

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING - COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD (CRA)

May 16, 2012

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of The City of Daytona Beach, Florida, held on Tuesday, May 16, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers, City Hall, 301 South Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida.

1. Roll Call.

Commissioner Pamela Woods	Present
Commissioner Kelly White	Present
Commissioner Robert Gilliland	Present
Commissioner Patrick Henry	Present
Commissioner Cassandra Reynolds	Present
Commissioner Edith Shelley	Present
Mayor Glenn Ritchey	Present

Also Present:

James V. Chisholm, City Manager  
Marie Hartman, City Attorney  
Letitia LaMagna, Assistant City Clerk

2. Commissioner Shelley led the invocation.
3. Commissioner Woods led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
4. Adopted/Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of The City of Daytona Beach, Florida, held Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers, City Hall, 301 South Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida.

It was moved by Commissioner Gilliland to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion passed 7-to-0 with the breakdown as follows:

Commissioner Woods	Yea
Commissioner White	Yea
Commissioner Gilliland	Yea
Commissioner Henry	Yea
Commissioner Reynolds	Yea
Commissioner Shelley	Yea
Mayor Ritchey	Yea

5. AGENDA APPROVAL

James V. Chisholm, City Manager read the Agenda changes:

No changes.

It was moved by Commissioner Gilliland to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Henry. The motion passed 7-to-0 with the breakdown as follows:

Commissioner Woods	Yea
Commissioner White	Yea
Commissioner Gilliland	Yea
Commissioner Henry	Yea
Commissioner Reynolds	Yea
Commissioner Shelley	Yea
Mayor Ritchey	Yea

6. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- 6A. Adopted/Resolution No. CRA 12-09 approving the establishment of an off-leash dog park at Manatee Island and the expenditure of redevelopment funds, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000, for the installation of fence and signage. A Dog Park Feasibility Assessment report supports the location and design of a dog park on Manatee Island. The Dog Park will help introduce residents and visitors to the other amenities Manatee Island has to offer. The Dog Park is an amenity that will enhance Downtown/Balough Road's sense of place and vitality consistent with the goals and policies of the Downtown /Ballough Road Redevelopment Plan. Assistant City Clerk LaMagna read the Resolution by title only. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF TAX INCREMENT FUNDS FROM THE DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AREA TRUST FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 FOR FENCING AND SIGNAGE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFF-LEASH DOG PARK ON MANATEE ISLAND; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Ritchey asked if there were any speakers to this item.

Letitia LaMagna, Assistant City Clerk stated there were two speakers and the first speaker was John Nicholson.

John Nicholson, 413 North Grandview Avenue, Daytona Beach stated he felt this was in the wrong location. This will take up the entire area that the Butterfly museum wanted in the past. He suggested two other areas instead of the one they were contemplating using for the dog park, and the reason he had suggested one of the other areas of the island was because if you put either a 5 ft. or 6 ft. fence in the middle of the island; you will be cutting the entire island itself in half. He understood there are a lot of dog lovers, but you cannot sacrifice an entire island for a couple of dogs.

Chris Vansema, 318 Chris Cove Terrace, Daytona Beach stated as much as he was for having a dog park in Daytona Beach, Manatee Island is not the right place for one. The area you are considering putting this dog park is going to be a little swampy, muddy pit in the middle of the island. He realized the City wanted to do something with the island but they are throwing an awful lot of money into putting a dog park into Manatee Island. No one is currently using this park and putting some dogs out there will give it some kind of use. Lots of other parks within the City have active dog communities engaged in them. This would be a big waste of the taxpayer money for the purpose of a dog park on Manatee Island. In the process the other active dog parks that are already engaged would suffer. He suggested if the Commission was determined to pass this resolution they should consider fencing the entire Island and making it a dog haven, if you don't fence the entire island and go with what is being requested it's going to fail.

Mayor Ritchey asked the Commission if they had any questions or comments.

Commissioner Woods asked staff if they could answer the question for her concerning the size of the parks mentioned Lenox and Tusawilla because she did not think they were comparable in size to Manatee Island.

James V. Chisholm, City Manager stated in the Commissioner's Agenda packet was a report with information from an expert hired to go out and look at Manatee Island as well as other areas she felt could be considered for the purpose of a dog park. In her expert opinion this area is suitable for a dog park, and there are no standards in the dog world that indicates any specifications that states a dog park has to be a certain size.

Commissioner Shelley made the statement that Lenox Park is not currently in a redevelopment area; so at this point what is being looked at with Manatee Island is another good point if that came forward, she asked if it was in the South Atlantic Redevelopment Area.

Reed Berger, Redevelopment Director stated yes and yes it goes down that far.

Commissioner Shelley thanked Mr. Berger and stated she thought it was just on the outside of that redevelopment area. In regards to Manatee Island she was really surprised there were not a group of people in attendance to speak to this item because there had been a large group of people working on this particular issue, so she was surprised they were not in attendance on tonight to speak to this issue. She asked for clarification of the \$20,000 and asked how much was for the fencing.

Mr. Berger stated \$11,000 of the \$20,000 was for fencing and some additional money about \$4,000 was for the sign and another \$5,000 was for the concrete to make it ADA accessible.

Commissioner Shelley asked if there were no monies for operations at all in that amount. The Halifax Humane Society and Mr. Myers talked about security being provided through a combination of City Police, Animal Control and the Volusia County Sheriff's Department. She asked if Daytona Beach currently has any Animal Control Officers.

Mr. Chisholm stated we have one that he knows of.

Commissioner Shelley stated she was reading their proposal, but she did not see anything that would indicate any type of security.

Mr. Berger stated just to clarify, that proposal was initiated in the beginning and nothing in that proposal is what's being talked about in this item for Manatee Island. The police send patrols into the park at mid-day, morning and all during the night to make it continual activity with security in the park but they are not there full time.

Mr. Chisholm stated there is security on a patrol type basis in Riverfront Park area all of the time.

Commissioner Shelley stated the City of Daytona Beach does not have a policy in place to address the spay and neuter law the Halifax Humane Society talks about in their documents concerning the Dog Park. She then asked Mr. Berger if the fence was removable.

Mr. Berger stated yes. He had gone out to the park during the Oyster Festival and adjusted the plans that are in the Commission Agenda packets to ensure there were no issues. Also he worked with the person responsible for putting on the Oyster Festival. He had been at that site many times and the middle perimeter does not get used however; they do use the perimeter around the outsides of the island.

Commissioner Shelley stated she was not against this; there were just certain things she was trying to understand. We are not doing the things the Humane Society suggested and we are not moving into operations and those sorts of things. Anyone can come in and out of the Dog Park, there are no requirements that dogs be spayed or neutered and she was just asking questions to make things clear for herself.

Mr. Chisholm stated the only requirement is the City ordinance requires you to have your dog spayed or neutered. It would be a violation of the City Code if someone is out there with a dog that is not licensed and in compliance.

Commissioner Shelley stated if we happened to have a police officer that happens to be patrolling when someone has a dog in the park can that someone be sited for those things not in compliance. This to her seem like a nice way to get people to register their dogs and also get them spayed and neutered to be in compliance.

Mr. Berger stated she made a good point, and what we could do is encourage people when they come to the park or remind them about the licenses and having their dogs spayed or neutered.

Commissioner Shelley stated something that was suggested to her by a person in the community who utilizes many dog parks, were to develop "swipe cards" for people wanting to use the dog park. This swipe card would tell if your dog is registered, spayed and or neutered and you will be allowed access into the dog park area. This particular citizen said this process had been used at other dog parks they had been to and it keeps certain elements of dogs out of the park it also gives a record of who's coming in and going out of the dog park. Again, she said this is just a suggestion or something to think about.

Mr. Chisholm stated that was a very good suggestion, but what we are trying to do right now was to determine if this is a workable facility that could be placed on Manatee Island.

Commissioner Shelley asked Mr. Chisholm if it was decided tonight that this is workable, will there be talks later concerning operations, swiping cards or other types of systems.

Mr. Chisholm stated certainly, we can try anything.

Mayor Ritchey stated one thing he felt was important not to consider was any type of partnering agreement with any entity. If we are going to do this it needs to be done by the City, in case we decide later on in the future we need to change it. We don't need any contractual obligations or partners that will have control over the destiny of the park. Volunteers and those sorts of things we would be interested in but personally he was not interested in any partnerships at this time.

Commissioner Shelley stated neither was she and said it was also brought to her attention by dog owners that they should have some sort of buy-in into monetarily support the park which is another reason the swipe cards were suggested. If you are visiting a restaurant or doing something in the downtown area we can have some sort of visitor card or something to that effect. We are always discussing user fees; this would be sort of a self-sustaining fee for the dog park. She was just looking to make sure the dogs have mandatory state licenses and they are spayed and neutered.

Commissioner Henry stated his only concern would be during Special Events and how this will affect them with the dog park sitting in the middle of the park. He went on record by stating he goes to dog parks all the time in Sanford and DeLand and he was not in favor in charging people to come to a dog park. He felt this would be trying to over regulate the dog park.

Commissioner Shelley stated the fees would come from registering of the dogs because they are supposed to be registered in the City.

Commissioner Henry stated his dogs are registered and have licenses with the City; in his opinion he still did not feel you should charge someone to visit a dog park.

Commissioner Gilliland stated he also thought it was a good idea, him being a former dog owner and still a dog lover so this is something he would like to see happen. Yes \$20,000 is a lot of money for an underutilized park, we just went through enhancing Tuscawilla Park and this is something we can do to enhance Manatee Island. You are talking about swipe cards, registrations and other fees and you are taking a \$20,000 project and turning it into a \$100,000 project. He suggested moving forward with what was before the Commission to get the park established and then do some monitoring to see if we will have issues with people bringing dogs into the park that are not spayed or neutered, dogs that do not play well with other dogs and monitor it to see if maybe we are bringing in some liabilities that we are not thinking about right now. He was fine with moving forward, he just wanted to make sure the City was not biting off more than it could chew at this point and time.

Commissioner Reynolds stated she was in favor of a dog park, but she would like to see doing it as a pilot project, tweaking where it needs tweaking and if it doesn't work out it can be abandoned.

Commissioner White commented she was going to steal Commissioner Reynolds word of "pilot" that seemed to be the consensus she was hearing from her colleagues, after all it was grass roots and it did come from the community. It also sounded like the community might eventually want more than one Dog Park; so she was in favor of monitoring it and looking at ways to improve it during the pilot stage.

It was moved by Commissioner Woods to adopt the Resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Shelley. The Resolution was adopted 7-to-0 with the breakdown as follows:

Commissioner Woods	Yea
Commissioner White	Yea
Commissioner Gilliland	Yea
Commissioner Henry	Yea
Commissioner Reynolds	Yea
Commissioner Shelley	Yea
Mayor Ritchey	Yea

7. CITIZENS

John Nicholson, 413 North Grandview Avenue, Daytona Beach asked what kind of a fence the City was going to put in and where the location would be. He noted that the boardwalk fence was peeling and has become worse and if the City could fix the up lights next to the trees. He mentioned the possibility of a children's park being built and would like to submit a plan at a later time and suggested they communicate with George Burden with the Daytona Beach Racing and Recreational Facilities District. He concluded his comments with another suggestion for additional lighting on three of the poles so that during non-nesting turtle season they can be pointed onto the beach at night.

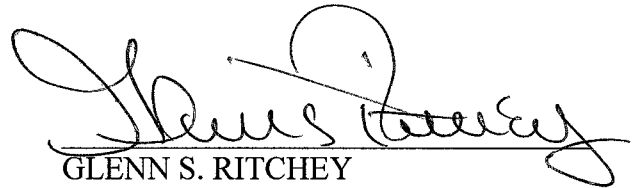
8. COMMENTS/INQUIRIES FROM THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY REPORT.

Mayor Ritchey stated it would behoove us to begin looking around into best practices for dog parks so they can hit the road running when they move forward.

05-16-12

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion or comments the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.



Handwritten signature of Glenn S. Ritchey in cursive script.

GLENN S. RITCHEY

Chair

ATTEST:



Handwritten signature of Jennifer L. Thomas in cursive script.

JENNIFER L. THOMAS

City Clerk

Adopted: June 6, 2012

**RECORD REQUIRED TO APPEAL:** In accordance with Florida Statute 286.0105 if you should decide to appeal any decision the Community Redevelopment Agency Board makes about any matter at this meeting, you will need a record of the proceedings. You are responsible for providing this record. You may hire a court reporter to make a verbatim transcript, or you may buy a tape of the meeting for \$2.00 at the City Clerk's office. Copies of tapes are only made upon request. The City is not responsible for any mechanical failure of the recording equipment.