

**SYNOPSIS OF MEETING OF THE PARK AND TREE BOARD HELD AT TOWN HALL,
BELLEAIR, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 10, 2010 AT 4:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dudley Scott, Chairman
Kathy Gaston
Paul Cozzie
Marilyn Lokey

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rob Bender, Co-Chairman
Amy Welch
Bette Crown

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Shelly, Commission Advisor
Chip Zimmerman, Superintendant Operations

Quorum present with Mr. Scott presiding; the meeting was called to order at 4:05pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 14, 2010

Mr. Scott stated that the minutes of the April 14th meeting were not available for approval; stated that the approval of minutes would be continued to the next park and tree board meeting.

**TREE TRIMMING AND CHANGE FROM ANNUAL TO PERENNIAL PLANTING – FY
2010 2010-2011 BUDGET**

Chip Zimmerman, Superintendent of Operations, stated that there were two items that were proposed changes as part of the budget reduction; stated that a reduction in tree trimming and changes to the annual plantings of flowers at the entrance ways of the Town were proposed; that the cost reduction for tree trimming would be \$20,000 leaving a budget of \$52,000 down from \$72,000; that there would be a reduction of \$8,500 from flowers and plantings; that there would be permanent plantings instead of annuals; spoke about the different plantings; that there would be a one-time planting of Jasmine Minima, Lantana, juniper, and numerous other plants.

Mrs. Lokey stated that she was against the changing from flowers to permanent plantings.

Mr. Scott inquired as to whether the number of plantings could be minimized.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that he had already made a reduction from 2000 plants down to 750 plants; stated that the contract with Practical Gardening to change out and fertilize the beds was \$12,500 per year.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that the board needed to make a recommendation to the commission.

Mrs. Lokey stated that possibly they could choose fewer beds and to do annuals and flowers.

TREE TRIMMING AND CHANGE FROM ANNUAL TO PERENNIAL, Cont.

Discussion ensued regarding asking the Garden Club to help with some of the beds or doing in-house; regarding maintaining of yards for foreclosed and abandoned properties.

Mrs. Lokey made a motion to try and save the annuals and flower beds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cozzie. Motion was approved unanimously.

Karla Rettstatt, 308 Roebling Rd. N., stated that other municipalities obtain sponsorships and possibly the board could get residents to sponsor at \$250 a year; stated that she knew of several families that would be interested; that it would alleviate the commission from having to take the funds out of the budget; that the commission does need to make budget cuts; that a resident would donate the money to the Town and then would be placed in a specific fund for the flowers; spoke about possibly having an event.

DISCUSSION OF DOG PARK

Ms. Rettstatt stated that there had been residents that had come before the commission and complained that the leash law was being enforced; stated that she was thinking of possibly having a dog park; that she had gone before the commission in the past to see if that was a viable option; that it would be maintained with strictly private funds; that it would not come from the Town budget; that fundraisers would be done; that she had talked with Chris Walker with Fluffy Puppy whose very involved with pet related events; that she was willing to help generate funds to provide a dog park.

Ms. Rettstatt stated that the park would be a membership park; stated that members would pay annual dues; that the members would have to be registered with the Town; that the dogs would have to be current with vaccinations; spoke about the maintenance and care of the park; that the park on Magnolia was a possibility or that she would like to see if the board would consider the bottom part of the Bluff; that she had spoken with Ed Shanessey with the Country Club; that there might be reclaimed water available for the park; that she did not want to go further with designs, until she had feedback from the board and to determine which park.

Discussion ensued regarding the registration of the residents and their dogs; regarding the fees; regarding the payment by deposit for a key.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that one of the parks Ms. Rettstatt had mentioned was waterfall west down over the hill; stated that it would not be a very good site because it was so wet; that it gets rutted when mowing; that water stands when it rains.

Mr. Scott stated that he felt that the Bluff would not be a good area for a dog park.

Mr. Zimmerman spoke about middle Magnolia Park; stated that there may be some residents along the park that do not want a dog park located in Magnolia Park; that typically, dog parks are

DISCUSSION OF DOG PARK, continued

an acre or larger; that there was an area by the old wastewater plant, next to the Pinellas Trail, that was 330 feet long and 60 feet wide, or about 18,000 sq.ft; that the property was fenced on three sides; that it would basically need to be cleaned up; that the limitations were that it is on the service road that goes to the golf maintenance shop; that there were times when tractor trailers would park there loaded with sand and fertilizer; also staff parks there; that it would be a neutral site and would not need resident approval; that there would be a limitation to the number of dogs allowed; spoke about having an area for smaller dogs and a spot for wash and cleanup.

Mr. Cozzie stated that an acre of land was a minimum size and that it would have to have sections for the size of dogs; spoke about the issues that the County dealt with weekly; spoke about the spraying for fleas and parasites; spoke about other issues with dog parks.

Ms. Rettstatt stated that she wanted to bring the dog park issue to the boards attention because of what she was hearing from residents not being able to let their dogs run free without a lease; stated that the area that Mr. Zimmerman had mentioned by the old wastewater plant was a good idea, but felt that most people would not use it; that residents would have to drive to that park; that residents would want a park that they could walk to.

Discussion ensued regarding having a dog park located near homes.

It was the consensus of the board not to allow a dog park.

DISCUSSION OF VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

Ms. Rettstatt spoke about an a fundraising event she went to that was for a Veteran's Memorial Park; stated that there were a number of residents in Belleair who were veterans; that there were 3 four-star generals who were members of the Country Club; that the Country Club would back any event that the Town wanted; that she would really like to see a Veteran's Memorial park in Belleair.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that he proposed that they use Hunter Park; stated that there was a plaque in Hunter Park in Honor of 911 and that an American elm had been planted; spoke about an area opposite the fountain where there could be a monument placed.

Ms. Rettstatt stated that Hunter Park would be where she would like to have the memorial placed; spoke about the large oak tree and the tremendous amount of moss that was in the tree.

Mr. Zimmerman spoke about removing the moss and making the tree safe; stated that to try and remove all of the moss from the tree, was not be a good idea; spoke about lights; stated that to remove the moss from the tree would cost between \$3,000 to \$4,000.

DISCUSSION OF VETERAN'S MEMORIAL, continued

Ms. Rettstatt spoke about the veterans dinner at the country club; that the Army museum came out with tanks and a color guard from Madill Air Force Base; that family members and members of the club that served in any armed forces attended; stated that it was a very beautiful experience; that they could wrap with an event with the country club to raise enough money for Veteran's park; that it would be open to not only club members but for anyone in town who wanted to pay; that the funds raised would go toward the park.

Mr. Cozzie moved to recommend Hunters Park as a site for a Veteran's memorial that it would be put together with donations from fundraisers. Motion was seconded by Mr. Scott and approved unanimously.

Kathy Gaston spoke about Hunters Park; stated that Hunters Park was a centerpiece of Belleair other than Hallet Park; spoke about the trees and the plants; stated that there was no theme to the plantings; that she would like to see landscaping with mulch that would connect the areas with berms or meandering berms.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that the plants were in the location of the master landscape plan that Phil Graham designed; that the original plan was to have connecting sidewalks from all corners; that it was never placed in the park; that maybe additional sidewalks from the corners could tie into the memorial.

Ms. Rettstatt stated that she could work with Chip and devise a plan that would enhance Hunter Park; that it could be a part of the fund raiser; spoke about other events; that possibly one at Thompson Park at sunset; that it could be something to generate interest in the Town Parks.

DISCUSSION OF BAYVIEW/MANATEE PROJECT

Mr. Zimmerman spoke about the Bluff restoration project and reviewed the plans; spoke about the walkway and plantings; spoke about the replacement of trees; stated that the bluff would gain about 4 acres with the restoration; spoke about the placing of sod on both levels and down the slope; spoke about the last commission meeting; spoke about new irrigation system.

Town manager Micah Maxwell stated that they had a plan to save a couple of the nice older trees; stated that Chip Zimmerman, Lauren Westinburger and himself would be meeting to see if that would be feasible; spoke about the terracing of trees; stated that once the project was approved that staff would go forward with the bid process.

Discussion ensued regarding the landscaping of the bluff and landscaping in general.

Mr. Cozzie made a motion that the board support the project for the good of the park and ask that the landscape plan be brought back to the board when it was finalized. Motion was seconded by Ms. Gaston and approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion ensued regarding the website and the Park and Tree board link.

Mr. Maxwell stated that the link would be placed back on the Town website.

Ms. Gaston spoke about the website; stated that there was a "Question and Answer" section; that it was very interesting and urged the board to go and review the site.

Mr. Maxwell stated that the website has the "Citizens Tracking" and would start marketing it in the coming months.

COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORT

Commissioner Shelly stated that he had nothing else to add; thanked the board with helping with the Bluff project.

Discussion ensued regarding the completed plan for the landscaping of the Bluff.

Mr. Maxwell stated that the town attorney had been working with Commissioner Shelly on the single family landscape code changes; stated that those changes would be completed by next month; that there could be an update at that time regarding the Bluff project and landscaping.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 5:00 pm

AJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned in due form at approximately 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chairperson