

**CITY OF BAYPORT  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
DECEMBER 10, 2007  
5:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Pursuant to due call and notice, Mayor Nowaczek called the City Council workshop meeting of December 10, 2007 to order at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Jon Nowaczek, Councilmembers Connie Carlson (arrived 5:20 p.m.), Torry Kraftson, and Sharon Ridgway

Members Absent: Councilmember Dan Johnson

Others Present: Administrator Mike McGuire, Public Works Supervisor Mel Horak, Assistant City Administrator Sara Taylor, Consultants Bill Blackwenn and Larry Wacker of Sanders Wacker Bergly, Inc.

**Update on improvements at Lakeside Park:** Administrator McGuire provided an update on the beach house building project, noting the city was going through the punch list of items yet to be completed. Signage for the park was reviewed, and it was suggested that park hours also be reviewed. Indoor and outdoor seating options were reviewed and discussed. Council-member Ridgway suggested using an engraved rock-style sign, and Mr. Wacker indicated a cost comparison would be done.

**Discuss master plan for Barker's Alps Park and prioritize potential improvements:**

Consultants Wacker and Bleckwenn reviewed the existing conditions at Barkers Alps, including the layout, trails, play equipment, facilities, signage, road access, wetlands, and topography. It was noted that a re-vegetation plan would be needed for a couple of the slopes that are greater than 18%. The existing vegetation and management/preservation of the specific areas was reviewed. The importance of educating the public on the removal of undesirable trees was noted. The facilities program list generated in 2005 by Westwood Professional Services, Inc., was reviewed and talking points discussed, in order to gain insight into the direction the City Council wishes to pursue with park planning. Administrator McGuire stated there would most likely be a five-year and ten-year plan for the improvements.

The following comments were made:

- Improve the turn lane(s) exiting the park, not on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Install no parking signs along the north side of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to promote pedestrian safety
- Be cognizant of neighborhood, traffic, sliding hill, and sun orientation concerns when deciding whether to change the ball field orientation
- Consider use of pervious paving and rain gardens for parking lot storm water management
- Explore having two smaller parking areas, moving the entrance to the park, pull-in parking off of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Support the idea of having one first-class ball field, with an irrigation system and possibly lights
- Explore expanding the athletic field area, to include possible soccer usage
- An additional park shelter is a low priority, however bathroom facilities are important

- Focus on the park's natural areas, rather than adding additional recreation spaces
- Price out the cost of a Frisbee golf course and determine its priority on the project list when costs are available
- Explore a scaled down tot lot
- The addition of a tow rope to the sledding hill is a low priority
- Upgrade the south ball field
- Prioritize the installation of a connecting paved trail from the park to the Inspiration development. Concern was expressed with the steep grade of the trail and potential for injury to roller bladers, skate boarders, etc., if the trail is paved.
- Future ball field/park area in Inspiration is a low priority, at least until further development in that area
- Interpretive kiosks/signage of park history is a low priority, but could be an Eagle Scout project
- Recommend exploring installation of an observation tower platform
- Recommend investigating an off-leash dog park, possibly in the current leaf dumping area
- Recommend investigating the history of the dumping area and cleaning up the area of concrete rubble and debris
- Recommend involving the community in the removal of the invasive species, e.g. buckthorn

Staff and consultants will review tonight's comments and incorporate them into a draft master plan for review at a future meeting.

**Review park improvements to date and discuss supplemental funding:** Administrator McGuire reviewed a summary of park improvement revenue and expenses from the recreational capital equipment and park improvement funds. He noted that park dedication revenue is down substantially from the projected \$75,000.00 per year. The balance to date in the park improvement fund is \$81,296.07, with \$104,076.04 committed for payment, leaving a negative balance of \$-22,779.97. Priority projects for the Lakeside Park project (beach house furniture, beach improvements) are additional expenses to be funded. The city has not yet transferred \$131,000.00 from the tax stabilization fund to pay for the Lakeside Park improvements, as authorized by the City Council on February 12, 2007. Administrator McGuire noted the need for the tax stabilization funding is much less than anticipated in February, with an estimated \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 needed to complete the Lakeside Park improvements. Funding for Barker's Alps Park improvements would need to be transferred from another fund and authorized by the City Council. Discussion followed on the use of the tax stabilization fund and the restricted fund set up from the sale of the electric plant in the 1950s. Mayor Nowaczek recommended using only the yearly interest from the funds, thus setting a precedent in guiding future administrations on the use and conservation of the city's resources. Administrator McGuire noted that creating a park for Inspiration residents may be a higher priority than projected, because the development will have paid close to a million dollars into the city's park fund by the time Inspiration is built out.

**Discuss potential dates and topics for future workshops:** A recommendation for future workshop dates will be brought to the January 2008 City Council meeting. A workshop for the library will be scheduled sometime in January or February.

The workshop was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.