

**INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN COMMISSONERS GREG SEIDEL AND PETER WELDON**

**May 4, 2016**

The informal discussion began at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapman Room (Room 200), 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Present:

Commissioner Greg Seidel  
Commissioner Peter Weldon  
Commissioner Carolyn Cooper  
City Clerk Cindy Bonham  
Assistant City Manager Michelle Neuner

Commissioner Weldon clarified that the petition filed last Friday was done after he asked Commissioner Seidel if he would speak with him. He stated he wanted to make sure their decisions are both fact based and on the up and up. He stated one of the things that prompted him to want to speak with Commissioner Seidel was because of an email received from Michael Poole dated April 22. He read that email and asked if either commissioner present had information because he does not want to participate in things that relates to the words in the email. He commented that he wanted to clear the air on what the facts are and whether or not there are specific issues related to the process that got them to the referendum that could remotely qualify as misleading.

Commissioner Seidel addressed going through the process with the ordinance and that he made clear that the park is not a bad location; it was not his first choice and would like to keep it downtown if they could, but the park is not a bad site. He commented that he looked to make sure that if we did not have the location in it that it could be built somewhere else. Commissioner Cooper commented about making a motion at two meetings to include the location on the ballot.

Commissioner Seidel stated he was pleased the referendum passed and is excited to get it built. He stated after it passed and they began discussing the actual project he hoped the post office site could be investigated but that they moved forward with the current location and he did not want to slow down the process. He stated that he spoke with the City Manager about having to build the events center with the library because both were included in the bond referendum. Commissioner Weldon commented that all the history of the task force meetings and reports led to the conclusion that it will be built in the Martin Luther King Park and built together. He elaborated about other sites he gave thought to. Discussion ensued regarding task force discussions regarding possible locations and the incorporation of the civic center with the library.

Commissioner Weldon stated he wanted to understand if the City has done anything wrong because Mr. Poole implies that there is and that he does not want anything to do with that. Commissioner Seidel commented he should have paid

more attention to the language to combine it all. Commissioner Cooper addressed the language not being clear to her that bundling it prohibited them from separating them. Commissioner Weldon stated he did not recall having one person telling him during his campaign that they were confused as to the proposed location of the library.

Commissioner Seidel spoke about speaking with members of the petitioners committee and that he did not like their absolutism that you shall not build the library in the park. He stated he asked them if there was anything the City could do to preempt what they are trying to do which he did not receive a definitive answer. He stated he was trying to understand their ultimate goal and that having a referendum that is basically a yes or no vote if we could ever have a library in the park was not a good idea because he did not believe it to be a bad site and what we are doing is not a bad thing.

Commissioner Weldon addressed researching the entire issue and that he determined that there was nothing misleading or deceiving. He stated they all want what is best for Winter Park and their language implies that someone colluded to deceive someone which is not the kind of thing he wants to see. Commissioner Seidel agreed that no one colluded to be deceitful.

Commissioner Cooper expressed that she believed they came away with a misunderstanding or lack of clarity relative to what the bond referendum language enabled them to do or not do. Commissioner Weldon stated he read the entire thing and understood the limitations on tying it together and the relationship to the site location and that all the promotional materials supporting the referendum referred to the website and clearly delineated all the details discussed at the Commission levels. He stated that he concluded after all his studying that the MLK Park is the best location and what has been approved. He stated he is only trying to fulfil the will of the voters.

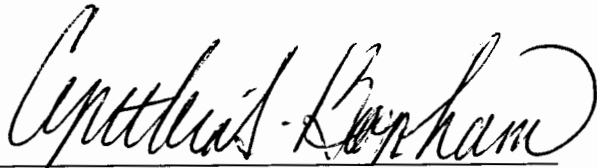
Commissioner Weldon addressed the citizens voting to grant the City Commission the authority to determine the location and to spend up to \$30 million and they voted for the strong likelihood that the current plan is to put it in the park. He clarified that the location has already been determined and that the parties are trying to stop that which is a separate issue that they probably should not discuss because it is not relevant to this discussion and is a totally independent action. He stated he has made it clear that he has done the homework he believes is appropriate and responsible and he sees a great opportunity in the park and that the other alternatives would be extremely problematic. He addressed the City Hall site not being practicable. He concluded that he sees a great opportunity to conclude what has been approved and has done sufficient analysis to determine what alternatives may be available and will not support more debate because it has been voted on.

Commissioner Seidel concluded that he has always looked at this as a good site, there are worse locations to build it and that there was not support for the other locations so he is okay with that.

Commissioner Cooper spoke about the importance for the City regarding the post office property and retaining the library property.

On a different subject, Commissioner Cooper asked the Commissioners to think about whether we should extend the vertical zoning requirements that are normally associated with Park Avenue and C-2 zoning. She stated she would love to ask P&Z or EDAB to evaluate extending the vertical zoning down New England Avenue so that people are enticed to continue to walk to support the merchants down New England Avenue.

The meeting ended at 9:10 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cynthia S. Bonham". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cynthia S. Bonham, City Clerk