

# St. Andrew's Parish Parks and Playground Commission

November 16, 2007 Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Jeff Gladwell, John B. Johnston III, Mike Eykyn, Kevin Walsh, and Ron Koch.

Mr. Gladwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the Commission and staff were led by Mr. Gladwell in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Steve Matthews of Horizon Realty spoke to the Commission regarding a piece of property owned by the Village Shaftsbury Homeowner's Association that he thought the Commission might be interested in purchasing. The property is 2.9 acres, is zoned Recreational Development, and the community is asking \$270,000 for the property. Mr. Matthews thought that Greenbelt Funds could be used for the purchase of the property. Mr. Gladwell told Mr. Matthews that the Commission would discuss the proposal and would respond within 84 hours.

**Approval of the October 24, 2007 minutes:** Mr. Eykyn made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Johnston, motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the October Financial Reports and Summary Balance Sheet:** Mr. Johnston made a motion to approve the financial reports; motion was seconded by Mr. Eykyn. Motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report:** Mr. Walsh informed the Commission that John Thorner, the Executive Director for NRPA had resigned. He mentioned that there was a major turnover of NRPA staff in the past couple of years. He also reported that he was in the process of getting quotes for internet and phone service, by doing this it could save money and improve service. Mr. Johnston mentioned the agency winning it's second Excellence in Youth Sports Award. Mr. Gladwell wanted to make sure that the staff was congratulated by Commission.

**Deputy Director's Report:** Mr. Koch reported that he had nothing to add to his Commission report. Mr. Johnston asked what the progress had been made on National Accreditation. Mr. Koch stated that there were 42 sections that still needed to be completed or in progress.

**General Managers Report:** The General Manager was absent. Mr. Johnston had some concerns about the handicapped restroom located by the women's locker room. He said that the tile floor had gaps in it and that the fixtures looked old and needed to be taken care of. Mr. Walsh told the Commission that Kevin Levine, the Building Maintenance Director, was in the process of redoing the tile and cleaning the bathroom.

**Department Proposals:** The Executive Director proposed to the Commission a 2% increase on debits and a 4% increase on paid in full memberships at the fitness center. This increase would go into effect on December 1, 2007. The difference in percentages is to encourage more debit accounts than one time payments. Mr. Eykyn asked why the debits were more important than the annual memberships. Mr. Walsh answered that the debits help with cash flow. Mr. Walsh did say that when the consultants were here they recommended working towards more debits rather than paid in full memberships. Mr. Johnston made a motion to raise all of the fees by 3% seconded by Mike Eykyn. The motion failed with one yes vote (John Johnston) and two no votes (Jeff Gladwell and Mike Eykyn).

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A motion was made by Mike Eykyn to increase the membership fees by 2% on debits and by 4% on paid in full memberships as recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gladwell, the motion carried with Mr. Gladwell and Mr. Eykyn voting in favor, Mr. Johnston voted no.

**Department Reports:** Mr. Johnston complimented the department directors on their reports. Mr. Johnston did have a concern about the All-Star football games; the referrers where late, there was an admission charge and there were concerns that St. Andrew's was taking all of the blame for the tournament. Mr. Walsh did explain to Mr. Johnston that the City ran the tournament and that post season tournaments do charge an admission fee. Mr. Johnston was concerned that this is what we would be getting with the combining of the two programs. Patrick Jonas, Park Maintenance Director did comment that at the high school St. Andrew's only takes care of the clay part of the field, but if there is a problem with the grass, he gets the complaints. He stated that it will take time and communication between both parties.

## **Unfinished Business:**

**Annexations Update:** There were no annexations to report, but Mr. Walsh did receive a letter from the City in regards to the interest on the reimbursement for taxes that the City just paid St. Andrew's. The City offered 5% interest instead of the 8% proposed by our attorney. A motion was made John Johnston made a motion to counter the City's offer with 6% interest, the motion was seconded by Jeff Gladwell, motion carried unanimously.

**501 (C)-3 Non-Profit Status:** Mr. Walsh reported to the Commission that he discovered that the agency's attorney, Lindsey Cooper, had previous experience with completing the 501 (C) 3 forms and that he would be willing to help us do the same. Mr. Cooper also mentioned to Mr. Walsh that he had some ideas that would help with the agreement between St. Andrew's and the Nestor Group (Hunt Club). To form a 501 (C)-3 you would need a board. A motion was made to form a board with the Executive Director, Commission members and two members at large, Russ Nestor and his wife. The motion carried unanimously.

**Hall of Fame:** Mike Eykyn made a motion to induct Timmy Linker into the St. Andrew's Hall of Fame, seconded by Mr. Johnston, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnston made a motion to induct Robert Drose into the St. Andrew's Hall of Fame, seconded by Jeff Gladwell, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Johnston made a motion to induct Hugh Gorman into the St. Andrew's Hall of Fame, the motion died due to a lack of a second.

The two new inductees will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Christmas Party on December 15, 2007.

Mr. Eykyn volunteered to contact Butch Howard who is a close family friend and Darius Rucker's former coach. He was going to ask Butch Howard to invite Darius to the Christmas Party on December 15, 2007.

**St. Andrew's Park at Hunt Club:** Mr. Koch reported that he was still waiting for the survey to be completed.

**Soccer Club Agreement:** Mr. Walsh reported that the City will be running West Ashley soccer and he is setting up a meeting with Laurie Yarborough and the president of the soccer club.

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**Capital Improvements Plan:** Mr. Koch informed the Commission that we could secure a \$100,000 equipment loan from BB&T at 3.69%. The \$100,000 would be used to purchase items on the 2007-08 capital financing plan. Mr. Walsh asked to move the funding for the new Playground Road fencing from the 2006-07 financing plan to the 2007-08 financing plan along with two new vehicles, a mower, and new playground equipment. Items from the pavement management plan and gym entrance improvements would also be added to the 2006-07 plan. A motion was made by Mr. Eykyn, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to approve the changes to the 2006-07 and 2007-08 capital financing plans. Motion carried unanimously.

He also asked that the Commission set up a special fund with the money from the City annexation reimbursements that would be used for the trail plan. A motion was made by Mr. Johnston to use the annexation reimbursement for the Hunt Club planning and development, motion seconded by Mr. Eykyn.

Mr. Walsh informed the Commission that the fitness center was looking at about a \$50,000 loan for new fitness equipment. This list would be finalized after Mr. Walsh returned from the Athletic Business Conference.

**Greenbelt Funds:** Mr. Walsh explained to the Commission that the original request for the \$520,000 to purchase the land on Dogwood was not approved by the Greenbelt Advisory Committee. The committee did recommend \$365,000 for the purchase of the land, but did not include the value of the house. The next step in the process is the approval by the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission.

## **New Business:**

**Village Shaftsbury Property:** The Commission discussed the property that was brought to their attention by Steve Mathews. Mr. Johnston suggested that it would need to be a passive park and that there would be limited space for parking. Mr. Walsh said that it was not a high priority on our list of identified needs. A motion was made, that if the Home Owners Association would donate the property, that St. Andrew's would be inclined to accept. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Walsh was directed to write a letter to Mr. Mathews regarding the proposal by the Commission.

**Past Attorney:** Mr. Walsh reported that he had sent a letter to our former attorney Trent Kernodle about the final bill that he sent. Mr. Kernodle agreed that he had sent the bill in error. Mr. Gladwell did have a discussion with Mr. Cooper about the previous fees that St. Andrew's was charged by Mr. Kernodle, Mr. Cooper was not agreeable to write a letter. Mr. Gladwell suggested sending a letter asking for 100% of the money that St. Andrew's had paid him in legal fees.

**December Meeting:** A motion was made by John Johnston, seconded by Mike Eykyn to cancel the December Commission meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** Being no further business Mr. Gladwell adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.