

**City of DeBary
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Friday

February 29, 2008

3:30 PM

River City Nature Park

200 Barwick Road

DeBary, Florida 32713

MINUTES

I. Site Visit to River City Nature Park

Members Present: Mayor George Coleman, Vice Mayor Christopher Carson, Council Member Norman Erickson, Council Member Jack Lenzen, and Council Member Leonard Marks

Others Present: City Manager Maryann Courson, Parks & Recreation Director John Fletcher, Parks Superintendent Tom VanDeHey, Danny Allen and John Likakis.

The workshop was opened at 3:40 PM. Parks and Recreation Director John Fletcher gave an overview of goals for the workshop; 1) Have the council see the items on the agenda for 3/5/08 and get the information needed to discuss and determine the direction for the park. 2) Discuss the monies allocated; a) \$100,000.00 CIP b) \$12,000.00 gas easement allocation and c) \$59,340.00 CDBG funding. 3) Mandated deadlines; a) CDBG and b) purchase agreement. All these elements were then tied into the Master Plan and how things would be phased in for the River City Nature Park. Council Member Marks inquired as to who requested this workshop. Council Member Lenzen stated that he did because he thought it was important for the Council to see first hand the things that they would be making decisions on.

A tour of the park was given to highlight the areas in question. Council Member Marks raised the question regarding the use of all park property and made the comment that he never sees the parks being utilized except by a very small amount of people. He also posed the question about renting pavilions and the liability attached to that. Discussion was held on this.

Council Member Lenzen asked about the plans for a boardwalk to the river. Mr. Fletcher answered that this was currently in the master plan; however it would not be a fishing pier, just a walking/viewing access to the river.

The park tour shifted to the newly installed nine-hole Frisbee disc golf course. Three of the nine holes were visited and the Council viewed patron users at each hole. Council Member Lenzen stated he could not believe the amount of use at this site with no advertisement or an official ground opening of the course. Three of the users stopped the Council to thank them for installing the course at this beautiful park. All three were DeBary residents.

Discussion was held on the previous weekend event held at Nature Park, the Fun and Film Festival. This event was deemed a success for a first time event and has already received inquiries from residents as to when the next one will be held. It was mentioned that this park was a great location to hold these types of events.

The tour shifted to the possible park pavilion locations. A discussion was held where potential sites could be placed. Council Member Erickson asked Mr. Fletcher how he would prioritize pavilion placements. The first choice would be where the current caretaker house is located, the (second choice) most viable for time constraints associated with CDBG issues was the site staked out for the Council to look at. The third choice would be anywhere else the Council deemed appropriate. The first two choices gave access to views of the river. Further discussion was held on this.

Council Member Erickson then asked for Mr. Fletcher's recommendation on what item should be funded first. Mr. Fletcher responded that the installation of new fencing to eliminate the barb-wire fence is most important. Further discussion was held on this.

Council Member Lenzen reiterated why he felt it was important to have this workshop and how it would help to evaluate the information and make it easier to come to a decision at the 3/5/08 Council meeting.

II. Adjournment. The workshop adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

**APPROVED April 2, 2008
CITY OF DeBARY
CITY COUNCIL**

George Coleman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacy Tebo, City Clerk