



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD ADVISORY BOARD

ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, February 15, 2024 6 P.M.

Zephyrhills

City Hall

Council Chambers

5335 8th St, Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation board call to order

Chairman Dave Walters called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Roll Call

Amy Knoechelman called roll. Present were members Dave Walters, Norman Scheuerman, Lindsey Mohler, Gary Hatrick, Tracy Mahon, Nicole Hamilton. Kimberly Miller was absent from the meeting.

Staff Present

City Manager William Poe, Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc, CRA Director Gail Hamilton, Sandra Amerson Human Resources, Environmental Stormwater Coordinator Amy Knoechelman, Public Information Officer Kevin Weiss.

Presentation by Kimley Horn

James Pankonin, Kelsey Shy and Nick were present from Kimley Horn. James started out by showing a presentation. On 4/27/2023 there was a meeting that showed what they hoped to do with the park and got a lot of feedback in regards to the Veterans Memorial, the tennis courts and the WPA (Works Progress Administration) monuments. These were things people wanted to see stay at the park along with adding things for people to do including teenagers and art. There was also talk of how to keep the maintenance of the park up once it is completed.

James Pankonin showed how the new and old will work together. Gail Hamilton went over how they show the ideas the design can change things can be moved around.

Board Comments

Gary Hatrick mentioned where the bridge is it floods over the bridge on occasion. That is something that will be looked into to find a balance. Tracy Mahon mentioned the restrooms and how they were brought up before and we need to have plenty of restrooms. There are only two restrooms on the map but there will be more stalls in each one. Norman Scheuerman brought up that Alice Hall should be rebuilt at Zephyr Park not another park. He also brought up a concession area near the event area. Nicole Hamilton stated that she thinks there should be a play area near the event lawn and brought up a fishing area. Lindsey Mohler brought up play areas for different ages and an ADA area. A more family centered design.

Gail parks are what bring us all together. If the public wants a really nice park it may not happen today but it can be done. Only limited by our own imagination. Could be done in stages. Dave Walters we are really bringing out history at the Hercules Park. We need to do the same at Zephyr Park. We currently have \$1.6 million. Gail Hamilton stated we are looking at grants, donations etc.

Lindsey Mohler brought up maybe looking at not just tennis courts but also basketball courts and volleyball courts. William Poe brought up the land development code which states that we have to have 1 tennis court per 5,000 residents. So cutting back on tennis courts is not an option. However, we are doing an all parks Master Plan and those activities will be addressed.

Dave Walters what is the timing of the master plan? They hope to have it done by the end of the year.

Gail Hamilton stated that she put in the notes that there are strong feelings about keeping a community building at Zephyr Park.

Citizen Comments

Dean Johnson spoke about the parking and having it paved and the light over the racquetball court and a limb that is in front of the light that needs trimmed back. He also brought up the pickers that go out there on Sundays making an area for them and possibly concession for them and a covered area.

Barry Hersocovitch spoke about the tennis courts and how important they are to the community. The water levels goes up and down. How do we go about keeping the water from going up and down? Also, in regards to birds if you bring in fishing the birds could be hurt by fishing lines and eventually won't go to the park.

Sherry Greenhope spoke about a botanical garden type area and a water feature. Gail brought up the maintenance of such an area. Sherry later spoke up again about raising money by buying a brick to put down and then she spoke about preserving history while incorporating new things. Some of the names like Alice Hall could be the name of the boardwalk etc.

Rod Rivers spoke up about the tennis courts and about moving them as a high school tennis courts. There has to be 5 courts in one spot and we possibly need 6.

Erica Freeman spoke up about Alice Hall. Is there a way to connect Shepherds Park and Zephyr Park? She also mentioned the Master Plan for the parks as being a way to spread out what everyone is wanting.

Jose Roldan Jr. he brought up Alice Hall and keeping it there. He also mentioned lights in the bathrooms so you can see well. He took some pictures and shared them with Shane. Maybe as part of raising money for the park we could ask the public and put up a monument with their names on it.

Rosie Paulsen there are a lot of lights out at the moment she has spoken to Shane in regards to this. She mentioned a smell that comes up from the path. She walks at the park every morning and that is when you will see the most seniors. She feels we need to put Alice Hall in the plan otherwise it will just fall off. Where will people vote if it is taken out. Lindsey Mohler asked if she drives or walks there because there are not enough parking spaces and no sidewalks to get there. Gail Hamilton states we are working on the sidewalks.

Kim Barker loves the band shell and event lawn. She would like to see more thought go into that in regards to concessions or a food truck area. She likes a grand entrance vs Alice Hall being there. She thinks a building should be somewhere but maybe not there. Maybe instead of another play area put in an obstacle course for older kids. She also thinks we should keep what amenities we have now but add to it.

Steve Spina, City Councilman, spoke about the history tied into the park. We need to make sure we remember the history that is there and build on it.

Jenny Gilchrest she loves the park. There is nowhere for her kids to play basketball. She asked about a convertible basketball/tennis area. She wants to preserve the history. Will any of the lighting be solar powered? James stated we don't know that yet. She also brought up the water levels. They will be doing a hydrologic study to look into that.

Joyce Burgess lives across from the tennis courts and splash pad. She is worried about the safety of the splash pad. There are people who fly thru there. Something needs to be done to slow people down.

Cynthia Craig Zephyr Park is the crown jewel park. She thinks it is extremely important to keep Alice Hall there at Zephyr Park.

Recommendation to City Council for Staff and Kimley Horn to move forward with detailed plans.

1st Motion Gary Hatrick

2nd Norman Scheuerman

Motion passed unanimously

Dave Walters adjourned the meeting at 7:27 PM