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## Fall Forum

### Purpose

The Fall Forum was held on November 14, 2012 at the Town of Windermere Town Hall. The event began at 6:00 pm and concluded at 8:00 pm. The event was held during the evening in an attempt to accommodate citizens' work schedules.

The purpose of the Fall Forum was to gather program and design input from the residents. The event was held as a community-wide public workshop in which all Windermere residents and business owners were encouraged to attend. The full sign in sheet is located in **Appendix B** of this report.

### Event Outreach/ Awareness Efforts

The Team worked closely with Town staff in brainstorming the various ways to advertise and inform the public about the Fall Forum. The intent was to inform as many residents as possible and offer them an equal opportunity to participate. The following methods were used to inform the public:

- ✓ *Town Newsletter:* A description of the event and invitation was added to the Town's newsletter.
- ✓ *Flyer:* A flyer promoting the event was created and distributed to area businesses and event participants during the Town's annual Fall Festival. The flyer was also displayed at the Town Hall.
- ✓ *Town Calendar:* The event was placed on the calendar on the Town's website.

### Workshop Design

As residents entered the workshop they were asked to sign in with their current contact information. The residents were then handed a comment card that was to be collected by the Team at the conclusion of the workshop. The purpose of the comment card was to provide an additional opportunity for the participants to voice their comments in writing should they chose to. The received comment cards are located in **Appendix B** of this report.

The workshop began with a brief presentation. The presentation was given to provide an overview of the evening's activities and to provide instructions regarding the event's activities.

The workshop was designed around three "stations." The participants were given the freedom to browse the three stations at their leisure and were encouraged to participate at each station. Team members were available at each station to assist and answer any questions the participants had. Two of the three stations had specific activities associated with them. The stations included:



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- *Existing Conditions Station:* This station contained maps illustrating the existing conditions of the Town of Windermere. The intent of this station was to provide participants with a context of the Butler Bay Recreational Facility and the Facility's context within the Town's existing parks and open space system. Large Zoning, Future Land Use, and Aerial maps were mounted and available for observation.
  - *Red Dot/Green Dot Station:* This station featured the red dot/green dot exercise. Three boards with images were displayed. The images were chosen based on information received during the stakeholder interviews and at the board and committee meetings. In addition, the images were selected based on a preliminary review of the site's constraints. The images were grouped into three themes: 1) Destinations 2) Active Recreation and 3) Passive Recreation. The boards contained only images and were free of text. The participants were given twelve dots: six red and six green. Participants were asked to place a red dot next to the images they did not like and a green dot next to the images they did like. Placing one dot on top of another was prohibited.
  - *Stakeholder Station:* The stakeholder station featured two separate but related activities. Participants were asked to brainstorm on what they envisioned at the Butler Bay Recreational Facility. As participants shared their visions, Team members were taking notes on what was stated. Those notes were then transferred to post-its and put on display for all participants to read. Each idea was documented. The second activity was a design-based exercise that allowed participants to draw on a map that displayed the facility in context with the entire Windermere area. Here, participants were able to express the overall vision for the Town's parks and open spaces.

The red dot/green dot boards and the map from the stakeholder station are located in **Appendix B** of this report.

## **Results**

The Fall Forum had a total of 27 attendees. The participants were actively engaged with the Team and among each other which provided for a constructive and successful workshop. The results of the Red Dot/Green Dot Station and the Stakeholder Station are documented in the following sections.

The Red Dot/Green Dot Station contained three boards with images were displayed. The images were chosen based on information received during the stakeholder interviews and at the board and committee meetings. In addition, the images were selected based on a preliminary review of the site's constraints.



The images were grouped into three themes: 1) Destinations 2) Active Recreation and 3) Passive Recreation. Each dot placed on an image was scored equally. A red dot represents a “dislike” point and a green dot represents a point for “like.” The score represents the difference between the two. Positive score means there were more green dots and red dots and a negative score means there were more red dots and green dots. Copies of each board are provided in the **Appendix B**.

The Destination Board had a total of 72 dots placed on the various images. The results of the Destination Board are shown in **Table 2.1**. The highest scores were:

- Boardwalk along the Lakefront (7)
- Pergola as a Covered Walkway (4)
- Gazebo (3)
- Stone Bridge (3)

From the scoring shown in the **Table 2.1**, it is clear there is a strong dislike for ornate fountains and water gardens.

**Table 2.1: Destination Board Results**

Picture	Description	Like	Dislike	Score
	Boardwalk along Lakefront	7	0	7
	Pergola as Covered Walkway	6	2	4
	Gazebo	6	3	3
	Stone Bridge	3	0	3
	Architectural Bridge	1	0	1
	Rock Garden	2	3	-1
	Garden with Bench	1	3	-2
	Manicured Landscaping along Lakefront	0	4	-4
	Pergola Covering Seating Area	1	5	-4
	Pergola	1	6	-5
	Water Garden	0	5	-5
	Ornate Fountain	1	12	-12

**Table 2.2: Active Board Results**

Picture	Description	Likes	Dislikes	Score
	Kayak Launch	16	1	15
	Kayak	14	0	14
	Paddleboard	11	0	11
	Cinema	7	0	7
	Playground with Slide	8	6	2
	Hammock	2	1	1
	Garden	1	0	1
	Sandbox	1	1	0
	Scrabble	1	1	0
	Bocce Ball	3	4	-1
	Elliptical	1	3	-2
	Playground	4	7	-3
	Frisbee Golf	2	7	-5
	Community Garden	0	5	-5
	Dog Park	2	8	-6
	Chess	4	10	-6

Active Image Board had 167 dots placed on the various images.

The results of the Active Board are shown in **Table 2.2**. The highest scores were:

- Kayak Launch (15)
- Kayak (14)
- Paddleboard (11)

From the scoring shown in **Table 2.2**, the participants do not appear to be in favor of table tennis, putting greens, or monkey bars located on the site.

Table 2 Continued				
Picture	Description	Likes	Dislikes	Score
	Putting Green	4	11	-7
	Monkey Bars	0	8	-8
	Table Tennis	0	14	-14



**Table 2.3: Passive Board Results**

The Passive Image Board had 165 dots placed on the various images. The results of the Passive Board are shown in **Table 2.3**.

The highest scores were:

- Boardwalk (9)
- Walkway Through the Woods (9)
- Birdhouses (6)
- Dock with Gazebo (6)

From the scoring shown in the **Table 2.3**, the participants do not envision an area for book sharing. The only other negative scoring image was of a couple walking along a sidewalk. The remaining images all had a positive score.

Picture	Description	Likes	Dislikes	Score
	Boardwalk	9	0	9
	Walkway Through Woods	9	0	9
	Dock with Gazebo	7	0	7
	Birdhouses	6	0	6
	Bench	5	0	5
	Trees	5	0	5
	Natural Canal	3	0	3
	Child on Dock	3	0	3
	Kites	2	0	2
	Lakefront with Dock	1	0	1
	Couple Walking	0	3	-3
	Book Share	0	10	-10

The Stakeholder Station provided direct insight into the participant's vision of Butler Bay Recreational Facility. The results from this station showed similar themes as compared to the Red Dot/Green Dot Station. The results of the comments received at the Stakeholder Station are tabulated in **Table 2.4**.

The sticky-notes were counted and grouped into 35 distinct comments. The top four reoccurring comments consist of the following (occurrence is shown in parenthesis):

- Picnic w/ Pavilion/Gazebo (4)
- Natural Only (4)
- Playground (4)
- Kayaks and Canoes (3)

Multiple citizens participated in contributing to the overall context map of the Town's parks and open space facilities. Review of the map lends to an emphasis on kayaks/canoes and improving connectivity of Butler Bay Recreational Facility with the Town's downtown and other recreational areas. The context map is contained in the **Appendix B**.

**Table 2.4: Stakeholder Comments**

Comment	Occurrence
Picnic Area with Pavilion/Gazebo	4
Natural Only	4
Playground (Swings, Slides, Kid Play)	4
Kayaks and Canoes	3
Add Trees (Shade and Native)	2
Turtle Nesting Area	2
Restrooms	2
Environmental Education Learning	2
Rename the Park (Windermere)	2
Water Fountain	2
Signage (Promote Tennis)	2
Pitch and Putt and Mini Golf	2
Tennis Pro Shop	2
Basketball Court	2
Beach Volley Ball	2
Bike Access and Racks	2
Golf Cart Parking	1
Replace Dock	1
Replace Boardwalk	1
Paddleboard Barn	1
Rent out Boat Slips	1
Jump Rope	1
No Beach	1
More Parking	1
Recreate the Beach and Landscaping	1
"No" Pro Shop	1
Swim Area	1
Soccer Field	1
"No" Basketball Court	1
Tetherball	1
Multi-use Field	1
Frisbee Golf	1
Cell Phone Tower	1
Dog Park	1
Outdoor Lights	1
<b>Total Comments</b>	<b>58</b>



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## Summary of Fall Forum Results

The Fall Forum was successful in actively engaging the participants. The participants were able to choose what features they would like in the Butler Bay Recreation Center, as well as express additional items, which the team did not initially address.

The Fall Forum identified a specific and reoccurring message. After analyzing the results of each station, it can be determined that the majority of the participants at the Fall Forum are in support of low-impact recreational uses. Conversely, the majority of the participants were not in favor of an environment that appeared overly active or cost-intensive.

Maintaining the park in a predominately natural condition with the addition of amenities such as a gazebo, picnic tables, boardwalk, and kayak launch have garnered the most support.

## Survey

An online survey was developed in order to engage more community members in the planning process. The public outreach had focused on one-on-one meetings, Team attendance at already scheduled committee or group meetings and the Fall Forum. The online survey provides an additional method of outreach and is targeted to those people who have not been able to attend a previous meeting. Community members were alerted of the surveys presence by it being located in a prominent place of the website as well as an email notification. The survey was open for approximately a month in order to allow the community to complete the survey at their leisure.

The survey was developed with the University of Central Florida's Qualtrics (online survey service) program and was hosted on the Town of Windermere website. The survey used the images that were displayed on the Active, Passive and Destination Boards at the Fall Forum.

The respondents were asked to rank each picture from 1 to 5, 1 being the worst and 5 being the best. Using the same images that were used in the Fall Forum provides for consistency in the information distributed to the community as well as consistency in the responses. The Team will be able to evaluate the responses, even though the method for gathering responses is different. The survey began with the question, are you a Town of Windermere resident? This information will be useful in future evaluation of the data.



**Table 2.5: Active Survey Results**

Picture	Description	Mean	Number of Responses
	Kayak	4	14
	Paddleboard	4.07	14
	Cinema	2.86	14
	Playground with Slide	3.29	14
	Garden	2.57	14
	Sandbox	3.86	14
	Scrabble	3	13
	Bocce Ball	2.43	14
	Elliptical	3.43	14
	Playground	3.21	14
	Frisbee Golf	2.36	14
	Community Garden	3.13	15
	Dog Park	2.36	14
	Chess	2.36	14

The Active Survey section had an average of 14 response ratings for each of the images. The results of the Active Section are shown in **Table 2.5**.

The highest means were:

- Paddleboard (4.07)
- Kayak (4.00)
- Sandbox (3.86)
- Elliptical (3.43)
- Monkey Bars (3.43)

From the means shown in the **Table 2.5**, the respondents desire to see a paddleboard, kayak, sandbox, elliptical, and monkey bars features included in future Butler Bay Recreation plans. Participants did not desire to have high cost amenities, like table tennis or putting green, added to the Butler Bay Recreation area.

**Table 2 Continued**

Picture	Description	1	2
	Putting Green	2	14
	Monkey Bars	3.43	14
	Table Tennis	1.86	14

**Table 2.6: Passive Survey Results**

Picture	Description	Mean	Number of Responses
	Boardwalk	3.85	13
	Walkway Through Woods	3.92	13
	Dock with Gazebo	3.57	14
	Trees	4.08	13
	Natural Canal	3.85	13
	Child on Dock	3.93	14
	Couple Walking	3.64	14

The Passive Survey section had an average of 13 response ratings for each of the images. The results of the Passive Section are shown in **Table 2.6**.

The highest means were:

- Trees (4.08)
- Child on Dock (3.93)
- Walkway Through Woods(3.92)
- Boardwalk (3.85)
- Natural Canal (3.85)

From the means shown in the **Table 2.6**, the respondents do not desire to have a dock with a gazebo. The second lowest scoring (mean) image was of a couple walking along a sidewalk.

The Destination Survey section had an average of 14 response ratings for each of the images. The results of the Passive Section are shown in **Table 2.7**.

The highest means were:

- Architectural Bridge (4.08)
- Stone Bridge (3.93)
- Rock Garden (3.92)
- Garden with Bench (3.77)
- Pergola as Covered Walkway (3.57)

From the means shown in the **Table 2.7**, the respondents would like to see a visually appealing bridge, rock garden, and pergola covered walkway. The respondents strongly disliked the ornate fountain and manicured landscaping along lakefront. A majority of respondents want Butler Bay to maintain its ecofriendly landscaping.

**Table 2.7: Destination Survey Results**

Picture	Description	Mean	Number of Responses
	Pergola as Covered Walkway	3.57	14
	Gazebo	3.21	14
	Stone Bridge	3.93	14
	Architectural Bridge	4.08	13
	Rock Garden	3.92	13
	Garden with Bench	3.77	13
	Manicured Landscaping along Lakefront	2.57	14
	Pergola Covering Seating Area	3	14
	Pergola	3.43	14
	Water Garden	3.14	14
	Ornate Fountain	2.85	13



28 surveys were started and 18 were completed during the one month timeframe it was placed on the Town of Windermere website. 18 out of 21 respondents indicated that they were residents of the Town of Windermere, which equates to only 14 percent of respondents were not residents. The survey took 5 minutes to complete on average for each participant. The complete results and statistics for the Butler Bay Recreational Facility Survey are in **Appendix B**.

**Tables 2.5-2.7** display the results with the images used to determine participant likeability of potential features. The features shown in the passive board section obtained the highest rankings with 5 (strongly like) rating for all images included. Many of the other high-ranking images in the both the Passive and Destination board sections can also be considered passive images. **Table 2.8** is a compiled list of additional comments provided by survey participants.

The Text Responses (Shown in **Table 2.8**) are the opinions of survey participants. The question asks, "Do you have any additional comments?" These suggestions will be taken into consideration for the scenario (low/medium/high impact) plans. Bathrooms, low maintenance, minimum cost, renovated pavilion, sports/activity features, and water access will be included in each plan.

**Table 2.8: Open Forum Results**

Text Response
Bathrooms at pavilion
My opinions were based on we already have enough parks geared for children. We also need LOW MAINTENANCE items. I think an outdoor theatre would be super and good for all ages. I think the amount of money to be spent, Any type other than a passive park should have restrooms. This park had restrooms until the building was demolished and an asset was wasted. The town does not have the funds to provide non passive parks as the
Any thing that requires alot of maintenance should be carefully considered as far as who will take care of keeping it maintained. The town has a history of grandiose projects that are nice when installed and a group or committee
play field
Would like to see different kind of pavilion built on remaining slab. One with bathrooms, outdoor grilling and sink
Tennis, Basketball, volley ball, playground, shade, water access via beach and dock could all be added.
Canoe ramp and water sports

### Summary of Survey Results

The Survey was successful in actively engaging the citizens to participate in the process. Survey respondents were able to choose what features they would like in the Butler Bay Recreation Center, as well as express additional open comments about the area.

The Survey results show a reoccurring theme, similar to the one seen during the fall forum. After analyzing the results of each station, it can be determined that the majority of survey respondents are in support of low-impact recreational uses. The consensus from the survey results show a majority of the participants are not in favor of an environment that appeared overly active or cost-intensive.

