

## TOWN OF WINDERMERE

### Town Council Workshop Minutes (Virtual Meeting)

August 24, 2021

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Present were Mayor Jim O'Brien, Council Members Andy Williams, Chris Sapp, Bill Martini, Mandy David, and Tony Davit. Town Manager Robert Smith, Deputy Chief Jennifer Treadwell, Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moore, and Town Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter were also present.

Mayor O'Brien explained that this was a public workshop, therefore no motions or votes will be made.

Mayor O'Brien called the workshop to order at 6:03pm.

#### 1. OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE

#### 2. SPECIAL PRESENTATION/PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS:

##### a. Lake Street Park & Lake Down Park Discussion

Mayor O'Brien introduced this item. He then turned the floor over to Manager Smith. Manager Smith gave a presentation regarding Lake Street Park, Lake Down Park, their locations, current issues, possible changes, and enforcement. After the presentation was completed Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to the public. First to speak was Ms. Denise Tormey of 326 E 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She spoke on safety concerns, leaving the roof, trash/debris, lack of respect, and questionable activities. Ms. Tormey stated that she would like to pay back the grant and make the park private. Ms. Joan Foglia of 215 Butler Street stated that she feels the same as Ms. Tormey. She also commented on safety concerns, and in favor of keeping the park for Town residents. Mr. Paul Eastwood of 323 E 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue also agreed with Ms. Tormey's comments. He then commented on the issues near his home which abuts the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue pier. Mr. Eastwood stated that; people are in the area day and night, jet skis are an issue, there are parking concerns and safety concerns. Member Martini commented on a discussion he had with Mrs. Eastwood regarding the parking issues. He stated that people park there and get n boats and leave for the day. Ms. Bonnie Kellogg of 416 E 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue stated she is in favor of cameras at the park. She then commented on safety concerns. Mrs. Kellogg questioned if a light could be installed with an automatic shut-off timer. She then commented on the possibility of fining, instead of trespass warning, individuals, return the park to the Town, and the possibility of placing a post in the water designating a swim area. Mrs. Kellogg then requested steps/walkway to the park. She then thanked the Police Department for their assistance. Manager Smith stated that the cameras will have infrared sensors which will monitored. He then stated that fines can be instituted. Manager Smith commented that a sign post could not be put in place unless permitted. Mrs. Kellogg asked if a sign could be place on the beach area. Manager Smith stated yes. Mr. Richard Irwin of 501 Lake Street introduced himself. He then commented on the changes that he has seen. Mr. Irwin stated he would like to leave the roof, maybe change the material to deter the roof jumpers. He then commented on the camera, increased boat, and highwater issues. Mrs. Amy Dubois of 336 E 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue stated she "echoes" all the previous comments. She also stated that the park needs to be for residents. Mrs. Foglia questioned the protocol for paying back the funds to FRDAP. Mayor O'Brien commented on the process that would need to take place. He then explained the financial impacts. Member Martini thanked all for their input for items to be put in place for control. He then commented on the conditions that exist that do not allow the residents to enjoy their properties. Member Martini stated that he would be in favor of returning the FRDAP monies. Member Davit questioned the involvement of FWC and Orange County for enforcement. Manager Smith stated very little due to limited staff and surrounding areas, Bird Island. Member Davit stated he is in favor of adding police presence exclusively. Member Sapp commented on not having control with jet skis coming up on the water. He then stated he agrees with Member Davit and the enforcement approach, as well as the cameras. Member Sapp commented on possible fencing, Park Pass fees – higher for non-residents, and parking limitations. Member David questioned the precedence that could be set with privatizing the park. Member Davit questioned if current parking violators are fined or towed. Mayor O'Brien stated fined. Member Davit suggested making the fine tougher, or tow the vehicle for parking in the no parking zone compared to a fine. Some discussion followed. Member Davit then questioned what needed to be done to reassess the fines? Mayor O'Brien stated that staff would review and bring back at a later time. He then

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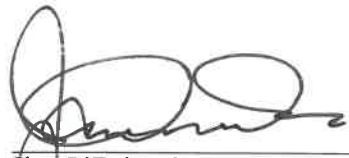
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explained the Ordinance process that would need to take place as well. Member Davit suggested revisiting all fines that can be levied for the parks and all other areas. Member Williams stated that he is in favor of a pilot program and heavy enforcement. He then stated that he is on board with reviewing a full plan of repaying the grant. Member Martini stated that FWC cannot get their boat under the bridge to patrol Lake Down. He then commented on the stricter enforcement. Some discussion followed. Mayor O'Brien summarized the discussion as; engage with FWC, involve Orange County Board of County Commissioners, parking enforcement, commercial enforcement, cameras, add a light, modify the dock, parking restrictions, implement possible passes for residents, and limit capacity. Member Davit stated that he would like the Town Manager to review the budget and financial impacts of getting police enforcement at the park sooner than later. Discussion followed.

**3. ADJOURN:**

There being no further comments, Mayor O'Brien adjourned the workshop at 7:36pm.

  
Dorothy Burkhalter, MMC, FCRM  
Town Clerk

  
Jim O'Brien, Mayor

00:59:57 Scott Hartog: That's 4th St, not 3rd St.

01:20:59 Joan Foglia: I have tried to go down there to swim several times and it's always crowded with people and jet skis. I feel like we can never use the park.

01:30:58 denisetormey: The weekends are the worst but it's pretty constant.

01:33:52 Cindy Hunter: Town of Windermere car decals? Possible?

01:34:29 Tom Stroup: In my opinion, paying back the grant money will be the most effective solution. Most other issues can be addressed after this park is privatized.

01:36:20 denisetormey: I agree with paying back the grant and making the area private.

01:36:32 Scott Hartog: How does paying it back affect the town budget? Is that a large amount for the town? Ultimately that will be paid by the residents, what would that look like?

01:40:12 Robert Smith: Town would use reserves to pay off

01:47:35 denisetormey: Suggestions

01:49:27 Joan Foglia: What do they do at the park at Windermere Downs?

01:51:25 Robert Smith: I believe that is an HOA

02:09:12 Robert Smith: We are working on all costs

02:09:25 Robert Smith: Fencing, Signage and key fobs

02:10:26 Robert Smith: Staff is looking a holistic approach to parking fines or towing

02:10:45 Robert Smith: Also process for anyone contesting fines

02:11:48 Scott Hartog: Can we hear more about the possibility of selling parking passes? It seems like our convenient public parking provides easy access to the beach and to the boats that pick people up? It would still need to be enforced, of course

02:21:13 DC: In the meantime please email to me the locations, dates, and times you are seeing these activities. The PD welcomes your input. Videos and photos are great!

02:21:41 DC: [jttreadwell@town.windermere.fl.us](mailto:jttreadwell@town.windermere.fl.us)

02:24:22 Paul & Lisa Eastwood: 4th Ave is over FULL to accommodate both 4th Ave & 5th Ave Parks

02:25:19 Robert Smith: Staff can look at hour limit on parking at Central ex: 2 hour

02:26:15 Robert Smith: Staff will reach out to OCEPD tomorrow

02:27:42 Paul & Lisa Eastwood: The No Parking Signs on 4th Ave look great, but without stern enforcement the the Signs are simply a suggestion. Teens & 21 year olds do not adhere to No Parking signs.

02:28:45 Lesha's iPad: Thank you

02:29:21 Amy DuBois: Thank you Council members!

02:29:28 Scott Hartog: Thanks for this meeting!