

October 2, 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; Carlen Petersen, Co-Chairman; Jim Appelt; John Day; Ralph Marlow; Lynn Rives; and Elizabeth Warren.

Absent: Elizabeth Darnell, Chris Eaton, and Steve Heller

Also in attendance: Kathy Swain, Park Department; Susan P. Ajoc, City of St. Petersburg; other interested individuals; and Arlene Smitke, 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. New Meeting Dates
 - a. November 6
 - b. November 20
- VI. Adjournment

OVERVIEW/GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Provenzano called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.M. and noted that the Task Force at its last meeting had agreed to adhere to its original schedule and will endeavor to conclude its work by Thanksgiving; that the need for additional presentations is not foreseen; and reviewed the recommendations formulated to date; whereupon, the members provided input, as follows:

1. Therapeutic recreation to be accessible countywide.
2. Possible change to Charter to allow for active recreation in County-owned parks. (Status: Assistant County Administrator Elithia V. Stanfield is researching the matter and will report back to the Task Force.)

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3. Signage in County parks to allow for advertising sponsorships. (Status: The County has hired a consultant to study various sponsorship/revenue-generating opportunities.)
4. Toytown landfill – Golf course is not highest and best use; recommend further study and possible development as a regional recreational complex.
5. Use of public school properties – study liability and accessibility issues. (Status: Ms. Warren to provide copy of proposed House Bill related to provision of property access after hours and to seek input from Risk Manager Beth Warren regarding liability issues.)

PUBLIC INPUT – NONE

TASK FORCE MEMBER INPUT

Chairman Provenzano proposed that the Task Force make a recommendation for the requirement of an open space recreation component in redevelopment plans, as appropriate to each development; and that participation could be in the form of a financial, land, or open space contribution.

Ms. Warren announced that the Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) tax has been passed; that grant applications for the next cycle will be mailed this week to over 100 organizations; that the reimbursement program had disbursed nearly \$100,000 last fiscal year and the recommended budget is \$300,000 for next year; and indicated that she will confirm the MSTU rate of one quarter mill.

Discussion ensued regarding the following matters:

- ◆ Need for diversity in activities
- ◆ Definition of active recreation – organized versus “pickup/sandlot” games
- ◆ County’s goal is not to provide active recreation, but to provide access to it
- ◆ Cities want County to share program costs for unincorporated residents
- ◆ Cities need County to provide land for recreational use
- ◆ Possibility of raising MSTU millage
- ◆ Need for cap on number of reimbursements per family

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- ◆ Reimbursement based on need
- ◆ Provision of a single, countywide recreational card
- ◆ Families' inability to prepay fees
- ◆ Direct payment by County to municipalities providing programs to unincorporated residents

Responding to a request by Chairman Provenzano, Ms. Warren indicated that she will work with Mr. Rives to draft a document stating the recommendations of the Task Force to serve as a basis for further discussion and editing by the members.

Chairman Provenzano requested that members give further thought to an equitable program funding/reimbursement plan and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Provenzano confirmed that meetings are scheduled for October 16 and 30, and November 6 and 20; and that the goal of the task force is to complete the project by Thanksgiving; whereupon, Mr. Marlow moved that the meeting be adjourned; and hearing no objections, Chairman Provenzano adjourned the meeting at 4:26 P.M.