



# City of Margate

5790 Margate Boulevard  
Margate, FL 33063  
954-972-6454  
www.margatefl.com

## 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, July 6, 2016

5:30 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 Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

#### 1) PRESENTATION(S)

##### A. ID 2016-424 DOG PARK CONCEPTUAL PLAN REVIEW

*PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR MIKE JONES explained that this was the third review of the Dog Park Plan. He noted that the last meeting was at a Workshop in May to go over the initial concept and receive feedback from the Commission. He said that in late May, he met again with the public and showed many displays and asked for comments and feedback from the public. He noted that it was well-attended with over 40 people. He stated that the public provided least and most important amenities, which were written down on index cards. He said that following that, he instructed Chris Betancourt, Chen Moore and Associates, to review the comments made and see how the plan could be tweaked and modified to be the best park for the community with the least amount of impact for the neighboring communities. He understood that the location would be hard to sell when it was so close to current property owners, which was why there was so much public input in the actual design to make it the best for the overall community.*

*CHRIS BETANCOURT, Chen Moore and Associates, explained that the project site was at the intersection of Rock Island Road and NW 17th Street. He noted that it was a generous easement with the overhead transmission lines to contend with in terms of development. He said that other than that, there was a relatively flat site to work with. He stated that there were 12 properties immediately to the north of the site that the City needed to be respectful to. He said that with regard to developing the overall plan, the working name for the park was Paws and Bones. He noted that he was trying to theme the park while making it memorable and friendly for the residents. He showed some images of the elements that he was trying to incorporate into the design, including gateway entries into each of the parks. He noted that the large and small dog parks would have decorative pavement to delineate character and shade structures, due to the*

strong desire from the Commission, as well as the public. He added that buffer landscaping would be installed because of the 12 properties to the north. He said that there would be trash receptacles, water for both humans and dogs, and receptacles for the waste. He showed the initial concept that was provided to the public in early and late May. Mr. Betancourt explained that areas that were worked on as a result of feedback from the public were the width of the buffer between the residential properties and the park, the location of some of the parking closer to the residential properties and the location of the main entries into the large and dog small park. He said that those items resulted in relocating the entrance plazas closer to Rock Island Road, moving some parking stalls to the east side of the site from west and increasing the setback between the residential properties to the park from 22 feet to 30 feet. He noted that some additional shelters were also added based on the initial plan. He stated that those modifications provided for the new plan, which he provided photos of. He said that there were initially large shade structures; however, three additional small shade structures were added in the large dog park with two additional small shade structures in the small dog park. He explained that based on these improvements, he went through doing a conceptual process on a full build out, which provided a cost estimate of \$956,647 based on the plan shown today. He noted that a 10 percent contingency was added for unknown factors with construction.

DIRECTOR JONES said that the modification was based on all input with regard to the design, and he asked to continue with the engineering documents. He noted that \$54,000 was currently encumbered in this year's budget for full construction documents. He said that this was for the final conceptual approval. He noted that with consensus from the Commission, he would move forward with the construction documents only, as the construction project was budgeted for \$400,000. He said that with the current plan, the cost estimate was over budget; therefore, he was seeking guidance from the Commission with regard to how to move the project forward.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether the benches were moved back away from the sidewalk as previously discussed.

DIRECTOR JONES stated that this was a conceptual plan, and that once they got to the actual design they would put sizes, distances and spacing throughout.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked Mayor Ruzzano whether it was logical for the cost to be so high, because he had done this before.

MAYOR RUZZANO stated that \$400,000 was a little high.

MR. BETANCOURT explained that typically when doing a cost estimate, a lot of contingency was added because of the unknowns; however, as moving further into the construction documents, the cost would get more fine-tuned and the City would expect to see the cost go down.

MAYOR RUZZANO mentioned the sodding, which he felt was high, as well as the concrete. He said that there was no drainage; therefore, he assumed there would be additional cost.

MR. BETANCOURT said that most drainage would be accomplished through the swales on site. He added that the parking lot would discharge into the swales with a retention base.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that it was not listed in line items, so it would be an additional

cost. He understood that there were residents who were not in favor of the project and were concerned about money value; therefore, Director Jones wanted a consensus of whether or not to go on with this plan.

DIRECTOR JONES stated that there was currently a task order with the engineers to provide construction documents for the current design shown today. He questioned whether the Commission wanted to move forward with this design as a successful project for the City based on the public and Commission input, though it was over budget. He clarified that he was asking for a consensus to move forward with the construction documents. He noted that by the time the documents were detailed, there would be better numbers in terms of budget and what the bids could possibly be. He questioned whether the plan needed modification or was it ready to move forward with the construction documents.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN said that she appreciated everything that was done with the conceptual plan; however, as a resident, she was still opposed to a Dog Park. She felt that the City needed a Dog Park; but she did not like it in that particular neighborhood.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that her neighborhood would be happy to have the Dog Park and to have their property values increasing.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN did commend those involved for listening to what was wanted and provided great input.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that he heard no problems with regard to Firefighters Park. He understood people's concerns; however, when he visited the Dog Park in Tamarac, there were not 5,000 dogs there at a time. He felt that Margate deserved a Dog Park, but he asked why the City could not have someone pay for the naming of the park.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he signed a letter last week with the County for a \$25,000 grant. He felt that getting the park sponsored was a great idea, but he did not know if the City could.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that there was nothing in the laws that stated they could not get a sponsor.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he did not know what the main concern was because an additional 10 feet was being given and a fence was being installed. He stated that having a park near the house was a great selling point. He said that he would love to have the park in his neighborhood and he felt that Margate needed to keep up with the other Cities by giving them the amenities that other Cities had. He added that instead of sending people to Parkland, they needed to be kept in Margate.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that the park was promised to the residents for over 10 years. She asked whether the park was in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

DIRECTOR JONES said that the Dog Park ranked in the top 3 in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that though the cost was a culture shock, the \$400,000 was pulled out for the Dog Park at a Budget meeting without any information. She stated that it was something the residents wanted and deserved. She said that if there was an issue with putting it behind Paradise Gardens, maybe it should be put by her house and the fire station. She noted that the residents in that area would be happy

to have the park, because it would increase their property values.

*DIRECTOR JONES* stated that if moving the location, he would still suggest continuing to go through the public input resident process with those residents that would be immediately affected.

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN* did not believe the location needed to be moved, and that the alternative was a Skate Park. She stated that there would be something there, because there was always something planned for the Rock Island easement. She noted that there was previously a baseball field at the Atlantic Boulevard end of the easement.

*COMMISSIONER TALERICO* questioned whether this would be done within two budgets or one.

*CITY MANAGER DOUGLAS E. SMITH* explained that if the design phase continued it would proceed this year, and when the proposed budget was brought forward, talking about the funding sources and options could be looked at. He said that the plan would then be to budget some element of a higher construction number for the next fiscal year's budget, fiscal year 2017.

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN* asked whether the Dog Park was considered a park that the cell phone money could go towards.

*DIRECTOR JONES* agreed that it classified for that funding.

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN* stated that there were some options of where the money could come from.

*MAYOR RUZZANO* questioned whether the park would be done in two projects.

*DIRECTOR JONES* said no, because it was not going to be phased out and the recommendation was to do it all at once due to the cost savings.

*MAYOR RUZZANO* stated that this was a great project, which he was in favor of.

*DIRECTOR JONES* noted that a lot of the concerns from the public input were traffic; therefore, he recommended that a traffic study be performed or signage be posted saying, "No through traffic" or something appropriate.

*VICE MAYOR BRYAN* agreed with installing traffic calming devices, and felt that the entire street from 69th to Rock Island Road absolutely needed some signage.

*DIRECTOR JONES* said that he would defer to the appropriate departments to perform the study to find if there was cause for other traffic calming devices, as well as adding signage.

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN* said that she had no problems with adding signage.

*VICE MAYOR BRYAN* said that was her street and that there were prior concerns since a resident was killed. She stated that something was needed because of the speeding in the area. She felt that something was needed there whether the park was installed or not.

*MAYOR RUZZANO* asked whether a gate could be installed at 17th Street, east where it entered the neighborhood.

*DIRECTOR JONES* agreed it could be done depending on what type of gate, coded, badges or a motion censored deterrent. He recommended having something better than what was at Calypso Cove.

*MAYOR RUZZANO* again noted that he wanted to know why the residents were against the project and whether it was because of traffic or the dogs. He questioned whether the gate would help.

*DIRECTOR JONES* said that it would have to be proposed to Paradise Gardens Three collectively to let them know that the City was looking into it or providing it as an option.

*COMMISSIONER PPERMAN* said that the motion-censored gate might be another option.

*MAYOR RUZZANO* mentioned the gate at the Sports Complex as well.

*DIRECTOR JONES* replied that the gate at the Sports Complex was manual and that it closed when the park closed. He noted that parking gates would be an issue if using it for the roadway, because there was no way to mandate what hours the road was opened or closed. He did not believe the local residents would want that to be closed.

*COMMISSIONER SIMONE* noted that the residents she spoke to want the Dog Park. She hoped the City would win the Bark for your Park contest.

*CITY MANAGER SMITH* explained that was what the Mayor was referring to with regard to the \$25,000 grant. He noted that there was a potential \$25,000 grant with Pet Safe.

*DIRECTOR JONES* added that there was also the Land Preservation Bond in 2000; however, that only applied to land purchased in that bond, such as Firefighters Park.

*COMMISSIONER SIMONE* said that she liked Commissioner Talerico's idea of trying to get a sponsor. She said that the Tamarac Dog Park cost \$600,000 approximately 9 years ago; therefore, the \$400,000 was just an estimate.

*MAYOR RUZZANO* noted that the Tamarac Dog Park was a more intense job than this park, with a lot of land clearing of three acres and more roadways.

*BETTY MURPHY*, 1720 NW 70th Lane, said that she was a resident of her home for 28 years and was concerned with the traffic. She noted that her neighborhood was trying to get additional speed bumps on 70th Lane, and that 17th Street had many accidents on the corner. She stated that there would be a lighting study performed tomorrow night that the City was handling. She mentioned the noise of the traffic when coming through 18th street and flying down 17th Street and making the turn on the bend to get out to the stop sign and onto Rock Island Road during the Fourth of July. She felt that it was not the place for a park. She said that the appearance of the park was not for a 55 year and older community, because it was a quiet and proud community. She felt that it was a big mistake to spend the money when they could not get the speed bumps. She asked the Commission to think about the people who lived there. She noted that she voted for a Dog Park, but when she went to the Calypso Cove meeting she was told that the Dog Park would be located in Firefighters Park and not behind the community.

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN* stated that if the community was turned down for calming devices, the next step was to come before the Commission to ask for them.

MS. MURPHY noted that there were already two speed bumps on 70th Lane; however, when asking for additional devices they were turned down. She stated that people who used to walk at night no longer did because the streets were dark and the cars were speeding.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she never thought of cutting through the neighborhood until it was mentioned at the Calypso Cove meeting.

FRANK MESSANA, 7310 NW 1st Street, said that he liked the concept of the Dog Park. He asked whether the location could be moved down beyond the single family homes if the residents were complaining, because there was another whole section going towards Royal Palm Boulevard. He stated that the City of Margate owned all of the power lines from Southgate Boulevard to 5th Street, though it was located in the City of North Lauderdale. He noted that would be another place that would be perfect for a Dog Park too because it was a large area and was not currently being used.

ANNE BLATT, Paradise Gardens Two, stated that she was in favor of the Dog Park. She noted that she went to the surrounding communities that had Dog Parks, such as Parkland, Coconut Creek and Tamarac. She felt that it would increase the property values. She agreed that there was already a park with homes behind it and people were not complaining about the noise. She stated that there was not an abundance of noise in the local Dog Parks. She said that the Coconut Creek Dog Park had racquetball courts and you could hear the sound of the ball. She stated that there was no odor or smell, because most people cleaned it up. She said was not aware of the traffic issue, but she did not live in that section. She spoke about the limited amount of people who would be using the shortcut. She noted that the Dog Park was not just for the dogs, and that it was also for the enjoyment of the people. She felt that there would be an enormous amount of people getting pleasure from the Dog Park.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that the City was looking for Dog Park Monitor Mommies and asked whether Ms. Blatt could put her name down.

MS. BLATT agreed to do that. She suggested that the residents with objections visit a local Dog Park to alleviate some of their fears.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN stated that she lived there for 17 years and the amount of traffic had increased tremendously without the Dog Park. She said that she did appreciate Ms. Blatt being a great advocate and thanked her.

DANNY MARINO, 2600 NW 69th Avenue, said that he had no problem with the Dog Park, but did question why it was not located at Firefighters Park. He noted that the building, parking and drainage were already there, as well as a walking park, which could be implemented with the Dog Park.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that when estimating the cost of putting the park at Firefighters Park, Broward County wanted the City to install a right turn lane into the park. She said that the cost would be \$65,000 to \$70,000 for the concrete. She mentioned going from Firefighters Park to a park next to it.

MR. MARINO said that could be done by a bridge.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN agreed, but explained that this area was more acreage and provided additional area for the dogs.

DAVE LEJA, 7015 NW 18 Street, said that prior to the widening of Rock Island Road, you were able to turn onto 17th Street, but now that the median was installed traffic had to pass and make a U-turn. He explained that a lot of people did not know where they were going so they fly down 18th Street and then get angry because they have to turn around and fly back down 18th Street at 40 to 40 mph. He mentioned a grant for \$5,000, which was only ½ of 1 percent.

MAYOR RUZZANO clarified that it was \$25,000.

MR. LEJA said that the amount was only ¼ of a percent, which was ridiculous for a Dog Park. He stated that the original plan was for Firefighters Park, which he felt already had the parking, water, pavilions and bathrooms. He noted that the only thing needed was fencing and paths. He felt that crime would also go up in the neighborhood and he expressed concern about the annual maintenance and landscaping of the Dog Park. He explained that Deerfield Beach was installing a Dog Park at Quiet Waters Park, because the residents do not want it anywhere else. He stated that he was opposed to the park.

MAYOR RUZZANO noted that the City was now aware of the traffic problem and would address it.

MR. LEJA noted that he saw a cop go down his street today, which he had not seen before today, which he was in favor of.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that the Police Department could be talked to with regard to having more officers in the area. He noted that the Tamarac Dog Park was named the Gary B. Jones Park for People and Pups, and he suggested considering calling it the Annette Daniels Park.

DIRECTOR JONES stated that there was no formal policy for naming the park and was previously done through historical people. He said that he researched Park Name Policies that he was looking to implement for the development of new parks. He felt that it was appropriate to assign policy and criteria on how to name the park, as well as including public input. He said that naming as the Mayor suggested was an option; however, he wanted to put a more formal format in naming parks moving forward with a set criteria being followed. He stated that the naming of the park should be appropriate for the neighborhood.

DAVID VALEO, 7005 NW 17th Court, stated that he was against the park. He asked how many voted for the park.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the park came about in 2008, or 2009, and the concept was for a location at Firefighters Park; however, the plan was horrible. She noted that at the last budget the Mayor suggested doing the Dog Park. She said that this was the furthest the Dog Park had come.

MR. VALEO stated that he had a dog and did not mind going to Tamarac, but he was against having the park in his neighborhood, which he felt would decrease the property value.

DIRECTOR JONES said that he was asking for a consensus to move forward with the construction documents as conceptual renderings. He noted that the project still had to go out for a bid process and all proper permitting and regulatory requirements were still needed.

*CONSENSUS was taken and Commissioner Peerman, Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Talerico and Mayor Ruzzano agreed, with Vice Mayor Bryan against. Consensus 4-1 in favor.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Transcribed by Carol DiLorenzo*

  
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*Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk*

*Date: 9/7/16*