

Clearwater, Florida, October 30, 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 3:00 P.M. on this date with the following members present: Jerry Provenzano, Chairman; Carlen Petersen, Co-Chairman; Elizabeth Darnell; John Day; Steve Heller; Ralph Marlow; Lynn Rives and Elizabeth Warren.

Absent: Jim Appelt and Chris Eaton.

Also in attendance: Kathy Swain, Park Department; Commissioner Karen Williams Seel; D. Lee Metzger and Susan P. Ajoc, City of St. Petersburg; and Barbara Harb, 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. Guest Speaker
  - a. Kathy Swain, Park and Recreation Operations Manager
- III. Public Input
- IV. Task Force Member Input
- V. Adjournment

Chairman Provenzano called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. and welcomed County Commissioner Karen Williams Seel.

#### OVERVIEW/GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Provenzano indicated that today's discussion will focus on funding; whereupon, Ms. Warren provided background information regarding the Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) funding formula; and reported that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has authorized funding for the recreation initiative in addition to other enhancements, which include the Community Development portion, neighborhood grants and certain public works programs.

In response to queries by the members, Ms. Warren stated that \$1,995,000.00 has been approved for the full recreation component in the FY04 MSTU budget; and that

\$300,000.00 has been allocated for the MSTU reimbursement program; whereupon, Chairman Provenzano indicated that the task force should recommend that the BCC increase the park and recreation portion of the MSTU budget. Discussion ensued with regard to the following:

- Amount the cities have spent on infrastructure
- Focus is currently on providing equal access
- Municipal per capita figures
- Recreation grant program

Thereupon, Ms. Swain gave a brief presentation on the reimbursement program and referring to handouts, copies of which have been filed and made a part of the record, indicated the following:

- The intent of the reimbursement program is to provide active recreation to unincorporated residents
- Active recreation is defined as programmed athletics
- The program reimburses the difference in fees charged to city residents and non-residents living in unincorporated neighborhoods
- There are no restrictions on the total amount eligible for reimbursement or the number of programs an individual may register to participate in
- \$99,994.00 was disbursed during FY03 for the period beginning March through September 30

During discussion and in response to queries by the members, Ms. Swain stated that 1,038 reimbursement checks were issued in FY03; that 2,399 requests for reimbursement have been received to date of which 95 percent have come from programs in the Cities of Seminole, Largo, Clearwater and Dunedin; that the partnership with the City of Dunedin does not provide reimbursement for all of its programs; that the majority of the reimbursements are for membership fees; and that only the Cities of Seminole and Largo charge an additional amount for programs; whereupon, Ms. Warren interjected that some of the municipal partners have allowed the Park Department to train their staff in the reimbursement program process.

Thereupon, Ms. Swain outlined the criteria for participation in the reimbursement program; whereupon, in response to queries by the members, Ms. Warren stated that not all of the cities were tracking unincorporated residents using their facilities, which resulted in the cities being unable to provide a true percentage projection.

Further discussion included the fees being charged by different municipalities, the different programs offered by the municipalities, and the method of allocating reimbursement program funds.

Ms. Swain referred to the Pinellas County Government *Recreational Grant Program Year 2004 Application Package*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and noted the following:

- Over 100 applications were sent to different agencies
- 51 projects were submitted by 31 agencies, of which 29 were recommended for funding and 21 contracts have been implemented
- Applications were received from the Cities of Clearwater, Dunedin, Pinellas Park and the Town of Belleair
- Funding for the partnership with the City of Dunedin was provided by the Endangered Lands Trust Fund
- The range of projects submitted for funding

She also stated that FY04 application packages have been distributed and are due by November 14; whereupon, Ms. Warren described the process of administering the program and allocating the funds.

Thereupon, Ms. Swain highlighted the objectives, terms and conditions and application submission information.

PUBLIC INPUT - NONE

TASK FORCE MEMBER INPUT

Chairman Provenzano indicated that the members are in agreement with the four proposed recommendations:

- Access to therapeutic recreation
- Sponsorships on County land as a mechanism for raising funds
- Alternative uses for Toytown, other than a golf course
- Better utilization of joint use with Pinellas County School Board properties

During discussion regarding utilization of Pinellas County School Board properties with input by Mr. Metzger, Ms. Ajoc, and Commissioner Seel, the following topics were addressed:

- Liability for use of school properties
- Proposed protective legislation
- Existing partnerships between cities and schools

Thereupon, Commissioner Seel stated that a joint meeting between the BCC and the Legislative Delegation is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4; and that the legislation issue could be discussed at that time, provided that information is furnished to her regarding the proposed House Bill; whereupon, Ms. Warren indicated that she would check into the matter.

Resuming discussion of the four proposed recommendations, Chairman Provenzano suggested that the fourth recommendation be amended to "Continue working on better utilization of joint use with Pinellas County School Board properties"; and no objections were noted.

Following discussion with input by Ms. Warren, Mr. Metzger and Ms. Ajoc, and in response to Chairman Provenzano's call for a vote as to whether to include the proposed recommendation that the recreation/open space component be considered in any future discussions relative to redevelopment of existing property, all members voted in favor with the exception of Mr. Marlow.

At the request of the Chairman, the following issues were re-visited:

- Limit on amount of reimbursement

October 30, 2003

- Direct reimbursement to cities in lieu of individuals
- Fee reductions by the municipalities

Thereupon, Chairman Provenzano indicated that the discussion will continue at the next meeting scheduled for November 6; and that the last meeting is scheduled for November 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 P.M.