



City of Margate

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Meeting Minutes

City Commission Workshop

Mayor Tommy Ruzzano
Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz
Commissioners:
Anthony N. Caggiano, Lesa Peerman, Joanne Simone

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

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

5:30 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, Commissioner Joanne Simone, Commissioner Lesa Peerman, Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz and Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

In Attendance:

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

1) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. [ID 2016-759](#) DOG PARK

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR MIKE JONES mentioned the prior presentation that was made in June. He added that the City also met with Paradise Gardens 3 at that time. He explained that at a previous Commission meeting, the item was put on hold to wait for the newly elected Commission. He explained that the first Commission Workshop was on May 4th and on May 25th a public input meeting was held with approximately 40 members of the public present. He said that the comments of the residents were provided on a card that was archived. He said that a conceptual design was drafted and some modifications were then made. He stated that there were many comments about the closeness and proximity to the residents, but the second rendering filled some of the parking to move the park to 25 feet off of the property line. He added that there were also concerns regarding traffic and he had some alternate options to provide if needed upon receipt of direction by the Commission.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that the project was now at the point of either going ahead with what was proposed, moving the project or eliminating the project.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN questioned the bid process with regard to the \$1 million dollar bid.

MAYOR RUZZANO explained that when business and construction was going well, and an estimate for a \$1 million dollar bid went out, other companies would probably bid higher not lower. He clarified that the bid would be lower if business was not doing well.

He said that he felt that the bid received was high, and that he expected that because the City was planning two parks, one on either side.

DIRECTOR JONES said that with contingencies, it was an approximate figure.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that a Dog Park was needed in Margate; however, the price was high and the location was not perfect.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether it could be moved near her house by the Fire Station.

DIRECTOR JONES said that he had prepared alternate locations, and he showed the current proposed location on the screen. He noted that the small Dog Park was shown with parking on the property. He said that the large Dog Park was shown with parking as well. He explained that the small dogs were under 25 pounds, while larger dogs were 25 pounds and over. He noted that the two parks would be separated by 17th Street with parking on both sides of 17th Street with individual park access to the large and small parks. He explained that there were resident concerns about people utilizing NW 70th Lane and Margate Boulevard as a shortcut with increased speeding. He stated that a compromise alternative was to shift the entire project south so the north boundary would be on 17th Street with access to Rock Island Road only instead of 17th Street. He clarified that both northbound and southbound would only have access to Rock Island Road. He noted that the small Dog Park would be to the north with the larger Dog Park to the south. Director Jones said another alternative was to go another 10 feet off the property line to provide an additional buffer. He stated that the City would still mow and maintain the landscaping on the other side of the fence up to the property line.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN mentioned an existing lane.

DIRECTOR JONES replied that it was a bus lane, which he hoped to utilize so the pavement of the new lane would only be a percentage.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN mentioned losing the trees.

DIRECTOR JONES said that would not necessarily happen because the entrance would be just north of that. He did note that the Engineers would have to evaluate to see whether any of these alternatives could be done.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that Broward County had informed the City that a right lane off of Rock Island Road would cost about \$85,000 near Firefighters Park.

DIRECTOR JONES said that was the cost for that location with the bend and without the bus lane to be factored in. He explained that to have the Dog Park by the Firefighters Park would involve having parking extended over while using the strip shown for green space in different ways. He said that there were multiple alternatives and he showed an extension of the parking from the Fire Station over with access off of NW 6th Court with the park running north. He stated that there would be one larger perimeter fence with a small designated square for the smaller dogs. He noted that the difference between the two designs was that all dogs, large and small, would bottleneck through one entrance. He said that the reason it was separated was to separate the dog sizes. He noted that the Engineering would have to start over for the whole new area.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether there was one point of entrance at the Tamarac Dog Park.

MAYOR RUZZANO agreed.

DIRECTOR JONES clarified that the dogs entered in a large entrance area and then when into another set of gates going left and right.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that there would be additional costs if adding the lane, which was a major concern of the residents.

DIRECTOR JONES mentioned that the reason for the option was because of the traffic concerns.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that the residents were more concerned with the Dog Park location and cost.

MAYOR RUZZANO suggested deciding where to put the Dog Park first. He also suggested having the Dog Park south of Royal Palm Boulevard.

DIRECTOR JONES mentioned the retention area.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that there were only 9 houses there and he had already spoke to Director Chitepu about the retention. He felt that would solve all of the problems.

DIRECTOR JONES said that his other option was to go back to the original plan; however, it was half the amount of parking and usable space. He felt that it would be overused and would be tough to maintain the turf with such a small area.

MAYOR RUZZANO noted that the Dog Park in Tamarac was 3.2 acres, but was only utilizing 2 acres because there was a green space that nobody used.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether there would be another parking lot added by the Fire Station.

DIRECTOR JONES said that it would be extended and would be one parking lot.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that off Royal Palm Boulevard or by the Firefighters Park were two good locations.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN did not agree with Royal Palm Boulevard because of the traffic. She asked whether there was a road at the end of the property Director Jones was showing.

DIRECTOR JONES said that it was a sidewalk. He suggested starting over again with public input meetings to discuss the pros and cons. He noted that there was probably not enough space for 35 feet to the property line.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether the large and small parks could be at either ends.

DIRECTOR JONES questioned if she wanted the parking in the center.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN clarified that the small park could be off 9th Court with a grassy area in between the large park.

DIRECTOR JONES said that a turn lane would have to be put in the center to go north and south to the small and large concept.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE expressed concern about the cost and location. She said that the residents at Paradise Gardens were told that they would have a meeting before this went to the design phase. She stated that she was upset because there was no meeting. She felt that the cost needed to come down and the location to be changed. She agreed with having a park similar to Tamarac.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that the area off of Rock Island Road with the parking in the middle and the parks on either side was a good concept. He suggested having the cost of \$85,000 re-evaluated.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that the \$85,000 was the cost 10 years ago.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE suggested that before anything was done, the residents should be contacted for their opinion. She stated that she did not want it at the current location.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ noted that there were 17 houses currently involved.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE mentioned the stretch of land at Firefighters Park.

DIRECTOR JONES said that was where the expansion of the parking lot was being proposed, which was needed. He stated that it was not good land for the Dog Park because it was high and low throughout with its own collection of water. He said that there was currently not enough parking; therefore, the proposal was for 80 additional parking spaces. He clarified that the City did not own the property, but had an agreement with the Carolina Association.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE wanted to include that area as a possibility for the Dog Park.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN suggested putting a bridge from Firefighters Park to the Dog Park.

DIRECTOR JONES noted that the project was at the 65 percent design phase; however, it was put on hold by the prior Commission. He stated that Commission consensus was needed prior to finishing the Engineering process, submit to the County and solicit bids for construction. He noted that currently \$24,000 was expensed.

CONSENSUS was taken and all agreed 5-0 to not proceed at the Paradise Gardens location.

CATHY PIERCE, 1440 NW 70th Lane, stated that her back yard faced the location of the Dog Park. She said that she purchased her home 17 years ago because there were no homes behind her, but only the Florida Power and Light (FPL) easement. She noted that she had a dog and loved dogs, but did not want a lot of them in her back yard. She felt that it was devaluing her home. She stated that she was totally infuriated about the Dog Park.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked where Ms. Pierce took her dogs.

MS. PIERCE said that she had a small blind poodle that she kept on her property.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that there was always a plan to use the FPL easement for something, and that it was previously planned to put a Linear Park there with fruit trees and gardens planted.

DIRECTOR JONES noted that the location for Linear Park had a Citrus Grove.

MS. PIERCE stated that there were beautiful trees when she moved to Margate; however, the City took them down years later. She said that she had a view of the Golf Course, but did not want anything else there.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that if not using the area for the Dog Park, it could still be used for something in the future.

MS. PIERCE also expressed concern with regard to teenagers being at the park and robberies in the area.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that he performed research on crime rates and determined that crime did not increase because of Dog Parks; however, he was not a big fan of Dog Parks.

ANNE BLATT, 6775 NW 17th Street, mentioned what she read on Margatenews.net with regard to people's fear of the Dog Park. She said that the City had no Dog Park; therefore, she went outside the City. She stated that there were very friendly people sitting and chatting at the Dog Park while the dogs got a chance to run around. She added that there were children there with their parents and there were no dog fights or bad smells. She noted that it was gated and everybody left when it got dark. She asked why Commissioner Caggiano was opposed to the Dog Park as an owner of a dog, and asked why Margate could not have a Dog Park when other Cities did for those in the community that wanted a Dog Park. She mentioned Cities such as Tamarac, North Lauderdale, Boca Raton, Parkland and Coconut Creek that all had Dog Parks. She said that she was being ignored, because it was the owners of dogs that would enjoy the park.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO agreed and stated that he had been to the Tamarac Dog Park on a Sunday when there was the Farmer's Market. He said that he had no problem with someone taking the dog to Tamarac; however, he had a problem with Margate spending money on the park rather than sprucing up the City. He noted that his dog passed away 5 years ago and he loved dogs. He said that he only found out today that dogs were not allowed in any Margate parks.

MS. BLATT stated that there was nowhere where a dog owner could bring their dog in the City of Margate to run around freely.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO agreed with having a Dog Park if the City could find a spot where neighbors were not upset about its location. He added that he was still concerned about the cost. He recommended that the City look into 3 different locations to look into having the park.

MS. BLATT suggested that the Commission look at the other parks in other Cities to see how many people were using the parks and how well made the parks were made. She asked the Commission to remember that Margate was a diverse community of people with different interests. She felt that it was not fair that she had to go to other communities.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether most of the money was coming from the

cell tower money.

DIRECTOR JONES said that a majority of the money was coming through the Parks and Recreation Trust, and that the fund balance was increased through cell tower revenue. He clarified that it was restricted to be used only on parks.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN added that a grant was applied for \$200,000 for this project. She felt that the bids would come in less than \$1 million dollars and she was in favor of putting it at Firefighters Park.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that he looked into the pricing and noted that it was \$50 a linear foot for the chain link fence.

MAYOR RUZZANO updated those individuals who arrived to the meeting late.

RICH POPOVIC, 6066 Winfield Boulevard, stated that Dog Parks were for people who owned dogs. He said that it was an inconvenience to the residents and was too expensive. He noted that he posted on his Facebook page that the Dog Park should be addressed and moved to Firefighters Park where there was plenty of room and no homes surrounding it. He suggested making it a community effort and having the dog owners help with installing the fences.

MS. BLATT noted that Windmill Park in Coconut Creek was a multi-use park with Handball and Volleyball Courts.

JOHN HALL, 6421 French Angel Terrace, expressed concern regarding the \$1 million dollars. He said that Margate needed a Dog Park, which he had no problem with; however, it could start small and be expanded later. He stated that dogs did not come above people and there were many things needed in the City. He felt that prioritizing was needed and he did not understand why the Dog Park became the number one priority in the City to have \$1 million dollars spent on it. He suggested making a wish list and then prioritizing the list. He asked that the Commission continue to proceed with caution as they were doing tonight.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the City had a Parks and Recreation Master Plan where different parks and projects were prioritized. She noted that the Dog Park became an issue because it was promised in 2004. She said that the land was purchased and it was going on Firefighters Park. She noted that it sat from 2004 until a Budget meeting when Mayor Ruzzano asked what was being done with the Dog Park.

DIRECTOR JONES agreed that the Parks and Master Plan had prioritization.

MR. HALL said that the Dog Park was being put ahead of other projects.

DIRECTOR JONES explained that the Dog Park was fully budgeted because it was promised years before from the Master Plan, where it still ranked in the top 3 projects.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN clarified that the \$1 million dollars was an estimate given by the Engineer; however, there could be cuts made.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked how many Commissioners wanted to move ahead with a Dog Park.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN and COMMISSIONER SIMONE both wanted to proceed

with the Dog Park.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked how many residents wanted to have a Dog Park somewhere, and he noted that 1 person was opposed to a Dog Park. He noted that Director Jones gave three possible locations and he suggested asking the opinion of the people living in those locations.

DIRECTOR JONES said that his course of action was to survey the alternative neighborhoods selected, with the Fire Station being surveyed first. He stated that next the City would host a public meeting. He noted that there was an existing design, which could be tweaked when going through the public meeting.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked Director Jones to check the price for the incoming area off of Rock Island Road.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked that Firefighters Park be checked out as well.

DIRECTOR JONES mentioned speaking with the Carolina Association regarding Firefighters Park.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked whether the parcels were about the same size.

DIRECTOR JONES said that it was linear; therefore, the shape would change. He stated that the recommendation was 3 to 4 acres.

FORMER MAYOR JOYCE BRYAN was pleased that the Dog Park was not going in her neighborhood, and she asked that the residents come out to the meetings to provide input.

BETTY MURPHY, 1720 NW 70th Lane, said that her problem was being informed as to when the meetings were held. She noted that she was only notified of the meeting a few days ago. She noted that the postcards that Director Jones said were mailed were never received.

MAYOR RUZZANO questioned what the best way to notify Ms. Murphy's neighborhood.

DENNIS FENIX, 6955 NW 18th Street, said that he only ever received one notice.

COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ asked whether it was traditional to have an updated list of Homeowner's Associations and to send a notice that there would be a meeting within a certain amount of feet, such as with a change of zoning and a variance. She said that would be an effective way of letting the people know that there was a meeting behind held on something within 300 feet. She suggested that the City start to do that and make certain that the City had an updated list of Homeowner's Associations.

CITY CLERK JOSEPH J. KAVANAGH stated that his office would work with the City Manager and the City Attorney to make that happen.

MS. PIERCE commented on Legacy Park.

JESSICA ZELLER, 1500 Cathedral Drive, stated that her daughter and son walked to the Legacy Park, which was a nice park.

DIRECTOR JONES reiterated that he would re-evaluate new locations close to the Fire

Station and the Firefighters Park FPL easement and survey the neighborhoods for public input.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ mentioned the property adjacent to the Temple and believed that the City had some type of an agreement with the Temple. She mentioned that the property backed up to nobody's house and was a nice piece of property.

A RESIDENT, asked about having a traffic study as part of the plan, because he lived on NW 18th Street, which was blocked in the mornings from 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM due to the light changing. He added that from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the evening there was the same problem.

DIRECTOR JONES clarified that a traffic study on Rock Island Road would not be included in the Parks and Recreation project; however, it could be advised where it was appropriate with the City.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN mentioned looking into how long it took for that light to change.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ noted that on Atlantic Boulevard and 80th Terrace, the light was 5 minutes long and Broward County said that would not change.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN believed that the light on 18th Street was going to be adjusted.

CITY MANAGER DOUGLAS E. SMITH said that Staff would investigate the three locations and report back to the Commission. He noted that Staff had reached out to Paradise Gardens 3 Homeowner's Presidents to inform them about this meeting. He stated that the Police Department performed a couple of traffic studies and the resident should speak with the Chief to see if it was already done in his area or could be done.

B. [ID 2016-762](#) MAYOR'S FITNESS CHALLENGE

MAYOR RUZZANO explained that last year the City sponsored Margate Elementary School 3rd Grade for 7 events in the Mayor's Fitness Challenge. He noted that every student received a T-Shirt and the winners of each challenge, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place received medals and the overall winner received a plaque at City Hall. He noted that he was asked to have the challenge again this year and he felt that it was not fair to have it only at one school. He proposed having it at each of the public schools and he noted that the cost was approximately \$7,500. He explained that one grade would be selected with 7 events, and that Margate Elementary School would like the event to take place in January.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE stated that last year was a good start, but she would like to see a Margate Let's Get Fit Family Day. She said that it would allow the families to get involved with the physical fitness. She noted that the President's Physical Fitness Test was replaced because it was a performance fitness test, had no training involved and was a competition. She mentioned that the Presidential Youth Fitness Program allowed the families to get involved with the children. She explained that some of the items in the program included aerobic capacity, body composition, flexibility, muscle strength and muscular endurance. She mentioned that Coconut Creek had a Let's Move Fitness Day with different activities that was very successful. She suggested that instead of having the program at the schools, it should be brought out to the whole community. She said that some things to do could be soccer ball shooting, volleyball, pickle ball, basketball, relay races, tug of war, zumba, golf, horseshoes, ring toss, badminton, croquet and hula

hoops, which would get the parents and children involved.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that was a great idea; however, it would take a lot of manpower.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that the schools already had a Field Day. She felt that last year's Mayor's Fitness Challenge was more like a Field Day type event. She said that she would volunteer her time and hoped the rest of the Commission would do so also.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that last year's event was a last minute event, which went very well. He wanted to build on what was a very positive event last year to make it bigger and better this year. He noted that the other schools wanted to do it.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ suggested that the City do the Mayor's Fitness Challenge and do some of the activities suggested by Commissioner Simone at the City's existing Family Fun Days at the Sports Complex.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN agreed with having the activities incorporated into an event that the City already had going on. She suggested having an activity at the Fall Festival or other existing events.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that by adding the activity to an already planned event would eliminate the additional cost of an additional event.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO stated that it could eventually spin off to an individual event.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE felt that it would not have the same effect if combined with another event. She added that the Mayor's Fitness Challenge was just another Field Day on top of the Field Days the school already had at the end of the year. She wanted the Mayor's Fitness Challenge to evolve into something bigger and greater by getting the families involved.

MAYOR RUZZANO spoke about the look on the student's faces when they received their T-shirts and medals. He noted that a majority of the students were Margate residents; therefore, it was giving back to the community with a really great event. He reiterated that he was asked by the schools to bring back the event.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether it could be done at another school this year. She also suggested having it circulate each year to a different school, rather than doing it at all schools. She mentioned that last year the Commission discussed adding the event to the Budget as a line item. She noted that it was not placed in the Budget; therefore, she thought the Mayor did not want to do it anymore.

CITY MANAGER DOUGLAS E. SMITH noted that last year's event was taken from the Resident Project Fund.

MAYOR RUZZANO wanted to know whether the Commission wanted to continue with one school or add additional schools.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO was in favor of anything to get people fit. He said that he liked Commissioner Simone's idea; however, he felt it would take more time to expand the event to what she wanted it to be.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ stated that if the event was something that motivated the students and made them feel good about themselves, she would agree with spending the money to doing it at all 3 of the elementary schools. She added that not all students had parents who would participate.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR MIKE JONES suggested inviting all 3 schools to the Sports Complex to help with the cost of transportation, etc.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that was a great idea.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE suggested having one school host the event so that school would not have to get a bus.

DIRECTOR JONES felt that the schools were not large enough to be host.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that only the Middle School would be large enough to be host.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO clarified that it was not the whole school, but one grade.

MAYOR RUZZANO agreed with having it at the school and having it at the Sports Complex next year.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ suggested speaking with the School Board member about the transportation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Carol DiLorenzo

Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date: _____