

**CITY OF WINTER PARK
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
May 15, 2009**

A work session was held at 9:00 a.m. between Mayor Kenneth Bradley and Commissioner Phil Anderson regarding Fleet Peeples Park and board appointments in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Mayor Bradley commented that this discussion was about the two matters before the Commission and he wanted to work with Commissioner Anderson and his fellow Commissioners to bring some positive vision and closure to this matter, in order to move forward.

Commissioner Anderson commented that someone raised the question of whether this meeting was properly noticed. He spoke with City Manager Knight and stated it was properly posted on the bulletin board.

Fleet Peeples Park

Commissioner Anderson shared his perspective on Fleet Peeples Park. He stated two issues: 1) the layout of the park and 2) what role the Friends of Fleet Peeples will have. He commented that off leash is important if there is to be a dog park. He questioned what they need to do to have the people use, especially until they have the funding sources to implement the major capital projects. He asked if the pavilion should be in or outside the fence line and how much separation there should be between the dog part of the beach and the access points to the other parts of the beach. Mayor Bradley commented that he had the plans that were presented at the April 27 meeting.

Mayor Bradley wanted to accomplish the elements that make great parks such as the environmental mitigation that has been proposed. He commented that he spoke with City staff about ongoing lake quality issues and there is nothing from a scientific standpoint that has been presented that suggests this is any more or less polluting than any of the other lakes around us. He stated that lake quality is important and wants to see the science of it more quantified. He believed that they need to improve the dog wash area and added support for the sod and having irrigation that works. He also suggested there could be small and big dog areas. He addressed concern about the aesthetics of the park and that Glenridge East could be landscaped better to have a better image. He also agreed with Commissioner Anderson on the pavilion being in or outside the fence line.

Mayor Bradley believed there could be some things done on the South side of the park to enhance that area. He saw this being done in phases when they have funding. Commissioner Anderson agreed and recognized that there is no agreement between the two parties. He also wanted to know more about the science of the water quality and address how they manage the health and safety issues to allow dogs access to the water. He stated that the water access makes this a great dog park. He also spoke about the swales being a good idea and something they should do. Mayor Bradley agreed. Commissioner Anderson wanted to hear public comments on this item. He commented that they need to realize there will be no new facilities on the west side for a few years no matter how this is funded. He summarized whether the picnic shelter pavilion should be outside the off-leach portion; if there is enough open space to make it great dog park and what the realistic utilization of an on-leash portion of the beach that they should accommodate is.

Mayor Bradley commented that a trail could go through the nature preserve area which could be a new element. He also believed that the attendant is a good idea especially on the weekends; however, he struggled with the fees and registration. He commented that he may ask City staff to do analysis on other dog parks about registration. He stated that he did not want to limit access to the park, but also did not want to make the park unsafe with too many dogs. Commissioner Anderson voiced concerns of the intensity of the use of park. He stated that these kinds of issues could be developed on a different timeline. Mayor Bradley agreed and stated that in many respects they could be looking at a master plan for this park. Commissioner Anderson commented that they need to decide where the fence goes in the short term, figure out the immediate health and safety concerns, what construction items or operational items need to be implemented and to have signage and appropriate warnings as well. Then they can move toward finishing the master plan and what funding mechanisms might come into place for doing that.

Commissioner Anderson suggested that when they schedule the next Fleet Peoples meeting it be a decision making meeting or a public hearing and allocate time for staff, Friends of Fleet Peoples and the Parks Board. Mayor Bradley commented that he would like ample time for the public to have input. He expressed this being a productive discussion and he intends to have conversations like this with the other Commissioners to ensure they have a park that the City and the citizens can be proud of.

Appointment Process.

Mayor Bradley commented that he studied the last 5 years of appointments and there were no traditions regarding alternates as discussed at the last Commission meeting. He stated that he was struggling with automatically moving up alternates versus nominating someone who is better qualified. He commented that he also perceived them as full members of the board even though the alternates did not perceive themselves as such.

Commissioner Anderson strongly believed that alternates deserve high consideration for moving into the first available permanent slot and they have more experience. He stated that both he and Mayor Bradley want the boards to have balance and admire the board members willingness to serve. He added that there are many people that would like to serve the City and he was uncertain if a guaranteed 6 term was necessarily the right thing.

Mayor Bradley spoke more about the alternate member process and suggested they look at the number of boards, board attendance, interest and intent and how the City Commission works with the boards. He commented that he will work more diligently with the Chairperson of boards so there is more alignment with the Commission (i.e., 90 day plans) and to become more streamlined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.



City Clerk Cynthia S. Bonham