

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**NORTH PORT CHAMBER
4970 CITY HALL BOULEVARD
NORTH PORT, FLORIDA**

6:00 p.m.

**JOINT MEETING
WITH NORTH PORT CITY COMMISSION**

Nora Patterson, Vice Chair, District 4
Paul Mercier, District 1
Shannon Staub, District 3
Jon Thaxton, District 5

Rue S. Berryman, Chair
Barbara L. Gross, Vice Chair
Vanessa Carusone
Richard Lockhart
Fred Tower, III

Also present were:

James Ley, County Administrator
Stephen DeMarsh, County Attorney
Claudia Goodson, Deputy Clerk

Steven Crowell, Jr., City Manager
Robert Robinson, City Attorney
Helen Raimbeau, City Clerk
Patsy Adkins, Deputy City Clerk

PRESENTATION:

Information Technology General Manager Fred Dunayer by the City of North Port

1. REPORT ON PARKS AND RECREATION

A. Board Discussion

B. Public Comment

C. Board Action

Following comments on the collective efforts by the County and the City of North Port, Vice Chair Gross and Vice Chair Patterson commented on the County/City Statements of Principles relative to proposed revisions to the existing Interlocal Agreement regarding the maintenance/operations of parks and recreational facilities within the City of North Port.

Discussions were held with County Administrator James Ley and Community Services Parks and Recreation General Manager John McCarthy on the following topics/issues:

- impacts to the County personnel working at the George Mullen Recreation Center
- future ability to review/revise the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement
- maintenance responsibilities/levels of service (page 3 of Staff's report)
- Thomas Ranch proposed recreational facilities (page 4 of Staff's report)
- review of maintenance standards with other municipalities (7th paragraph, page 1 of Staff's report)
- capital expenditures/definition of capital improvements
- County planned recreational activities/events in the City of North Port/use of the George Mullen Recreation Center
- time specific provisions to address regular maintenance schedules
- provisions relative to new parks and/or expansion of existing recreational areas
- current terms of the Interlocal Agreement regarding the County's responsibility relative to maintenance expenditures under \$50,000.00
- City versus County responsibility to upgrade existing park facilities/equipment

1. REPORT ON PARKS AND RECREATION - Continued

- request to review the County athletic facilities use agreements with athletic leagues, without objection
- joint planning of athletic facility complexes (5th paragraph, page 2 of Staff's report)
- suggestion to consider the Interlocal Agreement at a future joint meeting
- joint efforts to obtain grant funding
- tree plantings/maintenance in recreational facilities
- operation/maintenance of the Little Salt Springs Park.

(6:43:06)

Discussions were held throughout the public testimony of the following individuals commenting on park/recreational issues:

Mr. Larry Thoennissen
Mr. Mark Beatty
Mr. Chip Stec
Ms. Buddy Hughes

Following comments, Commr. Thaxton moved to ratify the County's Statements of Principles and to direct County Staff to work with City Staff on the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement reflecting the Statements of Principles to be brought back for review by the County/City Commissions. The motion was seconded by Commr. Staub. Following comments, the motion carried by a 4-0 vote, with Chair Mills not present.

Commr. Lockhart moved to ratify the City's Statements of Principles and to direct City Staff to work with County Staff on the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement reflecting the Statements of Principles to be brought back for review by the City/County Commissions. The motion, seconded by Commr. Tower, carried by a 5-0 vote.

Upon inquiry, County Administrator Ley and North Port City Manager Steven Crowell, Jr. commented on the time frame for County/City Commission consideration of the proposed Interlocal Agreement in conjunction with the City/County budget process.

RECESS: 6:56 p.m. - 7:11 p.m.

2. UPDATE ON THE SALE OF ESCHEATED LOTS

- A. Board Discussion**
- B. Public Comment**
- C. Board Action**

Following comments by Chair Berryman, Public Works Policies and Project Manager Terry Gilbert gave a PowerPoint presentation on the process/results of the online auction for the sale of the escheated lots and reviewed and submitted a copy of a map indicating the locations of the remaining escheated lots and the lots requiring consultations due to Scrub-jays.

Following a presentation of a ceremonial check to Chair Berryman and Vice Chair Patterson reflecting the sales revenue from the escheated lot sales, Mr. Gilbert noted the Joint City/County Team recommendation for a live auction at the North Port City Hall for the final disposition of the remaining 73 lots.

2. UPDATE ON THE SALE OF ESCHEATED LOTS - Continued

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- current price of an average lot in the North Port area
- consideration to designate the remaining lots to address workforce housing/partnerships with not-for-profit agencies and the Community Land Trust (CLT)
- retention of 39 parcels as undeveloped lots for future public uses
- neighborhood versus community parks
- building of affordable homes by Habitat for Humanity
- number of lots (39) requiring consultations due to Scrub-jays
- consideration to designate 34 of the 73 remaining lots for workforce housing
- suggestion that the County undertake the task of Scrub-jay consultation/mitigation issues to address environmental concerns.

(7:29:53)

Discussions were held throughout the public testimony of the following individuals commenting on issues relative to the sale of the escheated lots:

Ms. Judith Wilcox
Mr. James Bonsky
Mr. David Chase
Mr. Alberto Belinfante
Ms. Buddy Hughes

(7:42:58)

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- designation of 34 lots for workforce housing/percentage designations
- request for Staff review of the buildability/mitigation possibilities of the lots requiring further consultation, without objection
- workforce versus affordable housing
- real estate market/sales in the North Port area
- suggestion that non-profit entities/organizations commit to place the land/lots in the CLT to preserve affordability in perpetuity
- suggestion to solicit competitive bids/proposals from non-profit entities/organizations
- process to obtain permits for lots requiring consultations due to Scrub-jays.

Commr. Staub moved to refer the issues regarding the disposition of the 73 remaining City of North Port escheated lots to County Staff with direction to work with City Staff to provide recommendations with 34 lots designated for affordable housing and with suggestions for the 39 lots that require consultation due to Scrub-jay issues and to bring back for County/City Commission consideration at the next joint meeting scheduled for the consideration of the Parks Interlocal Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commr. Thaxton. Following comments, the motion carried by a 4-0 vote, with Chair Mills not present.

Commr. Gross moved to refer the issues regarding the disposition of the 73 remaining City of North Port escheated lots to City Staff with direction to work with County Staff to provide recommendations with 34 lots designated for affordable housing and with suggestions for the 39 lots that require consultation due to Scrub-jay issues and to bring back for City/County Commission consideration at the next joint meeting scheduled for the consideration of the Parks Interlocal Agreement. The motion, seconded by Commr. Tower, carried by a 5-0 vote.

(7:58:43)

3. OTHER BUSINESS - Continued

A. FEDERAL AGENCIES

Commr. Lockhart commended the efforts of County Administrator James Ley and North Port City Manager Steven Crowell, Jr., on their efforts regarding the placement of a Veteran's Service Office position in the North Port City Hall.

B. PUBLIC WORKS

Commr. Tower commented on the blinking traffic light at the Home Depot intersection and a future inspection by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and requested the County's assistance in the matter.

C. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Commr. Staub circulated materials and noted a meeting scheduled on May 13, 2006, regarding the Neighborhood Grant Program.

D. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Commr. Thaxton commented on future annexation issues and suggested County/City coordination efforts relative to a future planning Interlocal Agreement.

E. BCC/MUNICIPALITIES

Individual comments followed on the items for consideration at the future joint meeting to be scheduled in July 2006, and continued joint efforts between the County and the City.

4. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - No one appeared at this time.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:07 p.m.