

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

September 27, 2010

Present: Debra Fernandez, Bruce Henry, Montez James, Rory Lundberg, Stephen Lyon, Rebecca Murphy, Luise Smith, Marilyn Stephens, Elizabeth Yancey

Absent: Larry Kraker

Additional Present: Gail Henrikson, Planning Manager

Approval of minutes: - *Motion was made to approve the minutes from the 5/27/10 meeting as written and seconded by the Board and approved by unanimous vote.*

Old Business:

There was discussion by Mrs. Yancey regarding the budget being very tight this year, and there was no money for any extras. She also spoke to the board regarding the need to revisit fee schedules soon and to look at some possible changes.

New Business:

Gail Henrikson, the Planning Manager for the City of New Smyrna Beach addressed the board and explained about a plan for a proposed Splash park on the Westside. She stated that there was a meeting with the residents of the Westside and that they had voted to have a Splash Park built in their neighborhood. There is \$53,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the 2010-2011 period. These funds have already been approved and dedicated toward the Splash Park. Some discussion was made regarding different possible locations for the Splash Park within the Westside. Ms. Henrikson explained that the reason for her being at this meeting is because city wants to apply for an additional grant to provide more funding for this project. The CDBG is only for \$53,000 and that won't go very far or buy very much. Ms. Henrikson passed out some information on Splash Parks and some pictures of nearby cities facilities. She stated that the cost to build these different facilities was anywhere between \$136,000- \$250,000. She stated again that this is why the City is looking to apply for an additional \$100,000 from Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) Grant to have additional funds for the Splash Park.

One of the requirements for the grant application is that there must be a meeting with the Parks & Recreation Board and the board must give their approval for the grant application process to move forward. Ms. Henrikson stated that if you vote to approve it tonight, then the next step would be to go before the City Commission tomorrow night for their approval, in order to proceed with the application process. The deadline to submit the grant application for consideration is Thursday, September 30th.

Ms. Stephens asked about what the final location of the park would be. The exact location is not finalized yet. There was discussion on location possibilities. Ms. Henrikson explained that there was

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

September 27, 2010

concern that if it was put at Babe James that the kids would lose part of their play area. The residents near Mary Tot Lot do not want it in their neighborhood. The Splash Park must be fenced in and is considered very similar to a swimming pool and so all the same regulations and maintenance and safety requirements must be followed and adhered to. A lifeguard is not necessary, but many other of the standards are the same as for a pool. It was asked if anyone would have to be on duty there to monitor the park and the answer was no. It would be considered an “at your own risk” facility. Ms. Stephens asked if this would be the only Splash Park in the city and Ms. Henrikson answered yes. Ms. Stephens asked what was needed from the board and discussion ensued again about possible locations. Ms. Henrikson stated that one of the requirements is for the Splash Park to be within 200 feet of a restroom. That is one of the reasons that the Pettis Park site is being considered. There was discussion on how funding there is. Ms. Henrikson again explained that we have \$53,000 in CDBG funds and that more is needed, and that is why the second grant is being applied for. The intention is to use the CDBG money as the matching funds for the second grant that we are requesting.

Mrs. Yancey stated that the Splash Park in Ormond has a spa timer and it must be turned on to work and so if not manually turned on, it is not on. The one in Ormond also turns everything on at once, so kids aren't running from one spot to the other all at one time which works very well. It was asked how it will be policed. Mrs. Yancey said the Police Department would be responsible for that. Concerns were expressed about drug issues and crime in that area. Mrs. Yancey mentioned that the new amenities added there recently; such as the racquetball courts and pavilion are bringing a different group to the park. The Boys and Girls Club and Head Start are also both using the park frequently as well. We are trying to move other groups in that area to discourage that type of activity. Ms. James asked about vandalism concerns and has it gotten better. Mrs. Yancey said that vandalism is a problem throughout the city and actually Rocco Park is the most hit with that. It was asked what would be the hours of operation of the Splash Park. Ms. Henrikson said probably the same as the park hours, and Mrs. Yancey agreed. Most of the park hours are until 11:00pm. The winter months the Splash Park would be shut down so it would essentially be open eight months out of the year. This is all preliminary because we are just in the application stage and many of those details would be worked out later if we even get it. This is only a first step and the outcome is uncertain. Ms. Henrikson says the \$53,000 in CDBG funds are guaranteed, but again that doesn't buy you much. It would only fund two jets at the maximum. That is why we want to apply for additional money so we can build a better park.

Maintenance and upkeep costs were asked about and discussed. Ormond Beach has approximately a \$9300 budget for chemicals and maintenance. This doesn't include electric, water or replacement costs. Ormond and South Daytona's are almost three years old so they may be due for some repairs soon, but have not so far so they could not provide information to us on that.

Ormond says it is the most incredible thing they have ever done and have been very pleased with having one. Theirs is on the south side near youth center and is a gorgeous facility. They have it at the

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

September 27, 2010

community neighborhood center and it is very busy. They would have put it elsewhere had they know how well used it would be.

Ms. Henrikson stated that there are stipulations for the CDBG money so location options are limited. The City Commission has previously set the policy that CDBG money will only be utilized on the west side so that limits you to Babe James, Mary Ave Tot Lot (neighborhood says not there) or Pettis Park.

Mr. Lundberg asked about Myrtle Avenue Park and mentioned that no one uses it. It was pointed out that you must have a bathroom within 200 feet and parking is an issue as well at that site. There are only two or three spaces on Myrtle Avenue. These issues would eliminate this park as being a viable choice. It has been conveyed that wherever you put this type of facility that the neighborhood is strongly impacted. Mrs. Yancey also voiced concern of having to cross Canal Street and that this is a busy street and safety may be a concern too.

Ms. Stephens asked if there were any more questions of Ms. Henrikson or any more comments regarding the Splash Park and then asked if there was a motion to approve applying for the Splash Park grant. *Ms. Fernandez made the motion to approve applying for the Splash Park grant and it was seconded and passed unanimously.*

Announcements:

Mrs. Yancey announced that the Halloween Parade and Costume Contest would be on Saturday, October 30th at the Chamber parking lot. Be there between 3:30-3:45 at the stage for judging.

Mrs. Yancey stated to the board members to expect to come prepared to discuss changes to the fee schedules at the next meeting.

She also stated that there will be no money for High School art purchase awards or the Student Recognition Scholarship this year due to budget cuts. There have been a lot of changes for the coming year due to budget concerns. Ms. Stephens mentioned that even Greater Volusia Tennis League is down approximately twenty-six teams this year. The economy is affecting everything and everyone.

Ms. Stephens asked for any other comments or announcements. Mrs. Yancey mentioned that we lost our concessionaire for the skate park and the RFP is out and due back Thursday and hopefully we will have a new one in place by Friday. Mr. Henry asked about if it is busy out there and Mrs. Yancey that it had dropped off considerably since school started. She also stated we have had some interest from some potential bidders for the concession services which is a very good thing.

Meeting adjourned.