

CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
November 15, 2010

The work session was called to order by Mayor Bradley at 4:03 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Members present:

Mayor Kenneth Bradley (departed 7:32 p.m.)
Commissioner Tom McMacken
Commissioner Beth Dillaha
Commissioner Carolyn Cooper
Commissioner Anderson

Also present:

City Manager Randy Knight
Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle
Deputy City Clerk Michelle Bernstein

This meeting was a work session with no public input.

Mead Gardens:

There was a brief summary of the meeting that took place on Friday, November 12, 2010 regarding Mead Gardens. Commissioner Anderson recapped his statement by saying there were three items that they ended up discussing but mentioned that he was not sure if they were all in agreement on the items. He said there is no technical prohibition against a non profit lease on the majority of the parcel and his statement was about endorsing a plan that would include a lease of the environmental learning center to an organization and the consideration and investigation of whether a fee based botanical garden would be feasible. He suggested they perform a feasibility analysis which would include the leasing of some adjacent areas to an organization. He did not think they concluded on a governance of that organization but they talked mostly about the non-profit issues. There was discussion regarding part of the lake and to review the feasibility and for the City to possibly meet with St. John's Water Management for further analysis.

Mayor Bradley said the key issues they should address are the concept of a botanical garden (Citywide implications, who governs it, how it is done and who raises money for it), the educational center and the lake restoration.

Discussion ensued regarding the key subject matters listed below:

1. Environmental Learning Center – the concept, if it is part of their vision or not, the structure, the feasibility study, who would manage it and if they should move it to the next level. There was consensus that they would be open to possibly having a group govern, manage and run it.
2. Botanical Garden – the Commission wanted to see it happen since it is part of the deed and to keep the restorative collections; but who makes it happen, who funds it, if they should do a revenue cost study and the fee or no fee is to be determined. There was consensus for the term City Park to include the Winter Park Uplands and the Howell Creek Botanical Collection. They said they are open to governance and there was consensus pending the feasibility review.
3. Wetification of Lake Lillian – there was consensus for the restoration of the wetlands and the wetification with the reforestation and environmental consistency. They requested to have staff bring a plan on scope which includes price, money, expertise and a timeline and to outline the options with Lake Lillian on who the experts are, if we have them in-house or not and what the steps are.

There was a suggestion to use the free resource that the Friends of Mead Garden said they could provide, which is to bring in a third party to help provide expertise on the governance items. It was mentioned that this item will be discussed during the next Commission meeting scheduled for November 22, 2010 for follow up and to provide further direction.

A recess was taken from 5:18 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

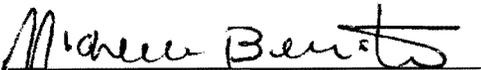
Police and Fire Pension Review

City Manager Knight provided a brief summary and explained that during the budget process one of the big topics was the cost of pensions. He said a study was provided by Foster and Foster which showed a spike coming in three to four years, so they started a dialogue on what they can do to try and keep the plans sustainable for the long term and keep the cost affordable for the City. He said the Commission directed the City to engage a consultant to look at these matters and they did that.

He introduced pension consultants Jim Linn with Lewis, Longman, Walker, P.A. and Michael J. Tierney with Actuarial Concepts. Mr. Knight asked for further direction for the consultant on what they would like to see come out of this study and for the consultant to provide the Commission with some ideas on what is doable or not and move on from there. Mr. Linn gave a Powerpoint presentation and provided an analysis on their findings along with several solutions that might work for both the City and the plan participants. Mr. Linn explained that the City is required by law to fund pension plans on a sound actuarial basis, both the normal cost and amortization payment. He discussed the pension plan funding for FY 2010-2011, City contributions to police and fire pension plans over the past 8 years, the projected contributions to police and fire pension plans over the next 10 years, the impact of the market collapse, an example of a 4 year smoothing plan, pension legacy cost and debt, unfunded liabilities in the past 6 years, current police and fire pension benefits, options to reduce city pension costs, key concepts, legal guidelines, short and long term savings, pension reform options, the options with joining Florida Retirement System, Defined Contribution plan advantages and disadvantages, pension reform and what other cities and counties in Florida are doing.

After the presentation both Mr. Linn and Mr. Tierney answered questions of the Commission. There was a consensus to move forward. Mr. Linn suggested having a closed executive session with them since it pertains to bargaining issues so they can evaluate the options and provide him direction in terms of what they want to explore. Mayor Bradley said there was consensus to see if there are actuarial ways to smooth the hump, what decisions the City or the pension board can make and pursue quickly and that they start to look at both price and cost of the different plan design options. There was also consensus on having the consultant suggest some pension policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.


Deputy City Clerk Michelle Bernstein