



City of Margate

Meeting Minutes

5790 Margate Boulevard
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City Commission Workshop

Mayor Joanne Simone

Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Commissioners:

Joyce W. Bryan, Lesa Peerman, Frank B. Talerico

City Manager Douglas E. Smith

City Attorney Eugene M. Steinfeld

City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

5:30 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Commissioner Lesa Peerman, Commissioner Frank B. Talerico, Commissioner Joyce W. Bryan, Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano and Mayor Joanne Simone

In Attendance:

City Manager Douglas E. Smith
City Attorney Eugene M. Steinfeld
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

1) PRESENTATION

A. ID 14-1520 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION MIKE JONES stated that the intent of this meeting was to review the first draft of the complete Master Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department. He said that at the prior Workshop, the discussion pertained to how to solicit the public input. He stated that today the Commission was being provided the outcome and recommendations from the consultants Heller and Heller. He noted that following the presentation there would be the opportunity to discuss the outcomes and to have good thorough conversations with the public and consultants prior to it being presented to the Commission for adoption.

BARBARA HELLER, Heller and Heller, stated that she wanted to discuss various projects being recommended, as well as giving a quick review of the process. She noted that the presentation would be going over visioning themes that were developed, overall recommendations, capital recommendations and capital priorities. She explained that Mr. Jones clarified he wanted this to be community driven and involving many people in the process. She noted Heller and Heller did a lot of community and Staff input Workshops, focus groups, key leader interviews, mind mixer and the community survey. She said that all of the demographics and trends were looked into for Margate with regard to what was happening currently, what would happen in the future and how it impacted service delivery. She noted that Hitchcock Design focused on the park and facility inventory and developed a level of service standards to determine assets and amenities. Ms. Heller stated that she performed the recreation service assessment and that lead to visioning

and the draft report. She explained that the plan elements included the executive summary, community profile input, inventory and analysis, individual park inventory, program assessment and the three elements of implementation that included visioning, strategic system recommendations and capital priorities. She said that the goals of the plan helped develop a sense of priorities. She stated that the mission statement was reviewed and she wanted to determine what the community was thinking about Parks and Recreation services, as well as developing an understanding of what was happening in Margate. She added that some context was being put in the plan assessing conditions, identifying needs and developing the visioning themes. She wanted to make sure that the plan was aligned and providing safe, high quality, low cost recreation opportunities that were important to the public. She said that vision was more about creating memories. She explained that during the recommendation discussion, thoughts and ideas about activating park space, having multiple uses and creating more of a Wow, would assist with creation of memories. She stated that the values, safety, fun and family activities, health and wellness of the community and fiscal responsibility would be discussed as well. She stated that pertaining to the park inventory showed that there was a parkland deficit, and that Margate's level of service was 1.69 acres per 1,000 of population. She noted that Hitchcock developed planning areas according to walkability to different parts of the community. She said that Margate was underserved by many parks and underserved by neighborhood parks, but 65 percent of the residents lived within one mile of the community park. She felt those areas could be looked at for the future. She stated that based on Florida averages, Margate was deficient in pools, playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball, volleyball and baseball amenities. She said that the notion of level of service was tough because there were no good national standards in place. She noted that Florida standards were one size fits all for the whole State. She explained that the National Recreation Park Association moved from standards to the Park and Recreation Operation Ratio, Geographical Information Systems, where all agencies were inputting their amenities. She noted that about 1,000 parks and recreation agencies in the United States had entered their data, and the Recreation Park Association recently hired a new Research Manager who realized there was a problem because out of 12,000 agencies only 1,000 submitted their information; therefore, he would be refining that.

DAVE BARTH, Heller and Heller, explained that following the needs assessment and survey, there were Visioning Workshops held to discuss appropriate responses to the needs of the community. He noted that in Parks and Recreation, there was no one right or wrong way to respond to the communities. He stated that part of the review related to actual capital improvements, but also for the culture for Parks and Recreation that was wanted in Margate. He stated that the City was under parked, which was a low level of service. He said that the recommendations included looking at derelict properties, and he asked whether the annual Budget could fund for acquisition of property every year as they come on the market. He noted that during visioning discussions, it was determined that the City had several parks that were lined with homes backing up to the parks. He stated that expanding existing parks by acquiring residential units was a way to increase the 1.69 acres, which would be a worthwhile goal. He explained that the plan did not say it was not important to have joint use agreements with sports leagues, because it was important to support youth sports and athletics; however, the park land was limited and cause the exclusivity issue. He clarified that if using valued park space too much for a specific single use, the amount of multiple uses that could be used for the park land would be reduced. He added that sports fields and accommodating leagues was not just the City's responsibility; therefore, there could be discussions regarding coalition of groups with the County and other Cities. He said that for visioning, people wanted to see shade trees, exercise equipment, trails, dog parks, seating, covered playgrounds, fountains, butterfly gardens, restrooms, spectator seating, law games and many more items. He mentioned the Project for Public Spaces, which was an urban organization that

had the concept that every park should have 10 things to do and referred to those items as the Power of Ten. He said that during needs assessments, residents want the bicycle trails, sidewalks and connectivity; therefore, parks were not just for recreation. He stated that those items could be improved bit by bit each year. Mr. Barth explained that being age friendly was an economic development strategy, which attracted retirees and encouraged people to remain in place. He said that items such as access to open space, mission vision, low cost affordable recreation, connectivity and the ability to ride a bike related to age friendly communities. He stated that those items did not have to be costly; however, they would make the parks more comfortable while making it more comfortable to live in Margate. Mr. Barth spoke about the waterways and explained that not everyone commuted through the waterways; however, everyone loved access. He noted that he was working in several communities in South Florida on the canal systems. He mentioned improving the water quality, as well as the Wetland's plan to create banks that were habitat friendly while providing access. He mentioned adding a locker for Kayack's. He stated that one recommendation was to make sure that when designing, the City invested in first class design that created an iconic place. He stated that many of the recommendations were cultural and some were incremental.

MS. HELLER stated that the capital projects were organized into three different priority areas; high; medium; and low. She said that it related to time frame and not to do with was better. She showed examples of park activation seen around the Country such as, butterfly gardens, community gardens, pop-up parks, parklets, themed playground, bike parks, adventure courses, high rope courses and climbing walls. She also showed smaller amenities such as bocci, shuffleboard, ping pong, checkers and chess, mobile playgrounds, under-served areas, food trucks, urban campgrounds and special event parks. She wanted to hear discussion from the Commission regarding their perspective for the community, and which of the projects resonated with them as being the most important.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that there were a lot of condominiums in the City and the facilities were underutilized; therefore, he was concerned about providing these items somewhere else. He asked how many people responded to the survey.

MS. HELLER said that there were 400 responses to the survey from about 2,000, which was a 25 to 30 percent return rate. She noted that statistically, those numbers were valid. She added that there about 100 people involved in the community input process.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that he would like to focus on a Community Center, possibly two stories high with meeting rooms, etc. He said that the City used the Senior Center at night for meetings.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that the City was discussing having a Bocci Ball Court in the City for four years; however, the residents that wanted it were not condominium residents. She agreed with the Community Center being a high priority and that the City could work with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) when building the Downtown. She felt that the connectivity was needed for Firefighters Park, because there currently was no access. She mentioned Rock Island Road to Sample Road and Firefighters Park.

DIRECTOR JONES clarified that it was where Winfield Boulevard would have a bridge going north to Sample Road with no interceptions and no vehicular traffic. He said that if that was the desire of the Commission, he could connect with the right people to push that campaign forward.

COMMISSIONER BRYAN noted that children were walking from Coral Springs High School, which would be an ideal pathway to go across Sample Road.

MS. HELLER clarified that the Commissioners were referring to the Rock Island Greenway Trail.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that it was the area by Firefighters Park, Rock Island Road. She noted that for years the City was requesting a bridge from Firefighters Park, and that last year a price was received for the cost. She felt that with the building of the Downtown, the Lemon Tree Lake would be more accessible for use with Kayaking and paddle boats.

COMMISSIONER BRYAN said that the Power of Ten was mentioned in Tampa at the Florida Redevelopment Association meeting and when in Nashville at the National League of Cities Conference. She said that examples given were for small items, and that many suggestions came from young people. She noted that the Power of Ten was used in Chattanooga, Nashville and Memphis. She questioned having something to do with water at the Firefighters Park, such as a splash pad. She noted that she saw the Container Park in Las Vegas, which was creative, extraordinary and cheap. She explained that it was made from box car containers and freight containers, which contained restaurants, stores and a band shell with a dragon shooting fire. She spoke about a group that presented in Tampa, where they provided something in half a day where other people and kids got involved with turning an alley around. She said that the young people with their creativity needed to be involved and that thinking out of the box was important.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN questioned how hard it was to make a park out of a golf course.

MS. HELLER said that there was a community in Illinois that contained three golf courses that were covered into a \$12 million dollar outdoor athletic complex. She noted that other communities considered changing the golf courses to passive trails and nature related things.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that Margate had a golf course next to condominiums, which was previously an issue. She noted that there were two lakes on the property and that the City had a lien on the property; therefore, she felt that the City could acquire the property and turn it into some type of park.

MR. BARTH stated that residents generally preferred to see parks rather than a zoning change with new development; however, it still would be putting something in people's back yards.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that it was two lakes on a lot of property that was just sitting there. She noted that the City was maintaining the property because the owner did not. She questioned partnering with an active golf course as a park.

MR. BARTH said that the City could explore a partnership, and that if serious about it, a feasibility study would be needed to develop alternative concepts.

CITY ATTORNEY EUGENE STEINFELD asked whether Heller and Heller were familiar with the Arsenic used on golf courses, especially in South Florida. He noted that one of the problems in utilizing the golf course was the cost of remediation regarding the Arsenic that was used in South Florida to build up turf.

MS. HELLER said she was not familiar.

MR. BARTH said that he was not familiar with the Arsenic, and he questioned whether there were any Federal funds available for that.

CITY ATTORNEY STEINFELD said that the City was not aware of that at this point.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO questioned whether the two parcels were independent, and whether there was independent access to both of them.

CITY ATTORNEY STIENFELD said that there was access to the back; however, at this point it was only for pedestrians. He stated that access would have to be built, which would be difficult unless the City purchased the front parcel.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN thought that when the City separated the parcel, they had something stating that the owner had to allow access to their property line for the back property.

CITY ATTORNEY STEINFELD said that the City did not separate the parcel.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the separation of the parcel came before the Commission, because it had to be rezoned for commercial to separate the parcels.

CITY ATTORNEY STEINFELD stated that it was never rezoned.

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BEN ZISKAL said that it was not rezoned.

CITY ATTORNEY STEINFELD stated that the City had nothing to do with separating the parcels.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that if someone wanted to build there, they probably had to come before the City to get rezoned, at which time the City could state that they wanted access as a condition.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO mentioned the empty land in front of the Sports Complex, which was now owned by the CRA. He mentioned having a Miniature Golf Course built there and having someone else manage it, while the City received the money.

COMMISSIONER BRYAN stated that someone from Cokesbury Church had a community garden, and that other people in the community would like to expand and help with things like community gardens. She noted that a proposal was presented last year about a movable community gardens from someone within the City.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO thanked Heller and Heller for their report. He mentioned having Wi-Fi in the parks. He stated that the Community Center of at least 75,000 square feet was the number one priority, though he did not feel that would happen in the next few years, because it was based on the Downtown. He said that the golf course should be purchased to use as a passive park. He stated that Margate had a Soccer Team that was known throughout the Country, and that the City needed to work on what it already had. He noted that the programs had been lacking for years and he spoke with Director Jones regarding bringing in tournaments such as for handicapped softball. He mentioned thousands of people that would come to Margate for tournaments, but the City did not have the fencing or Soccer fields. He expressed concern regarding not having the Soccer or Baseball fields until 2017 or 2018. He said that urban campgrounds and climbing

walls, but stated that the City did not even have Parkour in the parks. He believed that every park should have a walking path, such as near the Sports Complex. He felt that having 10 things at the park was awesome. He noted that he had provided the City Manager a list of items for every park, but nothing was done. He added that he had spoken with people at the parks who told him what they wanted. He said that everyone wanted shade canopies in every park. He stated that every City that had beautiful parks were using the parks and were not in a rundown City. He said that the residents loved the parks, but they needed to be upgraded and more ideas were needed. He believed that the Community Center was a great idea; however, it was going to cost a lot of money and would need work to develop. He felt that the projects to begin with were the Baseball and Soccer.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN did not think the projects had to be done in order, but that it was a financial determination. She said that if it cost \$250,000 for the Baseball fields and the Community Center was going to cost \$6 million, the Commission would probably decide to do the fields.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO suggested getting four or five parks done this year. He said that he was asking for shade canopies at the ball fields, but was told the canopies had to wait for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

DIRECTOR JONES explained that this discussion was to determine what the Commission wanted prioritized for the \$1.5 million that was budgeted this fiscal year.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO said that he wanted the Sports Complex and the Soccer fields done because the children were leaving to play in different Cities as the City of Margate could not accommodate them.

COMMISSIONER BRYAN asked whether the Vice Mayor wanted to allocate the whole \$1.5 million to the fields.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO said that he did not know what it would cost to upgrade, but he reminded that a Budget amendment could always be made to get it done.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that she previously worked to get water fountains and canopies for the parks, but she mentioned spending \$1.5 million dollars for Baseball and Soccer.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO said that he would like to see the fields upgraded to allow for having tournaments.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether that would include adults too.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO agreed and said that the league was not saying it was their fields. He said that the amount of people from Margate would determine the field rights. He noted that the City was in a branding period and he said that thousands of people could come to Margate in a week.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked about fixing Serino Park that had no bathroom.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO said that he mentioned the bathrooms over the past two years but was told that it needed a Lift Station due to the pitch.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that Vice Mayor Ruzzano needed to keep pushing the

City Manager if he was providing information and nothing was being done.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO stated that he coached Baseball and Soccer for years; however, the survey indicated that the greater majority of people did not play Baseball and Soccer.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO asked what the age group of the survey was.

MS. HELLER said that the survey was spread between all age groups; however, kids did not fill out the survey.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that most kids in Margate did not play Baseball. He said that those kids needed things done for them too.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO said that there were over 2,000 kids, which was over 30 percent.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that the City still had to consider the 70 percent of the kids that did not play. He mentioned other things like playgrounds and bike paths.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN mentioned Skate Parks.

MR. BARTH stated that there were different variations to the idea of accommodating Skate Boarders, which did not have to be one destination Skate Parks.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO felt that the Baseball Tournaments would not benefit many people in Margate, but would benefit those outside Margate; therefore, he said that things should be done for the people in Margate.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO explained that the Downtown was being built to bring people into the City.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that she had no problem with redoing the Baseball Fields. She spoke about priorities and explained that the \$6 million dollar Community Center would take a while to build; therefore, it allowed more time to obtain the money. She said that the \$250,000 priority of redoing the Baseball Fields could be moved up. She asked what the Commission wanted to spend the existing \$1 million on now, and she suggested splitting it and not putting it all into one basket.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO asked where the \$6 million for the Community Center would come from.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the CRA had the money or the City could put money towards it as well. She said that Commissioners each had different ideas as to what to put the \$1 million to. She noted that she had a problem with Soccer, because it was a one use field that could only be used for Soccer. She stated that the residents could not use it and it needed a resting time period as well. She felt that it was a lot of property that could be made more useful and productive. She said that the Baseball Field was not considered a one use field because events were held there and outside tournaments could be held there.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO believed that it would be a Sports Complex with a multi-use field.

MAYOR SIMONE stated that the prediction was for a decrease in ages 15-24, with the greatest increase by 2017, in ages 65 to 74, with the majority of growth in the 55 plus age segment. She felt that the City should concentrate on the future growth.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO questioned where the predictions came from.

MS. HELLER explained that Environmental Service Research Institute was a firm that did population projections.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO noted that the City was developing a Downtown for the new younger crowd.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that over the last 10 years she watched Margate grow to a more family oriented community; therefore, she did not think anybody could predict what age group would be in Margate in the future.

MAYOR SIMONE agreed with the Community Center being the number one priority and she felt that the City needed to work with what it had. She said that the parks needed to be State-of-the-Art Parks; therefore, she felt the money should go into what already existed. She added that money be put into the pool, which would be for all ages. She suggested deepening the pool or building a new one with a lazy river. She felt that the pool needed a lot of work and could be so much greater than it was to serve the whole population.

DIRECTOR JONES stated that a Site Plan would need to be redesigned, which would be left up to the engineers.

MR. BARTH stated that two ends of the spectrum were being discussed; what could be done immediately with limited dollars and limited land; and how big of an investment the City wanted to make. He said that there was a willingness to invest over the next 10 years to make the parks State-of-the-Art. He stated that the big program needed to be discussed in order to decide what to do first.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked Director Jones for input because he was in the parks everyday.

DIRECTOR JONES explained that \$1.5 million dollars was budgeted in unassigned projects. He said that he went through the recommendations, evaluated the estimated cost, and chopped up the \$1.5 million dollars for what could be done and utilized this year, budgeted, appropriated and moving forward. He stated that part of the chopped \$1.5 million dollars would go to the expansion of Firefighters Park parking lot with the pedestrian bridge connecting to Winfield Boulevard, because Firefighters Park was over packed with not enough parking. He suggested that \$150,000 could be allocated for that project. He explained that \$250,000 would go towards the pedestrian bridge. He explained that the second project was the Southeast Park Concession building, which was beyond its lifespan. He noted that \$350,000 would be appropriated to that project of demolishing and rebuilding. He stated that \$250,000 could go to Sports Complex enhancements. He added that \$300,000 would go towards the restroom at the Marina and \$200,000 would be kept in contingency or \$100,000 could be used towards community gardens and \$100,000 for an outdoor fitness court.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO asked what the future plan for the fields was.

DIRECTOR JONES said that the recommendation was to have at least one professional

grade highly drained turf field that can be utilized for a variety of things. He explained that the Soccer field was an open field of grass striped every day, which was designed and engineered to Soccer; however, it could be used for special events as well.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked whether it had different turf.

DIRECTOR JONES said that it was artificial turf was needed for at least one field. He stated that there were currently four grass fields for the Soccer Leagues. He said that the fields showed an increase use on the grass, and that summer was turf growing season when teams stayed off the field.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO questioned whether Director Jones had any reservations about using artificial turf because of the investigations being done regarding allegations pertaining to Cancer.

DIRECTOR JONES said that he had no reservations about using artificial turf.

MS. HELLER said that it was indicated on the Parks and Recreation message board, and noted that some agencies changed the composition of the fields.

DIRECTOR JONES said that it was in the infield mix and was now changed to shredded cork and different things.

COMMISSIONER BRYAN stated that Southeast Park was Margate's second largest park in acreage at 11 acres; however, she felt it was just there.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO noted that when there was Soccer it was jam packed; however, nobody was allowed on the field when Soccer was not in season because the field had to cure.

DIRECTOR JONES noted that there was a picnic and playground area, but it was not visible to the main road. He felt that more visibility and exposure was needed for the public amenities. He noted that his recommendations for the \$1.5 million dollars, was to satisfy immediate needs.

MAYOR SIMONE did not like spending \$150,000 on parking, because she felt that the City should look into utilizing the property that the Temple owned. She said that she would rather spend the \$150,000 on the parks.

DIRECTOR JONES clarified that he was recommending expanding 80 parking spaces for Firefighters Park, which would require utilizing outside the parcel lines.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether curb stops could be used.

DIRECTOR JONES explained that there were many different methods for parking lots, and that it could be discussed at the time of the project.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that she was not a fan of asphalt and concrete. She noted that other parks in the area had grass parking areas. She said that if putting money into the concession stand at Southeast Park or at the Baseball field, there should be a policy whereby the City would receive something back when the sports leagues used the concession stand. She felt it was not fair for the residents to pay for the concession stand and get nothing. She suggested either a rental agreement or percentage agreement. She mentioned other sports fields, such as Vincent Field and

Margate Middle Field.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO clarified that Margate Middle field was called Andrews Field, which was underutilized and the parking was horrible.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that she was previously told that the leagues were not allowed to use the concession stand at Andrews Field, which was why the leagues did not use the field.

DIRECTOR JONES clarified that the City had a lease to use the property as a park from the Broward County School Board. He said he could envision the City going into a partnership with the School Board and doing a large scale site renovation.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO agreed with paving Firefighters Park, because it was a mess especially when it rained.

DIRECTOR JONES added that in the Master Plan process there was a heavy demand for a Dog Park. He explained that the current Dog Park location, Open Space 75, was too small for a Dog Park with the community demand. He recommended moving the proposed location to along the greenway on the Florida Power and Light (FPL) easement on Rock Island Road and NW 17th Street. He stated that 1.25 acres of the property would have dogs under 25 pounds, while across the street to the south, there would be dogs over 25 pounds on 2.5 acres. He felt that would be a proper location for the Dog Park, which would have a separate entrance for little and big dogs.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked whether it would be open from dawn to dusk.

DIRECTOR JONES agreed that the proposal in the Budget called for dawn to dusk; however, it would be close to residential; therefore, it could be looked into at a later time. He recommended that the process of moving the Dog Park project to the suggested location.

COMMISSIONER BRYAN questioned how it would impact her.

DIRECTOR JONES said that Commissioner Bryan would be within walking distance.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether a wall would be proposed.

DIRECTOR JONES said that would be discussed during the design phase.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO noted that the park he built in Tamarac was 3.3 acres; therefore, this location would be bigger. He said that Tamarac also wanted to register the dogs to make money.

DIRECTOR JONES said that would be a policy decision moving forward, because he did not have enough information at this time. He clarified that there was no current water access; however, off 18th Street there was a canal.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether there could be water in the Dog Park.

DIRECTOR JONES noted that the canal was currently being used for storm water maintenance and launching boats. He said that it was currently an accessible canal.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether water could come from it.

MAYOR SIMONE clarified that the question as whether there could be water in the Dog Park, such as a pool.

DIRECTOR JONES clarified that Commissioner Peerman was referring to City serviced potable water to the location.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said she was referring to how to water the grass and give water to the dogs.

DIRECTOR JONES agreed that there would be potable water in that location.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO spoke about the problem of having no retention area in the parking lot; therefore, when it rained the dogs went into the water puddles.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO left the room at 6:48 PM.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN suggested having a wading pool in the park. She said that she was in favor of the park, but that a wall might be needed for Paradise Gardens. She stated that the rat problem would be gone with the addition of the Dog Park.

COMMISSIONER BRYAN mentioned the Cricket Field.

DIRECTOR JONES stated that the City had an existing Cricket Field at the Middle School, which was used weekly by a Margate team. He said that the team was satisfied with the field; however, with new improvements their experience could be enhanced. He said that would require a full site plan renovation to be used by all groups including the school. He noted that he wanted to get a better joint use agreement with the school to partner in on projects having the school use it during the day, with the City using it at night. He stated that it would provide 24 hour, 7 days a week access to the public.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO returned at 6:49 PM.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO asked about the Andrew Field track.

DIRECTOR JONES stated that the maintenance agreement originated in 1978, and the use was specifically for Baseball; however, there was a track and Basketball courts. He noted that the City did not maintain them on an ongoing basis, but did maintain the Baseball fields. He stated that the track and Basketball courts were used by the school.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO asked how big a Cricket field was.

DIRECTOR JONES said that he was uncertain; however, what existed was satisfactory and was used for regulation Cricket.

MAYOR SIMONE said that Pickle Ball was very popular now and encompassed a lot of age groups; therefore, she asked whether that could be enhanced. She noted that the existing teams would not utilize the existing Tennis courts, because they did not want to run that far with the ball. She suggested having a Pickle Ball court in Margate, preferably indoor.

DIRECTOR JONES said that he would make a recommendation for the indoor Pickle Ball court during the design phase for indoor recreation. He wanted to design the center around a fiscally sustainable business model first. He said that the City wanted to make

it family friendly, but business sustainable as well. He said that rather than create a project that would be a bigger burden on the General Fund and operating, he would like to include those ideas and designs when designing the overall concept.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether the County was building a water park near the Executive Airport.

DIRECTOR JONES believed it was a State-of-the-Art Water Park, and that there were prior funding issues but it was now moving forward. He said that it was being built by a private developer and not by the County.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked what happened to the City's Parkour Park.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether Parkour was legal in the parks.

DIRECTOR JONES said that the City had an ordinance restricting Parkour.

MS. HELLER said that she would type up and provide information to Director Jones, after which another discussion might be needed to massage the priorities and suggestions.

MR. BARTH recommended that money be spent on design, and that designers be challenged to integrate their recommendations into connectivity and age friendliness. He said that every dollar spent should not only meet the recreational needs, but should also advance and keep establishing the aesthetics.

CITY MANAGER DOUGLAS E. SMITH thanked the consulting firm, Director Jones and everyone that had an opportunity to participate, for their help and coordination. He said that in addition to updating the Master Plan, Director Jones would further refine the list of items discussed to come up with a rough schedule of what would be expected for each project. He noted that some pieces of the project may not all happen within one year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Carol DiLorenzo



Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date: 2/17/16