

# LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

## COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2012

### MINUTES

The Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission met Monday, November 26, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room at the Lee County Government Center.

Members present were: Mark Kline, Councilman Poly Cohen (ex-officio Non-voting), Commissioner Ed Paschal (Lee Co. liaison), James Emerson, Ed Underwood, Nicole Ingram and Butch Saunders, Chairman.

Also present were John Payne, Parks and Recreation Director and Deborah Carroll, Secretary

Absent members were: Harry Stryffeler, Eric Davidson and Rhea Monti.

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Power point presentation was presented with public input concerning the proposal for the dog park at Kiwanis Park for the first 20 minutes.

Meeting called to order at 5:50 and motion for approval by: Mark Kline  
Seconded by: Butch Saunders  
All approved.

#### **II. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None

#### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Dog Park Survey and Proposal Presentation-Lora Kelley**

Lora presented a power point presentation showing the details of the dog park location within the Kiwanis Park and the 94% favorable input surveys that have been turned in on-line and by hand.

Nineteen people signed in for public comment on the dog park proposal. All spoke favorably of wanting the park built. The accounting for vaccinations, parvovirus, kennel cough and public safety were the biggest concerns. The park would be self-policing, with the Lee Co. Animal Control making frequent contact with the park area. Mrs. Kelley answered questions with details and specifics of items such as cleanup, water stations, sectioning for small and large dogs, and signage for the rules.

The proposal is on the Board of Commissioner's agenda for Monday, December 3, 2012 at 11:00.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. PARTF Project Proposal for Greenway Extension-David Montgomery, DSI**

Mr. Payne introduced David Montgomery, Executive Director, Downtown Sanford Inc., and Bob Bridwell, Community Development Director. Mr. Montgomery spoke of plans for the City to apply for funds through the Parks & Recreation trust fund, or PARTF, for a greenway extension that would run from the Kiwanis Park to Central Carolina Hospital. He said PARTF funding was established in 1994 by the Division of Parks & Recreation and Division of Natural Resources for state and local governments to buy land and establish recreational projects. Mr. Montgomery requested a motion of support from the P & R Board. Mr. Bridwell has already spoken with the Chamber of Commerce concerning the greenway extension with several other speaking engagements planned. Plans for the 2.5 miles of trail extension, which would include therapeutic equipment, would wind down to the intersection of Carthage St. and Fields Drive, thereby benefitting the Nautilus Club, local doctors' offices, and local residents that may not have the opportunity of transportation for exercise. The City of Sanford would maintain the trail, like the Endor Iron Furnace Trail that connects with the Kiwanis Park trail on Carbonton Rd. Cost estimates are about \$350,000. Application for the PARTF funding is due January 31, 2013.

Chairman Kline opened the floor for public comment for the dog park. Most comments were positive towards the building of the park, with the main concern of having responsible pet owners supervising their pets and minimum age restrictions for children in the enclosed area.

Mr. Saunders emphasized that some additions need to go to the east side of the city, not just on the west side. O.T. Sloan would be the most favorable area for another park. Members and the public discussed some of the pros for a dog park to be added to the Sloan area. Eleven people commented on the dog park proposal.

Chairman Kline then opened the floor for public comment on the PARTF greenway proposal. Mr. Bridwell gave comments about Little and Big Buffalo Creek being the essential connector to the Sanford part of the greenway. Mr. Cohen said this would make the trail approximately 26 miles long and the finest on the east coast. A couple of people spoke favorably concerning the greenway extension proposal.

Members and Mr. Payne talked of specifics of how the dog park and greenway project would tie in together, sanitation, and funding for the projects.

Mark Kline called for recommendation of the dog park at 6:43p.m. Butch Saunders seconded it and all favored.

Mr. Kline called for proposal to move forward with the PARTF greenway project at 6:43p.m. Nicole Ingram seconded it. Mr. Saunders was the only member opposed.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. Dog Park Proposal

Most public comments were favorable. Some questioned the policing of the park for vaccinations and diseases and details of the facility.

B. PARTF Proposal for Greenway Extension

Public comment was favorable after the presentation by David Montgomery and Bob Bridwell.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Payne reported the Parks & Recreation department has hosted 6 baseball tournaments since the last meeting.

Donn Otte and his volunteers have added a quarter mile to the mountain bike trail at San-Lee Park. They re-routed part of the Muir Hiking Trail into a loop and made things easier for children in the camps and picnickers in the meadow to walk a short loop around the trail.

Mr. Emerson questioned the upkeep on the Wicker gym. Mr. Payne responded that money is put aside for maintenance on it but if a high priority comes up, the money has to go towards the other project.

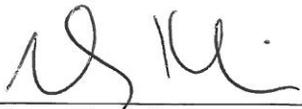
A presentation was given to Commissioner Ed Paschal, who is retiring, from the staff and members at the Parks & Recreation Board.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:50 p.m. by Mark Kline

Seconded by Nicole Ingram

All in favor



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Mark Kline, Vice-Chairman  
Lee County Parks & Recreation Commission



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Debbie Carroll, Secretary