ST. PETE BEACH COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009
6:30 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT:

Mayor Finnerty
Vice Mayor Halpern
Commissioner Leonard
Commissioner Parent
Commissioner Garnett

ALSO PRESENT:

City Manager Mike Bonfield
City Attorney Susan Churuti
City Clerk Theresa McMaster

1. Presentations

a. All Children's Fundraiser - James Ramos

Derrick Alverez and James Ramos, representing All Children's Hospital thanked everyone for the success of the event. They explained the primary purpose in the event.

b. Legislative update - Senator Jones and Representative Frishe

Representative Jim Frishe and Senator Dennis Jones gave an update on legislative issues.

Mayor Finnerty read a proclamation for Parents Day on July 26, 2009.

Agenda Meeting

Item 5a was continued to the next meeting and Action Items 6a and 7b were moved up on the agenda.

2. Audience Comments

Maria Urban, 6439 2nd Palm Point
Deborah Schechner, 710 Boca Ciega Isle Drive
Robert Urban, 6439 2nd Palm Point
Bill Pyle, 6600 Sunset Way
Will Jacoby, 8100 Gulf Boulevard

3. Consent

a. Approval Minutes of June 24, 2008 City Commission Meeting, June 23, 2009 City Commission Meeting, May 26, 2009 City Commission Meeting

06/24/2008CommMtg
6/23/2009CommMtg
05/26/2009CommMtg

Vice Mayor Halpern moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Garnett seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by individual roll call vote.

6. Action Items

a. Sirata Beach Resort Settlement Agreement – Conditional Use Case #20090002

Sirata Beach Resort Settlement Agenda Report
City Attorney Memo & Settlement Agreement
Special Magistrate Recommendation

Mr. Bonfield summarized the issue.

City Attorney Churuti reported on the mediation session and the laws that provide for mediation in these types of cases. The June 15, 2009 mediation was to avoid costs and the certainty of litigation. If not approved tonight then the mediator can call another meeting to discuss the issue.

Ms. Churuti and the Magistrate recommended approval of the settlement agreement.

Ms. Churuti explained the process should this agreement not be approved at this meeting.

Jim Dicks, representing the Sirata agreed with the City Attorney and the Magistrate that this agreement should be approved.

Considerable discussion was held by the Commission.

Audience Comments

Bill Pyle, 6600 Sunset Way spoke in opposition of the agreement.
Will Jacoby, 8100 Gulf Boulevard spoke in opposition of the agreement.
Carol Walker, 5396 Gulf Boulevard spoke in support of the agreement.

Commissioner Garnett moved to approve Sirata Beach Resort Settlement Agreement - Conditional Use Case #20090002. Commissioner Parent seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by individual roll call vote of (4-1) with Mayor Finnerty voting no.

7 b. Partnership with PSTA to replace the old City owned bus shelters.

Bus Shelter Replacement

Mr. Bonfield summarized the issue.

Kevin Hoyt from PSTA was present and answered questions from the Commission.

Steve Hallock, Public Services Director, provided photos of the three styles that the Commission wanted to be notified of the cost of each of those three designs.

Audience Comments

Deborah Schechner, 710 Boca Ciega Isle Drive
Bill Pyle, 6600 Sunset Way

After considerable discussion, the Commission agreed to discuss designs again at the July 28, 2009 Commission Meeting.

4. Resolutions

a. Resolution 2009-12, creating a policy that governs actions and deliberations during City Commission meetings in order to maintain decorum.

Resolution 2009-12 agenda report
Resolution 2009-12

Mr. Bonfield reviewed the document.

The Commission discussed the Resolution at length.

Audience Comments

Mr. Pyle, 6600 Sunset Way spoke in opposition of the Resolution.
Deborah Schechner, 710 Boca Ciega Isle Drive, spoke in opposition of the Resolution.

Vice Mayor Halpern moved to adopt Resolution 2009-12, creating a policy that governs actions and deliberations during City Commission meetings in order to maintain decorum. Commissioner Parent seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by individual roll call vote of (4-1) with Mayor Finnerty voting no.

b. Resolution 2009-13, Recognizing the "Building Citizenship in the Community: Back to the Basics" initiative of the Florida League of Cities, Inc., and pledging support for this statewide effort.

Resolution 2009-13 Agenda Report
Resolution 2009-13

Mr. Bonfield presented the item.

The Mayor spoke to the issue of a Junior Council. Mr. Bonfield noted that staff has been cut and it really depends on what level of sophistication the Commission is interested in for the Junior Council.

Commissioner Garnett stated that the New Civic Association expressed an interest in such a program.

Commissioner Garnett moved to approve Resolution 2009-13, Recognizing the "Building Citizenship in the Community: Back to the Basics" initiative of the Florida League of Cities, Inc., and pledging support for this statewide effort. Commissioner Leonard seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved by individual roll call vote.

6 b. FY2010 Budget Calendar - setting dates for budget workshops and budget hearings

FY2010 Budget Meeting Agenda Report
Budget Calendar

Discussion was held on the budget workshops and the budget hearings. The hearings were scheduled for September 3, and September 21, 2009 which will also be the regular meetings for the Commission in September. It was decided to hold budget workshops on August 6 and August 10, 2009 at 3:00pm.

7. Items for Discussion

a. Partnership with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to purchase 9901 Blind Pass Road in order to expand Egan Park.

Egan Park Agenda Report
Egan Park Addition Information Sheet
Trust for Public Land Memo

Mr. Bonfield presented the item.

Doug Hattaway, Representative for Trust for Public Land, addressed the Commission. He noted that the Trust for Public Land is a non-profit conservation advocate who has been protecting land since 1992.

Mr. Erickson, the property owner and tenant was also in attendance.

It was noted that the appraisal on the property was $1.3 million and the proposed purchase price was $875,000.

Mr. Bonfield discussed the disadvantages of the boat ramp and ball fields at Egan Park as currently configured. The boat ramp does not have easy access and the ball fields are sandwiched in between residential properties. He also noted that the current configuration is not good for the environment.

Mr. Hattaway answered questions from the Commission.

Concern was expressed by members of the Commission regarding the City's current financial situation and this type of purchase. Mr. Bonfield noted that this is a twenty to thirty year decision regarding this piece of property.

Commissioner Leonard expressed concern about the lease/purchase agreement. He stated that it is not common in the current market place. He preferred traditional financing.

Mr. Erickson addressed the Commission.

Mr. Bonfield stated that staff would explore the possibility of ways to minimize the money that the City would be required to put down immediately and opportunities to spread the cost over a longer period of time.

After much discussion, the consensus of the Commission was to bring this issue back at the next meeting for a decision by the Commission.

c. Board member travel policy - Mayor Finnerty

Mr. Bonfield noted that there was no policy regarding the use of City funds for Board Members to attend conferences, training and other expenses related to their training.

Mayor Finnerty expressed his desire to have an official policy on this issue. He said that the Commission should have authority over the expenditures and review and approve them on a case by case basis.

Discussion was held regarding the added value for the City when the members of the Commission or members of Boards and Committees attend training. The Commission directed staff to bring back a policy with a couple of different options.

5. Ordinances

a. Ordinance 2009 – 13, First Reading and Public Hearing amending Chapter 58 of the Code of Ordinances.

Ordinance 2009-13 Agenda Report
Ordinance 2009-13
Ordinance 2009-13 Fee Schedule

This item was continued to the next meeting.

8. City Manager, City Attorney and City Commission Reports

City Manager Bonfield's Report

City Attorney Churuti's Report

Commissioner Garnett's Report

<u>Commissioner Leonard's Report</u>

<u>Commissioner Parent's Report</u>

<u>Vice Mayor Halpern's Report</u>

<u>Mayor Finnerty's Report</u>

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Theresa B. McMaster, City Clerk Mike Finnerty, Mayor

Minutes approved on
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