

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
MARCH 22, 2011

Present: Elizabeth Yancey, Bruce Henry, Montez James, Larry Kraker, Rebecca Murphy, Luise Smith, Marilyn Stephens, Gail Henrikson

Absent: Debra Fernandez, Rory Lundberg, Steven Lyon

Approval of minutes of Dec. 9, 2010- Motion was made by Montez James to approve as written and seconded by Rebecca Murphy and approved by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Open Space Revision:

Liz Yancey introduced Gail Henrikson, Planning Manager from City Hall. Ms. Henrikson reminded the board of their meeting about a year ago regarding the establishment of new standards for parks throughout the City. The Recreation and Open Space Element Report was submitted to the State and the State responded with comments resulting in the following four changes:

Tot Lot originally had 0.5 acres for 1000 people and was changed to 0.2 acres.

Neighborhood Parks originally had 2 acres for 1000 people and was lowered to 0.4 acres.

Community Parks originally had 2 acres per 1000 people and was changed to 1 acre.

Urban Open Space originally had 1 acre in some places and .1 acres in other places - this was corrected throughout to read 0.1 acre.

It was noted by a board member that the reduction of space seemed considerable. Ms. Henrikson explained the process of updating the comprehensive land use plan as required every 7 years. Land use maps are amended in anticipation of population growth, changing the density. Deficits were noted and considering the City budget, the standard was lowered. Although the standards are not required by the State, if higher standards are assumed, no changes can be made in the future to the comprehensive plan. In the event property were to be annexed into the City, no density increases would be possible until extra park space was provided. This represents the City's minimum standard therefore, if money isn't available to buy land, this is the least that they're able to provide.

A motion to accept revisions to the plan and to forward to the City for approval was made by Montez James and seconded by Larry Kraker and approved by the board.

The plan will be submitted to the City Commission for adoption on April 12th.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

The staff continues to downsize but workloads remain the same. Three employees are out due to illness and Workman's Compensation injuries.

Cleaning of the bathrooms has been privatized.

Parking fees for parking and boat ramp, etc. are still a work in progress. The kiosk was recommended and impact fees would pay for it so that no money would come out of the general fund. The RFP was sent out to provide kiosks but no bids were approved. Now the discussion has moved to the use of stickers again.

The Art Fiesta was very successful with excellent weather the entire weekend.

\$800,000.00 was cut from the budget last year and another \$45,000.00 needs to be trimmed from the Sports Complex and Parks and Recreation budget. The Sports Complex is now down to only two people. These people have a lot of responsibility including mowing, striping, spraying, fertilizing, dragging and marking, etc.

All children's sports programs are designed to break even. \$20,000.00 was raised during the Mayor's Challenge golf event last year. This money is used to subsidize needy children and is also shared with other organizations such as the Police Athletic League (PAL) to support their sports programs. This also includes the City of Edgewater & SE Volusia Little League.

This year the baseball program is part of a franchise with SE Volusia Little League and the City of Edgewater. Last year the program was part of the Babe Ruth franchise.

The City will be helping PAL with registrations this year through the use of their new program called Rec Pro.

The City received notification from the State that they scored a 58 on funding for the Esther St. park project. It's still in negotiation. The goal is to have a 2-way road there.

The Art Award and Student Recognition Award is discontinued this year due to lack of funding.

Montez James questioned the effort to name tennis courts after Ed Meeks. She would like to see this followed through with a letter to the family and a picture at the Babe James Center so that he can be honored for his contributions.

The City has just gone through an evaluation and efficiency study regarding fees for the picnic pavilions and the Brannon Center. The recommended fees were judged as too high. After the Commission decides, further discussion will be had.

A motion to adjourn was made by Larry Kraker , seconded and approved by the Board.