



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes City Commission Special Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Linda M. Yates, Mayor
Vanessa Carusone, Vice-Mayor
Christopher B. Hanks, Commissioner
Jill Luke, Commissioner
Debbie McDowell, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Peter Lear, City Manager
Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney
Patsy Adkins, City Clerk
Kathryn Peto, Deputy City Clerk

Monday, October 30, 2017

9:00 AM

CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

NOTE: This is a draft copy of the minutes of the 10-30-2017 City Commission Special Meeting, has not been approved by the Commission and is subject to change.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The North Port City Commission Special Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. in City Chambers by Mayor Yates.

Present: Mayor Yates; Vice-Mayor Carusone; Commissioners Hanks, Luke and McDowell; City Manager Lear; City Attorney Slayton; City Clerk Adkins; Deputy City Clerk Peto and Police Chief Vespia

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Yates

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – COMMISSION

It was noted that Vice-Mayor Carusone was present but not seated at the time of the vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Luke, seconded by Commissioner McDowell, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote with Vice-Mayor Carusone absent:

Yes: 4 - Yates, Commissioner Hanks, Commissioner Luke and Commissioner McDowell

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS:

A. [17-1098](#) Discussion and direction regarding the adoption of Parks & Recreation Master Plan

City Manager Lear provided an overview of the agenda item. There was no public comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to suspend Commission Meeting Procedures for this meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Yates, Vice-Mayor Carusone, Commissioner Hanks, Commissioner Luke and Commissioner McDowell

Discussion ensued regarding the following concerns and comments: (1) the Plan was previously accepted by the Commission on April 26, 2016 but subsequently was not adopted; (2) had the Plan been adopted it would be binding on staff; (3) the 2006 Plan was utilized as framework for future projects; (4) the 2016 Plan was an overview of projects currently in place; (5) some grants require adoption of a Master Plan and it may help with the grant application process; (6) Parks and Recreation would like to be accredited, requiring adoption of a Master Plan; (7) accreditation of Parks and Recreation would not have the same tangible benefit as other divisions; (8) accreditation costs to be submitted in the budget and approved by the Commission; (9) following a question, Mr. Dave Barth from Barth and Associates stated that based on survey results from the community, the top three priorities in the 2016 Plan included the aquatic center, multi-purpose trails with connectivity and fixing existing parks; (10) the Plan does not reflect a cohesive partnership with Sarasota County regarding Trails Connectivity; (11) items in the Plan are at various stages of completion; (12) the Plan should go back to the Staff to determine the status of each line item; (13) the document was recently signed by the developer regarding the walking/hiking path from Butler Park to Paw Park; (14) following a question, Mr. Barth stated the Plan can be modified to omit comparables and update projects; (15) all projects regardless of status should be listed in the Plan; (16) some projects will qualify for grants and various funding sources; (17) the Plan should reflect estimated costs to help prioritize projects; (18) the Plan should not have a budget constraint as the budget process will determine when projects will be implemented; (19) historical costs of \$1.2 million per year are still feasible for budgeting; (20) the Plan does not currently provide clear status or vision due to changes in projects, funding and population; (21) Impact Fees for Parks and Recreation is assessed on residential construction, not commercial and is to be spent on new development; (22) the City has lower Impact Fees than most communities; (23) Impact Fees to be discussed at the City Meeting for Mobility Fees; (24) Impact Fees charged to West Villages Improvement District are for parks to be built in the West Villages; (25) it was suggested to review the West Villages principal agreement regarding responsibility to improve the donated 63 acres of land on River Road.

Recess from 10:44 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.

Discussion continued with the following suggestions: (1) to include pool renovations for the YMCA in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; (2) to leave the Dog Parks in the Plan for updating when needed; (3) add Warm Mineral Springs Park to the Plan; (4) the management company for Warm Mineral Springs to communicate needed repairs and updates; (5) consider Property Maintenance to inventory additional repairs and updates needed; (6) City Manager to review the possibility of Parks and Recreation future oversight of Warm Mineral Springs; (7) consider implementation of cost recovery basis in

the Warm Mineral Springs Park Master Plan; (8) offer age-friendly balance of activities at City parks; (9) remove language from the Plan suggesting the City release Sarasota County from responsibility and cost of maintaining parks; (10) remove language from the Plan regarding dual taxation.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Carusone, seconded by Commissioner Luke, to direct staff to update the Parks and Recreation Plan that is being presented and include a reference to 2006 Plan in that the City will look at all resources when it comes to the financial stability; update what is in progress and include the things that aren't, for example Warm Mineral Springs, Aquatic Center, Deer Prairie Creek connector, Braves Stadium, shading current parks as well as parks from this point forward; remove the comparables and any monetary quote needs to be clear that these numbers are only valid at time of plan; remove the funding restriction; have a larger conversation in the future about a practical use for the donated 63 acre park on South River Road; include in recommendations balanced age friendly services; look at the study and make sure the information is valid and accurate; remove any reference to the City taking back Counties required maintenance of parks.

Concerns regarding the time frame were discussed.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Vice-Mayor Carusone, to amend the motion to have staff bring back the final plan as soon as possible in January. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Yates, Vice-Mayor Carusone, Commissioner Hanks, Commissioner Luke and Commissioner McDowell

There was a vote on the main motion as amended, to direct staff to update the Parks and Recreation Plan that is being presented and include a reference to 2006 Plan in that the City will look at all resources when it comes to the financial stability; update what is in progress and include the things that aren't, for example Warm Mineral Springs, Aquatic Center, Deer Prairie Creek connector, Braves Stadium, shading current parks as well as parks from this point forward; remove the comparables and any monetary quote needs to be clear that these numbers are only valid at time of plan; remove the funding restriction; have a larger conversation in the future about a practical use for the donated 63 acre park on South River Road; include in recommendations balanced age friendly services; look at the study and make sure the information is valid and accurate; remove any reference to the City taking back Counties required maintenance of parks and to have staff bring back the final plan as soon as possible in January. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Yates, Commissioner Luke, Vice-Mayor Carusone, Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner McDowell

Discussion continued: (1) the Parks and Recreation accreditation costs would be \$100 application fee, \$3,300 for the application process and an annual maintenance fee of \$600 payable to the Commission for Accreditation; (2) full information including costs and renewal to be provided for the meeting in January; (3) the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board survey results to be shared with the Commission to assist with strategic planning; (4) the City Manager will request Property Maintenance to review the Garden of Five Senses for beautification and repairs; (5) the boundless playground to be discussed at the first Special Meeting in December; (6) frisbee golf has been budgeted and will be implemented once the development and installation of the parking lot and bathrooms have been completed; (7) Skate Park staff have been reallocated as it is common for skate parks to be unattended; (8) disc golf to be included at the Skate Park; (9) the 90% plans for the Butler Park pool are due in November and it is anticipated the 95% plans will be brought to the Commission in January; (10) the City Manager will contact the vendor to

request the pool plans for review be expedited.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment was held 9:58 p.m. - 10:01 p.m.

Joan Morgan: The 2006 and 2016 reports for Parks and Recreation.

5. COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Luke: (1) attended the Sarasota County Economic Development Corporation Board Meeting; (2) suggested that the City of North Port request a portion of the Sarasota County Incentive Funds for development of sidewalks; (3) expressed gratitude for staff and community involvement with the Halloween event at City Hall.

Vice-Mayor Carusone stated in response that the City of North Port was previously made whole by Sarasota County for the City's portion of the Escheated Lots.

City Manager Lear: (1) stated the City is working on obtaining funding from the County Revitalization Program; (2) articulated thanks to everyone that participated in the City's Halloween event.

Mayor Yates stated the Grand Opening for Fire Station 85 is tomorrow, October 31, 2017 at 10:30 a.m..

Commissioner McDowell stated upcoming events for Saturday, November 4, 2017 include the Biscayne Beautification Project, the Butler Park Project and North Port Newcomers Day.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:

There were no Administrative or Legal Reports.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Yates adjourned the North Port City Commission Special Meeting at 1:02 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Vanessa Carusone, Mayor

Attest: _____
Patsy C. Adkins, MMC, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2018