

FRUITLAND PARK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2016

A workshop meeting of the Fruitland Park City Commission was held at 506 W. Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731 on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Christopher Bell, Vice Mayor John L. Gunter Jr., Commissioners Chris Cheshire, Ray Lewis, and Rick Ranize.

Also Present: City Manager Gary La Venia, City Attorney Anita Geraci-Carver, City Treasurer Jeannine Racine Michaud, Police Chief Mike Fewless, Deputy Police Chief Dennis Cutter, Police Department; Fire Chief Michael Laming; Assistant Fire Chief Don Gilpin; Deputy Fire Chief Tim Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Yoder, Public Works Director Dale Bogle, Community Development Director Charlie Rector; Deputy City Clerk and Human Resources Administrator Marie Azzolino and City Clerk Esther B. Coulson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bell called the meeting to order at led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. ROLL CALL

At Mayor Bell's request, Ms. Coulson called the roll.

3. PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Ms. Yoder gave a power-point presentation on the five-year recreational plan for Veterans Park, the soccer/multi-use field; Gardenia Park; Cales Park, the pool; miscellaneous items; the city hall green space, and the recreation building.; a copy of which is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.

After discussion and upon Commissioner Ranize' suggestion, **the city commission, by unanimous consent, approved staff's recommendation to relocate the tennis courts from Veterans Park to Gardenia Park.**

Commissioner Ranize referred to the existing condition of the telephone poles; voiced safety concerns, and requested the expeditious removal of same which ought to be placed high on the priority list.

Following Mayor Bell's suggestion on improvements closer to the pavilion, Ms. Yoder responded to Commissioner Cheshire's recommendation on previous discussions held allowing residents to purchase a certain type of bench with a plaque and mentioned the ability at a later date for the city commission to reach a consensus on its selection and development of a program.

In response to Commissioner Cheshire's concerns on the existing pests at the parks' playgrounds, Mr. Bogle identified the current TruGreen Lawn Care the city utilizes to eliminate the bugs and indicated that he will look into the issue.

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With respect to Commissioner Cheshire's question on the relocation of the parks' playgrounds, Ms. Yoder indicated that the sand does not meet the requirements under the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA).

After Ms. Yoder referred to Lake County's interactive map depicting the empty field north of Cales Park, she introduced to the city commission Mr. Anderson Da Silva, The Villages Soccer Club Inc. President, whose company is contracted with the city to manage the soccer program for the last three seasons. He acknowledged the presence of Ms. Pura Sierra, Event Coordinator, who gave a power-point presentation on the club's soccer recreational history, growth, and future programs and presented a video on the Premier Development League (PDL) *Path 2 Pro*.

Ms. Sierra explained that the club is seeking a place called home where children can practice and train in the Fruitland Park area and recognized that the club has qualified for the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup where competitions will be held with other PDLs; thus, the opportunity to play games against the major-league soccer leagues starting in May 2016. Ms. Sierra anticipated the city commission's consideration for the soccer club to work together as a team with the city.

Ms. Yoder expressed preference for the soccer field to be located at Cales Park to include: concession stands; practice field just west of the field, locker rooms, bleachers with concrete pads, ADA accessible sidewalks, and fencing compatible with the city's other parks and fields.

Following further discussion and in response to Vice Mayor Gunter's inquiry on the status, Mr. Rector explained that Rainey Construction Company will be grading the field to the elevation drawings from Booth, Ern, Straughan & Hoitt Inc. (engineers retained by the city) which are expected to be available when the wastewater connection lines and water projects are complete.

After extensive discussions, Ms. Yoder mentioned her previous discussions and suggested proposing the subject soccer field in phases over five years; thus, the site in question would be utilized as a multi-purpose field. She noted the requirement for locker rooms when she met with Mr. Anderson and the potential revenue that could be generated as a result.

After Mayor Bell referred to the county's available economic development grants and following further discussion, Ms. Yoder noted the increased number of children enrolled in the soccer program; the games held outside the city to accommodate the residents' needs, and the continued high demand for said sport; however, she stated that the city lacks the facility in this regard.

Mr. La Venia explained that the \$100,000 is the figure the county informed staff that they would allocate towards the construction of a municipal soccer field; recognized Rainey Construction's grading, and agreed with Mr. Rector's description on the requirements to construct a soccer field.

Following much discussion and upon Commissioner Ranize' recommendation, **the city commission agreed, by unanimous consent, with the implementation of a three to five-year plan towards the development of a recreational soccer program for the currently enrolled City of Fruitland Park's youth and authorized the Parks and Recreation Director to work with The Villages Soccer Club Inc. on the design layout to include parking as well as an estimated cost to start the program and seek other funding sources including applying for available grants.**

- **Gardenia Park**

Ms. Yoder depicted on the county's connect interactive map the location of the existing volleyball and racket ball courts; the proximity of the recreational office, and the old soccer field which is the current water center. She identified the location of the proposed new tennis courts and specialized sports lighting and noted the estimated costs of same. Ms. Yoder anticipated receiving the approved grants in April 2016.

Ms. Yoder referred to the three phases skatepark designs previously provided to the city commission; described the various activities and the extensive use at Gardenia Park Skatepark, and addressed the plan to complete phases II and III with landscape enhancements. (Copies of the respective document is filed with the supplemental papers to the minutes of this meeting.)

After much discussion, Mayor Bell concurred on the need for same for the youth.

Ms. Yoder recommended the following:

- the placement of a concrete fitness trail;
- the installation; the setting up of equipment along the walking trails to Mirror Lake;
- the sunshade and artificial turf, in compliance with ADA requirements, in the playground area, as one of the anticipated grants, and
- install railings around the pavilion to prevent rainwater

Ms. Geraci-Carver explained that Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds can be utilized if sidewalks are included in the city's five-year plan for infrastructure and are within the city's CRA district.

In response to several inquiries, Ms. Yoder described the extensive use of the skatepark by different age groups at various times of the day. She noted the difficulty for patrons to utilize the racquet ball court due to its popularity; referred to email compliments received as a result of the minor improvements, and mentioned the likelihood of adding two more walls.

- **Cales Park**

Ms. Yoder recognized the revenues generated as a result of the softball program and noted the request for:

- new dugouts -- one of the main complaints received – as they are too small;
- the replacement of new fencing with black vinyl fencing and 15 foot or higher fencing for the outfield as the existing ones are outdated; are leaning excessively; the dugout fencing is dangerous, and for the outfield preventing the ball from going out to the woods;
- updated sports lighting which will be explained in detail by the public works department director;
- removal and replacement of playground seating to meet ADA requirements;
- the painting of the concession stands (currently on Operation Bless Fruitland Park's agenda for Saturday, February 21, 2016); thus, the subsequent need for installation of rollup doors and storage.

After discussion, Ms. Yoder mentioned the city receiving an overflow of t-ball and soccer field players from the Town of Lady Lake's programs due to the lack of fields.

Mayor Bell suggested inviting a representative from Waste Management Inc. to address the different stop tracks for the park at a future meeting.

Ms. Yoder requested additional storage space in a secured location for the outdoor holiday decorations; namely, snowflakes on the street lights.

- **Gardenia Park Swimming Pool**

Ms. Yoder made comparison reports of before and after improvements at Gardenia Park Swimming Pool and pointed out the aerial interactive map reflecting:

- the removal of the telephone poles which have been replaced with concrete parking with bumpers/buffers;
- outdated landscaping replaced with new wavescaping around the pool (thus; the removal of trees allowed for visibility from the playground to the pool);
- the installation of the new picnic tables to allow frequent utilization of same by patrons;
- the replacement of picture windows and one concession window, and

- with reference to previous FY 2015/16 budget workshop discussions, the need to retexture picnic areas, bathrooms and the common area between the recreational office and the restrooms;

In response to Commissioner Cheshire's inquiry, Ms. Yoder referred to the current contractual arrangements with Infinity Fitness and Spa members for water exercise and due to the success of the program, she noted the intent to renew same.

- **Miscellaneous**

Ms. Yoder reported that either the bleachers are missing or they are in substandard condition and addressed the need to purchase same for all the parks with half as the bench, to which Commissioner Ranize expressed concerns on safety and suggested the removal of the existing bleachers.

After Ms. Yoder outlined the bleachers' dimensions and seating capacity and noted the quote received for approximately \$31,799 for ten, Commissioner Cheshire recommended the replacement of same.

Ms. Yoder noted the installation of water fountains throughout the city's parks.

In referencing previous discussions and the request for pavers and crosswalks and the proposed structure for citywide festival-friendly events; Mayor Bell referred to the architectural and design standards presentation and the design drawings by Mr. Greg Beliveau, LPG Urban and Regional Planners Inc. at the September 18, 2014 workshop anticipated to be presented before the city commission at its future meeting. Mayor Bell envisioned the proposed plan for a gazebo center-stage between the Fruitland Park library and city hall.

In noting the deteriorating condition of the tree in front of city hall, Ms. Yoder indicated that the city has not made a purchase for the past two years and noted the damage it has caused to the water fountain. She disclosed the cost of \$31,600 for a 20-foot musical holiday tree and referred to the illustrations depicting same.

After discussion, Mayor Bell suggested the city commission consider, during the FY 2016-17 budget process, available funds towards the allocation of Hometown Christmas decorations to which Vice Mayor Gunter recommended holding subsequent discussions on the display of snowflakes on CR 466A Street light poles.

Following further discussion, Ms. Yoder described the existing back office at the parks and recreation building and requested kitchen renovation making improvements to involve kitchen renovations to the left side of the Fruitland Park library which would allow for the renting of said building for special occasions such as weddings, holding meetings and so forth.

After much discussion, Mr. Rector addressed the cost-effective alternative to develop a master plan such as adding a kitchen to the west side of the building and recognized the current architect retained by the city.

Ms. Yoder addressed the need for new signage and the preference for light-emitting diodes lights, Vice Mayor Gunter suggested including in the FY 2016-17 budget an oven which could be removed by public works from the Casino building.

4. SHILOH CEMETERY

- **Cremation**

After Mr. Bogle reviewed his memorandum dated February 17, 2016; Shiloh Cemetery's view and the niches for cremains, and in response to Mayor Bell's remarks Ms. Azzolino described preference for the cremation burial sites and noted the spaces available at the city.

Following extensive discussions and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed with Mayor Bell's suggestion that staff proceed with the reservation of burial sites at Shiloh Cemetery to allow for the installation of cremation vaults; delay the sale of burial lots and the purchase of niches at the cemetery at a later stage to devise a program for same, and report back to the city commission at a future meeting.**

- **Gazebo**

After considerable discussion, Mr. Bogle reviewed the options of installing a gazebo at the cemetery to which Commissioner Ranize cited reasons why he is concerned on the placement of same.

After discussion, Mr. Bogle mentioned the placement of benches and suggested the phases of landscaping improvements at the cemetery.

- **Cremation**

Mr. Bogle described the needed landscaping and paving improvements for vehicular access at the cemetery; mentioned the steps he has taken to implement same, and referred to the proposed cost of \$33,702.80 from Paquette Company.

After discussion, Ms. Racine Michaud identified, in response to Vice Mayor Gunter's inquiry, the estimated restricted amount in the budget to be \$64,000, Mr. La Venia agreed Commissioner Cheshire's request to obtain bids for said improvements, and at Mayor Bell's suggestion, and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed for staff to proceed with same.**

- **Town Hall Security System**

At Mayor Bell's suggestion and **by unanimous consent, the city commission agreed to consider the security system at town hall at a future regularly scheduled city commission meeting.**

- **CR 466A – Street Lights**

Mr. Bogle cited reasons why budget includes the installation of street lights on CR 466A. He recalled his previous discussions with Booth, Ern Straughan & Hiott Inc (BESH, engineers retained by the city) regarding the right-of-way from Sunny Court down; identified the locations where certain areas have six inches of sidewalk; and relayed the city's responsibility to implement same.

After Mr. Rector explained the requirements to erect street lights on said roadway, Mr. La Venia described the cost-effective methods of implementation and erecting the poles; thus, the dimensions of the median from US 27/441 to Sunny Court, and Mr. Bogle addressed the plan to provide a copy of the plan to the city commission.

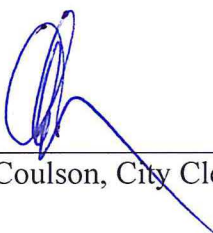
5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the city commission at this time.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the city commission at this time, on motion made, second and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the April 13, 2017 regular meeting.

Signed 

Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk

Signed 

Chris Cheshire, Mayor