

**TOWN OF WINDERMERE**

**Lake Street Parks Public Input Workshop**

**July 7, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Present were Council Members Andy Williams, Bill Martini, Mandy David, Tony Davit, and Molly Rose. Town Manager Robert Smith, Town Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter, Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moore, and Sgt. Jayson Bonk were also present. Mayor Jim O'Brien was not present.

Manager Smith began the workshop at 6:00pm

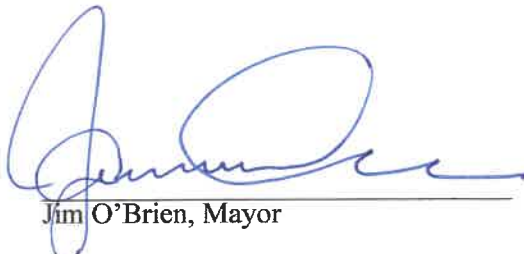
**1. DISCUSSION:**

Manager Smith stated that the purpose of this public information workshop was to ensure that Town staff fully understands all of the issues related to the Lake Street parks, which local residents have witnessed, and to engage Town staff and residents in an open dialog on how to correct these issues. A second public workshop discussing the same information will be held virtually on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. He then gave a PowerPoint presentation which included complaints, current activities taking place at the park, the Town's proactive measures including patrol, cameras, fencing, passage of stricter ordinances, signage, a previous swim area, enforcement, the banning smoking and vaping, buying back the park, FRDAP grants, residents-only parks, the Consent Final Judgement, change of Comprehensive Plan, and a fencing and gating system. Manager Smith then requested comments from the public. The following spoke in favor of taking back the park due to current illegal activities, lack of respect, behavior of patrons, littering, cussing, vandalizing, etc. Mr. Mike Swatkowski of 203 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Ms. Kara (last name and address not stated), Mr. and Mrs. Nykamp of 205 E 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ms. Denise Tormey of 326 E 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Mr. and Mrs. Dubois of 336 E 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Ms. Penny Ford of 3314 Just A Mere Court all spoke. Mr. and Mrs. Rick Mitchell of 104 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue introduced himself. He then commented on the past Consent Final Judgement and stated that he will volunteer his time to solve issues. Comments were made regarding designated swim areas, golf carts, parking, and maintenance of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue street-end. Mr. Bob McKinley of 536 Magnolia Street introduced himself. He then stated that the water quality needed to be established, the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lake Down Orange County boat ramp needed to be closed and used for emergency services only, and that access to it should be limited, and the possibility of annexing the ramp to make it private. Manager Smith reviewed the chat box comments (attached). Member Martini commented on the parking at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Magnolia Street. Further discussion followed. Manager Smith reviewed the comments as: formulate a plan prior to the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting for paying back the grant, the possibility of a resident-only park, work with FWC, OSCO and Orange County regarding the swim area, the No Wake Zone and the Motorized Water Craft Exclusion Zone, the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Orange County boat ramp, and parking. Mr. McKinley suggested having "Golf Cart Only" parking at the end of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and a "no parking" zone in the other areas. Discussion followed. Manager Smith shared dates for upcoming meetings/workshops. He then thanked all for their participation.

**2. ADJOURN:**

Manager Smith adjourned the workshop at 7:12pm

  
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Dorothy Burkhalter, MMC, FCRM  
Town Clerk

  
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Jim O'Brien, Mayor

01:03:44 Mike: mike  
01:06:41 Kara Barker Orbus: Kara  
01:08:28 Jayson Bonk: 407-656-3636 or 407-876-3757 press 1  
01:12:30 Joe Brooks: Microphone might not be working---I'll try again  
01:13:35 PFord: I believe everyone in this workshop agrees that the town  
needs to regain control of the Lake Street park.  
01:13:49 PFord: Let's discuss the solutions  
01:16:09 PFord: Yes!!!  
01:16:24 Em: Yes! Please  
01:16:48 denisetormey: Please move forward on buying back the grant  
01:17:37 Mike Tormey: Yes residents only park.  
01:17:59 Kara Barker Orbus: Exciting times!  
01:19:19 Joe Brooks: Mr. Smith---thanks for a well organized  
presentation. I agree with the detailed description of behavior at the park as  
provided by Mike, Kara, Denise and others. It's encouraging to hear that more  
enforcement action by OCSO might be coming but I strongly feel that resident only  
status is the only solution and support repayment of the FRDAP funds.  
01:19:21 PFord: Agree with Amy - would probably take approximately 2 months  
of monitoring and "policing" - to make the non-residents go away  
01:21:04 Robert Smith: We have had 131 Calls  
01:22:36 Mike Tormey: The language, disrespect and complete disregard for  
others at the park is unbelievable!  
01:25:15 Kara Barker Orbus: I overheard someone say they drove 30  
minutes to get here from Kissimmee. Also did you see the 10x10 tent someone brought  
with a grill?! Insane. It's out of control.  
01:27:23 PFord: We CAN control park of the water - if we reinstate the "swim  
area" - that creates a natural barrier from the beach area.  
01:27:52 Em: Can we add a no wake zone around it?  
01:28:54 PFord: Yes - we have the signage - however - not enough enforcement  
- Chief?  
01:28:58 Kara Barker Orbus: Windermere Downs, they put a rope with  
floats so boats don't come into their swim area...  
01:29:15 Carol Ann Willard: We are here and in total favor of taking the  
park back. Thank you.  
01:29:46 PFord: can we discuss 4th street access please?  
01:31:58 denisetormey: When we buy back the grant will it give the police  
more authority to enforce the laws posted on the signage??  
01:32:08 Martha Chamberlain: I've sadly witnessed the decline of the Lake  
St. park and am in favor of taking the park back!  
01:34:52 denisetormey: Golf carts only sounds good  
01:34:53 Em: Love the golf carts only idea  
01:34:55 Nora Brophy: Can we make parking for resident's only as well?  
01:35:08 PFord: 4th Street has always been resident parking access to Lake  
Street park for those of us that don't live within a block or 2. There are only a  
maximum to 4 - 7 spots.  
01:35:46 PFord: Let us post our town resident park passes and post at the  
entrance to the street - resident park pass only.  
01:38:13 joanfoglita: Bonnie, they laugh at me all the time too and refuse  
to pick up their trash or behave with any respect.  
01:38:46 PFord: Fernwood is posted - no parking without pass - however -

this past weekend - there were multiple violators - but no enforcement visible.

01:39:38 PFord: Robert - how much does Parks N Recs currently have in reserve?

01:40:18 Em: Sounds good thank you

01:40:47 PFord: I think the attendants of this workshop would be happy to create and participate in a "special group" to take back our Windermere Parks as volunteers.

01:41:15 PFord: Okay - then how much does the town have in reserves?

01:42:15 Mike: can we put all other projects on hold until we resolve this park problem

01:44:20 PFord: Good point Robert - let's show a positive enforcement representation on this/these issues!!

01:46:24 PFord: Disagree - some of us don't have working golf carts - I believe it was actually 4 spaces at the end and maybe 2 angled between the trees - without obstruction. Get the darn signs down!

01:47:15 Mike: ?

01:49:25 Kara Barker Orbus: Thank you!

01:49:30 Mike: thank you

01:49:38 Jeff Anderson: Thank you !

01:50:15 PFord: Thank you Robert!

01:50:27 Leslie Hartog: Nice job! Thank you

01:50:28 denisetormey: Thank you