thought they should be starting it soon, but that it was a lengthy process with coordination required with the City of Melbourne.

Mr. Whitlock inquired where the new Wickham tree was planted at. Mr. Poppe said they had basically replaced the old tree that had died, at the original location.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Kilianek asked if we should get the answers now to the skate park, she was advised that the members were to submit their questions, if they had any, to Mrs. Cain and to visit or tour the Melbourne facility, The Park, prior to the January meeting. The committee members stated that they all felt that their questions had been answered at the November meeting and that they had no questions to submit, but that they did have concerns about the project. Mr. Poppe stated that the consensus at the last meeting was that there would be more meetings held on the project, to include a public meeting, and a joint special meeting of the SAAB.

Mrs. Kilianek stated that she thought the project had already been approved as she had a copy of a letter from the City of Melbourne approving the project. Mr. Poppe explained that the project was not under the jurisdiction of the City of Melbourne; it was under Brevard County who would be the final approving authority, and that the letter was just an endorsement of the project by the City of Melbourne. Mr. Poppe stated that it would be a long process with the consultants notifying the surrounding homeowners, getting their information prepared, and meetings being held where the boards could make a good solid decision and offer their recommendations on the project.

Mrs. Kilianek asked if we would be holding a meeting where the public would be invited, and if this meeting had been advertised in the newspaper. Mr. Poppe advised Mrs. Kilianek that all our meetings were public meetings and that all meetings were publicized but that we had no control over whether Florida Today published the meeting notice in the newspaper. Mr. Newell stated that we had a lot of confusion going on right now, but that we had certain steps to go through, and the consultants had items to complete, before Mrs. Cain brought the project back to the committee again. Mrs. Kilianek asked the members of the public present how they had known about the meeting being held tonight. The members of the public advised the committee that someone had hung anonymous paper signs on the community billboards in their neighborhoods advised them to attend the meeting tonight and that a decision would be made that night on the skate park going into Wickham Park. Mrs. Kilianek stated that she had not seen the meeting notice published in the paper, **ACTION ITEM**, to contact Florida Today and determine if the meeting notice had been placed in the newspaper.

Mrs. Kilianek stated that the city councils had known about this project for over two years, but that no information had been given to the public about the project. Mrs. Principe said that it was in the meeting minutes that Mrs. Cain and Mr. Lusk were to meet and discuss the project. Mr. Poppe said that meeting had taken place.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Principe inquired if any more lighting would be installed on the entrance coming in to the park, Mr. Poppe said that was just a temporary entrance and that the new entrance would have street lighting with a POW-MIA monument in the entrance that would be lighted also.

Mrs. Kilianek asked if anyone minded if she made a statement that she thought we all agreed with, that no one in this group was against the skateboard park that the only discussion here was the location and wasn't that true. Mr. Newell stated no, that was not true and that no had voiced that. Mrs. Kilianek said she did not want us being looked as that they did not want the kids to have fun.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Kilianek stated that we were going to have a public speaker that night, Mr. Dave Wickham, but that he was not present. Mrs. Cain stated she was here tonight to address any questions, Mr. Whitlock asked if she had read the minutes of that meeting, Mrs. Cain stated that she had requested the minutes twice and that they had never been supplied to her. Mrs. Cook advised that she had sent the minutes via e-mail to Jim at CEG on November 17, 2009. Mr. Newell said we should hear from the members of the public present. Mrs. Cook said we have speaker cards from the public and the speakers were called in the order of card receipt and addressed the committee members.

Mr. Ed Mikulas stated he was here on behalf of Eau Gallie Civic Association and he was the president of the same. He stated that Extreme Sports was coming in to the park and asked if this was correct. Mrs. Cain responded that she had proposed to the city and county that she would be bringing in a 15 acre skate park facility that would have a BMX site. Mr. Mikulas asked if this would be a huge building or look like a circus. Mrs. Cain said it would look like a park. Mr. Mikulas asked if the entrance would be off Croton Road, Mrs. Cain said no, the entrance would be off Post Road near Friar Tuck. Mr. Mikulas said we do not need anything that would bring thousands of people as Post Road was already a heavy traffic area. Discussion ensued again how the public at the meeting had heard about the meeting.

Mr. Poppe addressed the committee and the public and stated that at this point they were raising good issues, but that the consultants were addressing these items, and that no permit would be issued for the project if there problems with the project. Mrs. Kilianek again stated that the City of Melbourne had already approved the project; Mr. Nowlin stated no, that they had only endorsed the concept of the project. Mr. Poppe said nothing had been done that cast the project into stone, and that there had been no approvals. Mrs. Kilianek stated that the public was concerned that they would hear nothing about the project until after it was built. Mrs. Kilianek referred to the article in Florida Today from a year ago that said the project was a done deal. Mr. Poppe stated that the article was not from the county and that it was erroneous in several areas.

Discussion ensued about the homeowners in the area being able to get out of their developments with all the traffic in the area, that they did not know the status of the project and were not receiving any information on the project. Mrs. Kilianek stated that she was also in the dark about the project and that local homeowners were asking her questions about the project. Mr. Newell stated that the project was not at the stage where the committee could make any recommendation concerning the project. Mr. Poppe stated that we have had only one kick-off meeting, but that items were in the works on the process. Mr. Whitlock advised the members of the public present that the committee members were representing their interests and that they would have ample opportunities to present their concerns and offer input to the boards and to the county before any decision was made on the project.

Mr. Richard Millyer said that he had sat on the Wickham Advisory Board for twenty years and that the board had disappeared, but the vision of the board was to keep Wickham the same. He said it was tough to fathom taking 15 acres of the park and giving it away, he said they had fought for years to keep the park as passive recreation. Mr. Millyer stated they had refused the Alzheimer's group and given them space down the road for the there facility, and that there had been numerous groups they had turned away from the park.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Mrs. Karen Kilianek asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ed Newell made a **MOTION** to adjourn, Mrs. Phyllis Principe **SECONDED**, **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. Mrs. Kilianek adjourned the January 6, 2010, meeting of the Wickham Park Advisory Committee at 7:47 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is March 3, 2010.