

**CITY OF WINTER PARK
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
JUNE 8, 2009**

The Winter Park City Commission work session was called to order by Mayor Kenneth Bradley at 2:35 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Members present:

Mayor Kenneth Bradley
Commissioner Margie Bridges
Commissioner Phil Anderson
Commissioner Beth Dillaha
Commissioner Karen Diebel (arrived 2:52 p.m.)

Also present:

City Manager Randy Knight
City Attorney Trippe Cheek
Deputy City Clerk Nancy McLean

Fleet Peoples Park discussion

Commissioner Anderson spoke about the uses of the park and wanted to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation for the on-leash area and continued access to the water front. He stated that he was in agreement with the original recommendation made by the Parks Board in April of last year. He expressed that this should remain an active park for both dogs and people. He wanted to ensure a pavilion is developed and the design has been tweaked to accommodate lake access for special water users and adequate parking is available. He stated that it would be a great accomplishment if these facilities can be developed in a timely manner.

Commissioner Dillaha wanted to ensure the park is affordable, they can maintain it and provide all the necessary uses. She commented that she would like to see a plan for its cost, along with the source of funding and how it will be maintained. She stated there needs to be a timeline and questioned who would be responsible for raising money.

Mayor Bradley commented that going forward with the parks in general he did not want to focus on maintaining them. He stated their role is to set the budget and make sure there is an appropriate amount of money to do that. He addressed that they could look at this in the overall context of the Parks budget and to discuss the ongoing maintenance in their 2010 budget.

Commissioner Anderson suggested they confirm a conceptual plan; then take it to the next level of a schematic plan to include a sufficient open play area, available parking, and pavilions and bathroom facilities. He commented that they also let someone (predominantly Winter Park residents) carry on with the capital fundraising. He stated that if the timeline does not work they will revisit this to see if they can afford it. He added that they also have to implement a fee structure immediately. He explained that part of the fee would go to the heavier intensive use maintenance and to capital improvements.

Commissioner Bridges commented that she did not believe the Friends of Fleet Peoples would be the only group that would be interested in raising money. She wanted the Parks Department and Parks Board to work with other groups and to encourage them to report their capital fundraising programs and prioritize what needs to be done. She also

voiced concerns with the inadequacy of the current on-leash area in terms of space and the lack of attention to their wooded area.

Commissioner Anderson had concerns with the significant loss of revenue with the use of this pavilion since it was embraced with the off-leash portion of the park. He wanted that element to be restored to an on-leash area quickly.

Mayor Bradley commented that the majority of the Commission seems to have an idea about the configuration of the park from previous discussions and many of the environmental concerns were mitigated with the decision to add swales. He suggested they continue to monitor the lake.

Parks and Recreation Director John Holland explained that they had a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program Grant regarding the fee structure. He stated there are restrictions on the fees they can charge. He commented that they cannot charge different fees between residents and non-residents. Mr. Holland answered questions.

Commissioner Bridges commented that she would be in favor of implementing a fee for the dog use. She believed they would find support from dog owners and non-dog owners. She stated that this is an intense use of the park and in order to maintain the standard service it will require additional resources. Commissioner Anderson believed that this should be based on an honor system and enforced occasionally. Commissioner Dillaha stated that the fees are to provide funding for maintenance; dog registrations are to ensure vaccination; and to reduce park attendance.

Commissioner Diebel wanted a maintenance budget and commented that if they are to successfully implement this park plan, they need to prioritize things. She added that if a fee were established it should be to ensure there were healthy dogs in the park.

Mayor Bradley commented that if they need registration to ensure healthy dogs then that is something they can review and he wanted to look at the fees in the overall context of all of their parks. He stated that he would like to see some beautification along Glenridge East in the final schematic of the plan.

Commissioner Anderson stated he would work with Mr. Holland to take this from a conceptual plan to a schematic plan. There was consensus among the Commission. Mayor Bradley commented that he has been approached by people who would like to be involved with this from a design perspective and encouraged Commissioner Anderson to convene a group if he desired to do so. He stated this will come before the Commission on July 13 along with the capital plan, the operating budget and the fees.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.


City Clerk Cynthia Bonham