

Town of Melbourne Beach

PARKS BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14, 2019 MASNY ROOM – 507 OCEAN AVENUE MINUTES

PUBLIC NOTICE

**The Parks Board conducted a meeting on
Wednesday, August 14, 2019 in the Masny Room
located at 507 Ocean Avenue to address the items below.**

Board Members:

Chair Jason Judge
Member Pat Zabinski
Member Jayne Waters
Member Andrew McKay
Member Ed Struttmann
Alternate Member Lally Collins

Staff Members:

Interim Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro
Deputy Town Clerk Walton Ray

I. CALL TO ORDER –Chairman Jason Judge called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members:

Chair Jason Judge – Present

Member Pat Zabinski – Present

Member Andrew McKay – Present

Member Ed Struttman – Present

Member Jayne Waters – Absent

Alternate Member Lally Collins - Present

Staff Present:

Interim Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Deputy Town Clerk Walton Ray

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Judge asked for a motion to approve the minutes from July 10, 2019. Member Pat Zabinski so moved; Member Ed Struttman seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. SPECIAL EVENTS

No new special events were presented.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Skate Park in Melbourne Beach

- Chairman Judge noted that his recommendation for the proposed location of the Park appears to be different from the County's interpretation. The Chairman also noted that there have been various forms of development on the general site area mentioned by the County in its review of the proposal, including permanent structures erected after the date noted by the County when further building on the site was banned. During discussion as to whether the County understood the exact proposed location of the Park, Interim Town Manager Mascaro confirmed that the County reached its conclusions based on the information provided by the Parks Board. Ms. Mascaro pointed out that projects like the batting cage were not permanent in nature, and since the Skate Park would be concrete, it would be permanent construction in nature. Ms. Mascaro offered to speak with her contact at the County for clarification on the land usage at the site. Mr. Judge and Member Struttman agreed that this clarification would be helpful
- Mr. Struttman noted that concrete structures would reduce drainage area. Ms. Mascaro noted the prohibition on building at the site was independent of drainage issues
- An inquiry was made as to whether a Parks Board member could meet with the County contact directly; Ms. Mascaro said that she would get in touch with her contact to arrange for a meeting in order to clarify the proposed location
- Member McKay asked if the area beside the tennis courts near Town Hall could be an optional site for the Park; Ms. Mascaro explained the many needs for this area of land
- Mr. McKay asked about the possibility of building the Skate Park over the water beside the Town's pier. Ms. Mascaro noted that this would involve State of Florida limitations and regulation of construction over the water itself. Various other locations were discussed
- Mr. Struttman suggested that we "stay the course" on the current proposal before considering alternatives in order to focus on the original plan, then turn to another avenue if needed

- Ms. Mascaro noted that she cannot interpret or recommend the Board's suggestions herself (to either the County or the Town Commission) and that she needs more specific plans from the Parks Board for any suggestions that could move forward. Ms. Mascaro also mentioned that the restrictions on use of the Flutie Triangle are at a level that further development would have to go to a referendum vote
- Ms. Mascaro asked for an update on involvement from the Tony Hawk Foundation; she mentioned that demonstrating involvement such as this Foundation and other possible funders (such as letters of support) could be helpful in demonstrating support for the project. Mr. Judge spoke to Doug Flutie and said that Mr. Flutie is very supportive of the project, to the point that he would be willing to help reach out to potential funders. Mr. Struttman agreed that demonstrating support is important and noted that all footsteps accomplished will help further the possibilities for the project. Mr. Judge said that he would focus this coming week on documenting support for the Park. Ms. Mascaro noted that her County connection has built two Skate Parks in other communities and is not opposed to the Park as a concept itself

Consideration of adding a small dock at the 6th Avenue boat ramp

- Mr. Judge opened conversation about a potential small dock. Ms. Mascaro said that her informal conversations with members of the Town Commission were generally positive – no clear, immediate objections were noted
- Mr. Judge noted the ramp would begin with a 6' perpendicular (to the shore) ramp, then a 6' parallel segment, forming an "L-shaped" dock. The dock would be low to the water
- Mr. Struttman recommended using a sea-deck instead of flat-boards in order to reduce potential damage during strong storms
- Ms. Mascaro reminded the Board of need for specifics that can be emailed to her with detailed plans for the construction, various anticipated uses for the ramp, etc.
- Mr. Judge noted that no part of the ramp would overlap private property. He also noted that, currently, people using the area have nothing to tie their equipment to or anything to hold on to in order to get out of the water; the ramp design would address both of these limitations to access to the water
- Mr. Struttman asked if the ramp would have a handrail; Mr. Judge answered, "yes"
- Mr. Judge noted that Mr. Mike Kalajian would serve as the Structural Engineer for the project and that Pete Kaiser owns a dock company that would help with the construction itself and donate materials. The primary additional need would be donated labor
- Mr. Struttman suggested that the Rotary Club may be interested in helping as well

Possible expansion of the role of the Parks Board in the daily life of the Town

- Various additional projects that would expand the contribution of the Parks Board to daily life in the Town were discussed
- Mr. Struttman suggested concrete chess and table tennis sets for kids and adults, as these items provide an alternative to video games and would promote multi-generational interaction in the Town's parks
- Ms. Mascaro confirmed that a Splash Pad is still on the table, with its location yet to be determined. Due to the type of material used in construction of this equipment, liability issues for the Town may not be too great
- Ms. Mascaro asked whether the location for amenities like the chess and table tennis sets would be proposed for Ryckman Park or the Ocean Avenue Park area. Mr. Struttman suggested that the location(s) would be better placed in Ryckman Park, since this area provides shade due to existing tree cover
- Mr. Struttman asked if the Bocce courts are actually used; Ms. Mascaro noted that the

South court is the one used the most; Mr. Struttman suggested that perhaps the current North Bocce court might be converted to the area needed for a Splash Pad

- Mr. Struttman noted the Parks Board is a small group, with limited time to manage a larger number of events; care in planning how to successfully extend the Board's role is important

NEW BUSINESS

VI.

Founder's Day: Advance Planning

- Mr. Struttman emphasized the need to firm up contracts with bands farther in advance than in the past, suggesting that any bands be booked by February or March and that these agreements include a clause regarding Rain Dates, etc., with payment possibly pro-rated in the event that a performance had to be shortened or cancelled. Mr. Struttman asked that everything needed for executing Founder's Day be set up by April; he asked that the Town provide some measure of a proclamation as to who is in charge of the event, over-all. He noted the need for a chain of command for the event and that his request for this additional structure in planning was not about authority, but about practicality involving the team of key planners, including those from Town Hall (Police and Fire Departments, with whom planning for the event should also be completed farther in advance than in the past)

Christmas Events Planning

- Discussion turned to Christmas decoration and events in Ryckman Park, perhaps with a "tunnel" of lights in the area (including winding lights through the trees). Also suggested, various stations serving things like apple cider, cookies, etc. The inclusion of Christmas Carolers (perhaps from Gemini Elementary) at the front porch of the Ryckman House (with amplification of the singers) was mentioned as a popular possibility. Mr. Struttman noted that volunteers would do the lighting and similar set-ups in order to not add work to the Town's Public Works Department. Ms. Mascaro noted that the Town can weld Christmas lights onto the existing street lights using welding equipment that we already own
- Mr. McKay suggested that local businesses might enjoy getting involved, especially with food stations (with small banners at their stations in the Park acknowledging their company's name). Mr. Judge asked about the possibility of allowing for various food trucks (ice cream, etc.) to help make the evening a premium event. Ms. Mascaro noted that if we use vendors on the scale of food trucks, the idea would have to be cleared by the Town Commission. Mr. Judge noted that food trucks could perhaps be charged a fee, thereby generating income for use in Park events down the road
- Mr. Judge asked if small, confined bonfires are possible (to perhaps include marshmallow cooking, etc.). Mr. Struttman noted that perhaps the Town's Fire Department could help with guidance on fire pits in a method designed to not kill grass
- It was noted that Christmas events currently in the Park are somewhat "free-form" in scheduling and promotion – attendance is therefore sporadic, with minimal interaction and then attendees go home quite early. Ms. Mascaro noted that indeed, more structure would encourage people to enjoy a longer evening in the Park
- Timing for when these ideas could come to fruition was discussed; Mr. Judge noted that these suggestions are not that complicated and could be realized this coming Christmas
- There was discussion that larger events with larger attendance can involve a considerable commitment of man-hours spent on planning and execution (the Fire Department Fundraiser, as an example). Ms. Mascaro noted the need for well-defined events with specific personnel needed to provide for smooth execution
- Mr. Struttman made the suggestion that we move the primary holiday night Parks events to be scheduled prior to the parade on Friday, thereby reducing the inherent time limitations for families attending on a school night (Thursday night)

- The routing of the actual parade was then discussed, with the suggestion of avoiding use of highway A1A altogether and look at various options for routing the parade in a loop through side streets in the Town. It was noted that larger attendance at a more popular holiday event would probably increase difficulties with parking, but parking will always be an issue anyway with the limited space available
- Mr. Judge suggested planting a live Christmas tree now, so that it will be well-rooted by Christmas. Ms. Mascaro noted that careful placement of the tree would be important, as would timing of the event itself
- Mr. Struttman suggested consideration of a house-decorating competition (perhaps performed in conjunction with the Christmas lighting) via a golf-cart tour/parade

Iceman's Ball

- Ms. Mascaro asked about the history of the "Iceman's Ball;" she will fact-check its history. Mr. Struttman pointed out that this event could be a good fit for the Parks Board to work with, since it is a part of our history. Income could be generated from the event so long as the funds are raised for a charitable cause

Southern Squall Concert

- Mr. Judge noted that planning for this event needs to take into account that certain requirements for the event have changed. Mr. Struttman noted that this is a fundraiser for the Rotary Club (that the Town helps develop) and that the event needs more promotion. The dates for the event in March have conflicted with other events in the past

Potential Staging for Events on the IRL Waterfront

- Mr. Judge raised the possibility of a stage on the water. Mr. Struttman suggested a band-shell could be included in long-term planning; Member Zabinski noted that staging would make it easier to erect a sound-shell on a pad/dancing floor, with a sunset backdrop as an attraction in itself. Mr. Judge suggested amphitheater-type staging

Possible development of a Comprehensive Plan for Management of the Parks

- Mr. Struttman asked if it would be helpful for there to be a "Comprehensive Plan" for development of the Town's Park locations, given the wide variety of opportunities and interest in using this limited space. Ms. Mascaro agreed that a plan would be a good idea.
- Mr. Struttman asked if there was a landscape planner in town who could help with proper decisions about what to plant in the Parks; Ms. Mascaro will look into whether such a professional is available locally

VII. REPORTS

No reports were given.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Judge asked if there was a motion to adjourn; member Pat Zabinski so moved; member Andy McKay seconded; motion passed unanimously