

September 11, 2003

The Pinellas Assembly Recreation, Structures and Financing Task Force met in the Pinellas County Park Department Conference Room, 631 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida, at 3:02 P.M. on this date with the following members present: Jerry Provenzano, Chairman; Elizabeth Darnell; Steve Heller; Lynn Rives; and Elizabeth Warren.

Absent: Carlen Petersen, Co-Chairman; Jim Appelt; John Day; Chris Eaton; and Ralph Marlow.

Also in attendance: Kathy Swain, Pinellas County Park and Recreation Operations Manager; Neil Brickfield, City of Safety Harbor; Susan P. Ajoc, City of St. Petersburg; and Dawn Rubio, Board Reporter.

AGENDA

- I. Overview/General Discussion
 - a. Where are we?
 - b. Where are we going?
 - c. How do we get there?
 - d. Who else do we need to talk to?
- II. Public Input
- III. Task Force Member Input
- IV. Adjournment

Chairman Provenzano called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.M.

OVERVIEW/GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Provenzano discussed highlights of the Task Force's report given on September 3, 2003 to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) as follows:

- ✓ Encourage cooperation between the County and city governments through joint meetings
- ✓ Need for a standard use agreement between the County, the School Board and the city governments
- ✓ Therapeutic recreation
- ✓ Need for summer programs

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- ✓ Possible change in the Charter to provide for active recreation within County parks
- ✓ Recommendations that the Toytown property be used as a mega recreational complex and for the creation of a task force to further investigate uses of the property
- ✓ Equitable fee structure for municipal and unincorporated residents

Chairman Provenzano related that the Task Force's final report is now due in January 2004 instead of November 2003 and is to include short-term, mid-term and long-term solutions; whereupon, Ms. Warren clarified that the report is to specify short-term recommendations as those to be accomplished within one year; that the mid-term recommendations have been eliminated; and that the long-term recommendations mean those that will take longer than one year to accomplish.

In response to a request by the Chairman, Ms. Warren indicated that she will inquire about the utilization of Hillsborough County's Ed Radice sports complex; and related that the Park Department's 2004 fiscal budget has been approved by the BCC.

Discussion ensued regarding feedback from the Task Force's report given at the September 3 meeting as follows:

- ✓ Therapeutic recreation should be accessible and regionalized instead of each city incurring the cost of having its own program
- ✓ A referendum to amend the Charter would be required in order for the County park system to be used for active recreation
- ✓ Equitable fee structure
- ✓ Fairness of a per-capita fee
- ✓ Concept of a County recreation card
- ✓ Standardization of fees among municipalities
- ✓ Hardship for large families to pay multiple fees
- ✓ Use of MSTU funds for recreation
- ✓ Seeking a School Board ruling regarding use of school grounds for active recreation

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PUBLIC INPUT - NONE

TASK FORCE MEMBER INPUT

Chairman Provenzano announced that the next meeting will be held on September 18, 2003; and recommended that the task force stay on its current meeting schedule and attempt to complete its assignment by November. He requested that opinions be sought from the County Attorney's office and the School Board regarding public use of tax-supported facilities; and suggested that James Miller, Director of the Pinellas County School Board Real Property Management Department, be invited to address the task force again; whereupon, Ms. Darnell suggested that e-mail messages be sent to all task force members to notify them of future meeting dates.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.