

**PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD WORK SESSION
January 22, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Blair Culpepper at 5:00 p.m. at the Winter Park Community Center in conference room C.

Advisory Board Members present:

Chairman Blair Culpepper
Vice Chairman Woody Woodall
Michael Palumbo
Julio de Arcos
Fred Jones
Joel Roberts

Staff present:

Director John Holland
Assistant Director Brenda Moody
Assistant Director Ronald Moore
Lieutenant Randy Durkee – WPPD
Recording Secretary Nancy McLean

Advisory Board Members absent:

Janet Atkins
Marni Spence

Staff Members absent:

Assistant Director Chuck Trice

Guests:

Mayor Kenneth Bradley, City Manager Randy Knight, Director Planning & Community Development Dori Stone, Life Scout Troop 62 John Michael Thomas, Eagle Scout Advisor Ron Frechette, Brian Wettstein, Linda Chappell, 794 Comstock Avenue, Sandy Womble 940 Old England Avenue, and Friends of Fleet Peoples Park Carla Lubet

Consent Agenda:

a) Approval of Minutes – October 22, 2013 meeting

Motion made by Julio d’Arcos to approve consent agenda item ‘a’; seconded by Woody Woodall. The motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote. Janet Atkins and Marni Spence were absent.

Presentation & Discussion:

b) Discussion for the opportunity for minor league baseball in Winter Park

At the January 13, 2014 City Commission meeting, the City Manager requested a 45 day evaluation period to consider the opportunities of pursuing a minor league baseball team and the construction of a stadium within the City. The City Manager’s request included: “...exploring various options of building a baseball stadium along with Rollins that would facilitate bringing minor league baseball to the community. For the last few months the focus has been on the Harper Shepherd Field site (current Rollins baseball stadium) and Rollins was leading the effort. Recently, the Rollins executive board voted to discontinue being the lead on this effort. They have said that if a stadium is built they would be interested in being a tenant.

The cost of a stadium construction is in the \$15 to \$22 million range. Land acquisition cost, if any, would be in addition that that cost.

Staff is currently studying four possible sites; Martin Luther King, Jr. Park; Ravaudage; the UP Development/Votech area; and the former tree farm. At the end of the 45 day period staff would bring a report back to the Commission as to whether or not continuing the process makes sense for the community.”

Mayor Bradley and Dori Stone also discussed the options of having minor league baseball in Winter Park. The board members asked questions, gave their input and voiced their concerns regarding the issue.

Action Items:

c) Pulsifer Park – Eagle Scout Service Project

Life Scout John Michael Thomas requested permission to do an Eagle Scout Service Project at Pulsifer Park to honor his friend Elizabeth Buckley who passed in 2012. He explained that he wanted to place a peacock sculpture that is either made of bronze or stone, similar to the symbol of Winter Park and the inscription would state that it was inspired by Elizabeth. He added the benefits of the service project, potential landscape improvements and areas to be explored in terms of fundraising for the sculpture, approval from residents adjacent to the park and permit requirements from the City.

Motion made by Woody Woodall to approve the Eagle Scout Service Project; seconded by Michael Palumbo. The motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote. Janet Atkins and Marni Spence were absent.

d) 11th annual Doggie Art Festival – Central Park

Brian Wettstein expressed that the Sebastian Haul Fund (and The Doggie Door - host and event producer) would like to request the use of North central Park for the 11th Annual Doggie Art Festival on Sunday April 13, 2014. This event will host pet-related artists, vendors and non - profits in support of the Sebastian Haul Fund (SHF), the SHF helped more than 330 greyhounds reach their new families in 2013 through event such as this.

Motion made by Julio d’Arcos to approve 11th annual Doggie Art Festival; seconded by Fred Jones. The motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote. Janet Atkins and Marni Spence were absent.

e) Consideration of Property located at 300 Pennsylvania Avenue

Dori Stone explained that CRA staff has received multiple requests to consider development options which include the purchase of the city-owned property located at 300 N. Pennsylvania Avenue. Based on the diversity of the requests, staff believed that the most equitable way to evaluate the request is through the solicitation of offers through a Notice of Disposal or NOD process.

The property located at 300 N. Pennsylvania was purchased by the City in 1994 and is indicated in the 1994 original CRA Plan as a business/commercial area. The Future Land Use is Commercial and the zoning on the property is C-3 and PL. The land is currently vacant. The office use proposed is compatible with the intent of the CRA Plan to expand the commercial development along Pennsylvania. The property is approximately .45 acre in size.

Linda Chappell, 794 Comstock Avenue, asked that the property be considered as a pocket park instead of selling it for commercial purposes.

Sandy Womble, 940 Old England Ave, believed that the surrounding neighborhoods should be notified and suggested starting a community garden and perhaps partnering with Rollins.

Fred Jones voiced concerns about not having community input before the property is sold and wanted more information on the matter. Woody Woodall opposed the property being sold.

Motion made by Julio d'Arcos to approve the notice of intent to dispose of the property; seconded by Michael Palumbo. The motion carried with a 4-2 vote. Fred Jones and Woody Woodall voted no. Janet Atkins and Marni Spence were absent.

f) City Monument – Donation Policy

Mr. Holland explained that the purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines, standards, and procedures for the installation and care of donated park improvements, either as a result of a cash or physical property donation and it is applicable to all City-owned Parks and Recreation land and facilities.

Motion made by Fred Jones to approve the Monument policy; seconded by Michael Palumbo. The motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote. Janet Atkins and Marni Spence were absent.

New Business Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members:

No new business

New Business Citizens:

No new business

g) Discussion of Small Dog Off Leash Area – Friends of Fleet Peoples Park

Carla Lubet Friends of Fleet Peoples Park (FFPP) stated that a number of park goers have requested a small dog off leash area and she added that the FFPP can raise the necessary funds to buy the fencing. Mr. Culpepper stated that this would be considered on the next agenda.

Old Business:

No old business

Staff Report:

1. Mr. Holland stated that the Civic Center renovations will be complete this week.
2. Mr. Holland explained that “Winter in the Park” skate ice rink had record attendance and was very successful this year.
3. Mr. Holland stated that on the February 10th, City Commission agenda there will be a City Ordinance establishing a Market Business Purpose Area at the Farmers Market and providing for a designated open public forum area within the Market.
4. Mr. Holland requested approval to ask the City Commission for designation of \$100,000 funding to start the construction of the Unity Circle Plaza.

Motion made by Michael Palumbo to request the funding for the Unity Circle Plaza; seconded by Julio d’Arcos. The motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote. Janet Atkins and Marni Spence were absent.

Next Meeting – February 26, 2014 @ 5:00 p.m., Parks & Recreation, Community Center conference room.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Nancy McLean
Recording Secretary