



# City of Margate

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## Meeting Minutes

### City Commission Workshop

**Mayor Tommy Ruzzano**  
**Vice Mayor Joyce W. Bryan**  
**Commissioners:**  
**Lesa Peerman, Joanne Simone, Frank B. Talerico**

**City Manager Douglas E. Smith**  
**City Attorney Douglas R. Gonzales**  
**City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh**

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Wednesday, May 4, 2016

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

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#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### In Attendance:

City Manager Douglas E. Smith  
City Attorney Douglas R. Gonzales  
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

#### 1) PRESENTATION(S)

**A.** [ID 2016-287](#) DOG PARK CONCEPTUAL PLAN REVIEW

*DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION MIKE JONES explained that this Workshop was to discuss the first draft rendering conceptual proposed dog park. He said that the City utilized Chen Moore and Associates for Engineering Services and introduced Chris Betancourt who would be leading the presentation. He noted that the goal of the Workshop was to get the first comments, concerns, questions and answers from the Commission. He said that it would be brought to Paradise Gardens Three and the public to discuss more specifically the impact to the neighboring and surrounding homeowners. He noted that a second Workshop would also come back for the Commission to come up with a final conceptual layout. He said that at that meeting, he would ask to move forward with starting the construction documents.*

*CHRIS BETANCOURT, Chen and Associates, stated that the park was laid out in two sections. He explained that when designing dog parks the first thing to look at was separation of dogs of varying sizes. He noted that 25 pounds and smaller and 25 pounds and larger was the threshold. He said that 17th Street dissected the site and the small dog park was on the north side, with the large dog park on the south side. He noted that the small dog park was approximately 1.2 acres and the large dog park was approximately 2.2 acres. He estimated that approximately 40 parking spaces were needed on either side of the street. He explained that there was intent to give a sense of community and provide something unique to Margate; therefore, the proposal was for a concept of Bone and Paw parks. He noted that the Bone was the large dog park on the north side, with the Paws being the small dog park on the south side. He stated that there would be a Bone plaza and a Paw plaza on either side of the street, which were the*

common places when entering the park. He said that Bones and Paws could also be incorporated into other details of the park including signage. He added that when receiving donations, a Bone could be engraved and put in the walkway on the other side of the park. Mr. Betancourt explained that each park had a 6 foot vinyl coated fence to contain the animals. He said that each park would contain a shade structure with seating throughout the park. He added that there were dog washing stations and waste stations. He noted that each park also had a dual entry with double fencing, which was a standard feature of dog parks. He said that a lot of landscaping would be utilized for shade, but was mostly smaller trees and Palm Trees, because it was in a Florida Power and Light (FPL) easement. He stated that on the east side of the park the plan was to try to buffer the view for Paradise Gardens Three. He noted that there was a continuous hedge running the length of the park, as well as additional canopy trees that helped block the view and the sound. He explained that another feature was a proposal for a textured table on the roadway, such as stamped asphalt, which indicated that there was pedestrian traffic for safety. He noted that it would have a different color and texture, which made vehicular traffic aware of the pedestrian traffic. He said that he was looking for comments in terms of proposed amenities and features, and getting a sense of how the Commission felt about the plan, as well as how to refine it.

MAYOR RUZZANO noted that the dog park was budgeted at \$400,000, which might go a little over because there were two dog parks with two parking lots proposed. He mentioned one of the main concerns was drainage. He questioned the areas divided by a concrete sidewalk, which would require drainage.

MR. BETANCOURT said that a retention area was needed and vegetated soils would probably be used and if needed, a larger retention area would be provided. He stated that currently there was some within the park, but it could also be put outside the fence.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether there would be a sprinkler system.

MR. BETANCOURT agreed there would be a sprinkler system.

MAYOR RUZZANO added that he wanted to see more pavilions, large and small. He added that having water fountains was another needed feature. He also suggested adding a large covered shelter in the common area when entering the park areas. He stated that it would be cool to have a wow factor, and he suggested having a monument with a picture of famous dogs, such as Lassie, and their history in the large dog park with Benji in the small dog park. He added that waste stations with gloves was also suggested.

MR. BETANCOURT said that those were incorporated.

MR. JONES said that the rendering was very conceptual, but the details and specifics would be discussed later. He noted that there were be waste stations with disposable bags and receptacle for the public to utilize.

MAYOR RUZZANO questioned the lighting in the parking lot.

MR. JONES stated that when going to permitting, there would probably be some lighting requirements. He noted that the park would be locked at night and the parking lot would remain open currently.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked whether it was locked at sundown.

MR. JONES agreed.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN suggesting having motion detector lights for the parking lot, so the lights would come on when a car entered.

MR. JONES stated that Code Compliance would have minimal lighting standards that would be abided by.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that it was a great idea and hoped the residents were in favor of it. He noted that there were hedges proposed as well.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that there should be no Palm Trees, but there should be something that provided shade, but was also allowed to be put on the FPL easements and could be kept trimmed small. She noted that Palm Trees did not bring shade and they were not good when the storms came. She stated that she wanted more covered areas for the human factor. She added that she wanted to see more water areas and a wading pool area, because dogs loved those. She said that she loved the idea, the plans and the location. She asked what type of hedge was proposed and if it was a sound barrier.

MR. BETANCOURT said that the hedge was more of a visual barrier and would not really deflect sound, and that the only way to deflect the sound was with a solid wall, which would not be done due to the cost.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN mentioned installing decent sized hedges. She suggested finding out whether the Homeowner's Associations wanted access to the park or the walking area. She asked whether the grotto would be incorporated into the park.

MR. JONES said that the plan was to find a new purpose for the grotto.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that it could be a storage shed.

MR. JONES agreed that it could be utilized for a storage shed, or one end could be chiseled out to use as a tunnel for the dogs to run through, as well as providing cool shade. He noted that it was solid concrete and was structurally sound. He said that it would take some surveying to determine if it could be used. He stated that it was built in 1972, and was something that could be saved.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether the fence would run through the trees.

MR. JONES said that once the construction design began, that would be determined.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO questioned what the buffer distance was between the homes and the park.

MR. BETANCOURT said that it was currently approximately 25 feet.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that he was sure the traffic was checked on 17th Street for any problems. He noted that everyone was already walking their dogs in that area and not picking up after them; however, there were people that did care about picking up after their dog so the park would be a blessing. He questioned whether a left hand turn could be made into the park if heading south on Rock Island Road.

MR. JONES explained that there was a bus loop on the northbound traffic; therefore, a comfortable U-turn could be made.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked about the meeting that would be held.

MR. JONES said that it would be held at the Community Center with a round table discussion instead of a formal agenda. He stated that there would be more photographs and a dot method would be utilized by the public for things they liked or did not like. He said that following that, the matter would come back to the Commission.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO questioned who designed the Tamarac Dog Park.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he built and helped design the park.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she spoke with Mr. Jones who informed her that dogs were not encouraged to share common bowls and people were encouraged to bring their own dog bowls; therefore, she suggested adding more dog drinking fountains to avoid disease.

MR. JONES said that he looked at a few different styles and was going to recommend a fountain that was American Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for humans, with a dog bowl at the bottom for those who do wish to use it. He added that there would also be a water bottle fill-up station to refill human bottles and pet bowls.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she also talked with Mr. Jones about a dog mister rather than a dog pool. She mentioned a splash pad where water came up from the middle, but she believed it would scare the dogs.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that she loved watching dogs play in the pool.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said maybe both the mister and the pool could be added.

MR. BETANCOURT said that the problem with pools in public spaces was that they needed to be chlorinated, which was not good for dogs.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that there was a dog park in Fort Lauderdale that had a pool, and she asked how other places did it. She noted that it was not that deep and was a wading pool. She suggested that it might be able to be re-filtered, such as with fountains.

MR. JONES said that the regulations could be looked into and possibly it could be classified as a pond versus a pool.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE added that she spoke with Mr. Jones about having a post for the leashes and harnesses and for people to hang their water bottles, such as at the Tamarac Park. She agreed with having no Palm Trees and having more pavilions for shade. She expressed concern with making sure that the small dog area was not too small, because there was no room to expand.

MR. JONES said that could be a concern as it was being proposed on an easement and could not be expanded if needed. He noted that when he visited dog parks he noticed the small dog parks had more people. He said that the impact of the dogs on the ground would be looked into.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE asked whether in the future a restroom could be considered.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked the logistics of putting in a restroom.

MR. BETANCOURT said that a sanitary sewer system was needed, but a water connection was already provided for the fountains, etc. He noted that a minimum number of stalls was required for the ADA requirements.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that the people who backed up to the dog park would be increasing the value of their home due to having a nice park in the back yard.

MAYOR RUZZANO mentioned someone being arrested who was hiding in the bathroom.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that a restroom would cause problems with the residents.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN stated that the Tamarac Dog Park was nice with no smell. She said that the conceptual part of this dog park was great; however, she had several concerns. She noted that her house was on the corner of 17th Street. She expressed concern regarding traffic and noise, which had increased in her community. She noted that recently there was a death by someone turning the corner. She stated that she asked permission to have a study done for speed bumps. She noted that the neighbors had come to her door complaining about the grotto. She understood it was a sound structure; however, there were concerns. She questioned the public meeting to be held.

MR. JONES clarified that it was a public meeting for everyone to be held at the Community Center with a special direct invite for the residents.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN reiterated that the park was a problem for her because of the amount of traffic. She mentioned the speed, amount of traffic, parking and people coming in at different hours. She noted that her street looped around to 18th Street, which could also create a problem.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that when he moved to the City 12 years ago, there was no WalMart across the street from him. He stated that the traffic was crazy.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN mentioned having the traffic go by her neighborhood.

MAYOR RUZZANO noted that when people robbed WalMart, they ran down his street.

MR. JONES explained that the reason the parking was designed the way it was, because it would bring the traffic into the dog park, but not past the property lines. He said that the reason the parking lot had a loop was so there should be no traffic coming through. He stated that if it was a concern, a traffic study could be done; however, he did not believe the park would bring in more through traffic, though it would bring in more cars.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked why people would go to the dog park and decide to drive through the development. He questioned whether that was happening now.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN said that it was happening now and it would increase.

MAYOR RUZZANO suggested looking into speed bumps.

JOHN DONADIO, 1485 NW 70th Lane, said that he also owned a home at 1495 NW 70th Lane and was a member of the Paradise Gardens Three since 2002. He added that he was currently the Vice President of the Homeowner's Association and he personally felt

that it would be an asset to the community. He said that he was totally against having access to the community, because people would be behind personal homes. He felt that the dog park should remain segregated from the community. He agreed with the Vice Mayor's concerns with regard to traffic impacts. He stated that there were currently two speed bumps in his neighborhood and maybe more would help; however, people did not even stop anymore. He hoped people coming to the dog park would respect the speed bumps; therefore, he suggested an additional speed bump on 70th Lane, or adding a sign prohibiting through traffic. He agreed that the dog park would raise the property value in Paradise Gardens Three, which he was in favor of. He added that the rendition was beautiful and he was in favor of it with some of the changes discussed.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked that the access be removed from the list.

ANN BLATT, Paradise Gardens Two, said that her community would not be affected by any of this as she was a little further to the east. She felt that putting up a sign saying private community, no through traffic, made a lot of sense. She stated that if there was already a problem, the dog park would make an impact on that. She said that people would not be going very far or very fast for the short distance to the entrance. She noted that Tamarac did not have the tubes or tunnels for the dogs to go through, which were in the Coconut Creek Park. She said that the tunnels or tubes provided shade for the dogs. She stated that she went to Parkland, Tamarac and Coconut Creek dog parks and all the dogs wanted the shade; therefore, foliage and maybe some sort of island would be needed. She said that dogs were running on grass so she did not think the sprinkler system was a good idea such as with the mister. She explained that the dog washers should be moved in a little, because at some of the parks the dog washer was too close to grass and did not have a proper pitch runoff. She said that the pitch was needed to prevent the water from running into the grass. She said that gloves were not needed, because bags were turned inside out. She added that at the Coconut Creek Park there were raised lamps with a raised mound, which dogs loved. She also mentioned adding picnic benches and the dog leashes. She mentioned a dog house for the dogs as well, though she never saw one in any of the parks.

MR. JONES said that picnic benches had not yet been discussed, but he would make a note of the picnic benches.

MITCH PELLECCCHIA, 6890 NW 9th Street, said that he lived in Paradise Gardens One and he recently found out he could drive behind Walmart as a shortcut to where he was going faster. He said everyone was aware of shortcuts. He noted that the park looked beautiful and commended everyone for the amenity; however, he felt Vice Mayor Bryan's comments should be considered. He noted that there was a light at the corner of Rock Island Road and Margate Boulevard, and when people found out they could cut through the community to get to the dog park, though the sign said no through traffic, it would happen. He said that they could also leave the dog park without going through the light. He felt that those issues were vital for the public safety of the people living in the community. He believed that there would be more traffic in the community.

MAYOR RUZZANO spoke about having wayfinding signs showing the dog park straight ahead.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that people would figure it out, but she felt there should be ways to try to stop it whether with speed bumps or no through traffic signs.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE asked whether the small park could be moved and both parks could be on the same side.

MR. JONES said that would provide an impact because it would create a turn lane off of Rock Island Road with putting parking on the greenway, which would add more asphalt.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Transcribed by Carol DiLorenzo*

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*Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk*

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

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