

CITY OF WINTER PARK
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
July 30, 2009

An informal work session was held at 3:00 p.m. in room 200, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida between Commissioners Beth Dillaha and Phil Anderson regarding the post office property options.

Also present:

Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle
Planner Stacey Scowden

Commissioner Anderson wanted to know more about Tri-Rail and how long they have been looking for this funding source. Commissioner Dillaha provided him with background information on Tri-Rail to help him understand what has happened this past year with the last legislative session. Commissioner Anderson commented that there are alternative funding sources such as the two dollar surcharge on rental cars. Commissioner Dillaha agreed. She also spoke about the differences between the Tri-Rail project and what is proposed for the project in Central Florida.

Commissioner Anderson commented if there is a special session in Tallahassee he would suggest (if the special session does not produce an alternative funding source for the Central Florida railway) that we consider putting forward a referendum in March to fund our own train station, assuming that commuter rail goes through and they vote to terminate the agreement. He stated that going forward he would like to see what is on the agenda for the special session, what happens to Tri-Rail on their alternative funding source and what happens if the Central Florida project is confirmed in some capacity. He wanted to hear Maitland's position as well.

Procedures for Commission meetings

Commissioner Anderson commented that there should be an ability of two Commissioners to extend anyone's time at the podium by an additional 4 minutes. He stated they should discuss electronic participation, that Commissioners should have time to present new ideas for discussion under New Business, and have a motion to adjourn future Commission meetings. Commissioner Dillaha agreed.

Commissioner Dillaha also suggested having staff work sessions on Mondays and having the Commission meetings on Tuesdays in order to make the process better. She stated that not all of the staff needs to be at these meetings. Assistant City Manager del Valle commented that it is standard for department heads to be at the Commission meetings.

Comprehensive Plan ordinance

Commissioner Anderson discussed how frequently this can be amended and the difference between what is and is not small scale amendment. Planning Stacey Scowden answered questions and suggested they meet with Mr. Briggs next week so he could answer any further questions. Commissioner Dillaha also spoke about the supermajority being a part of this ordinance. Commissioner Anderson shared some of his concerns regarding the comprehensive plan and the super majority vote.

Post Office

Commissioner Dillaha spoke about the fundraising effort being put together to raise the remainder of the money that we need to build a new post office facility on City property. Commissioner Anderson spoke about having fundraising groups buy City property to give to the post office. Commissioner Dillaha commented that she did not understand this rationale or why he would put this hardship on a group to do so. Commissioner Anderson also questioned what would be the additional cost of the City toward the park expansion. Commissioner Dillaha commented that the City is getting the 1 acre of park and the City is getting something in exchange. She saw this as a grassroots effort of donations of \$4 million that the City does not have to use the taxpayer's money. She stated that they have private citizens raising this money to create an expanded Central Park which creates economic and social value for the City.

Commissioner Dillaha commented that in principle they agreed to expand Central Park and she gave an overview of different points that could be voted on: 1) to agree to advance the fundraising effort to expand the park by one or more acres; 2) to move the retail portion to the arrowhead site; 3) to move the distribution to the State Office site; 4) Commissioner Anderson will be the City liaison with the post office representatives on negotiating; and 5) move forward immediately with the vote. Commissioner Anderson commented that he was in agreement with all of those except for the target fundraising of the capital and how that gets allocated.

Commissioner Anderson and Dillaha decided to discuss the budget at the next work session.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.



City Clerk Cynthia S. Bonham