

TOWN OF WINDERMERE

Town Council Lake Street Parks Virtual Workshop Minutes

March 28, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Present were Mayor Jim O'Brien, Council Members Tom Stroup, Andy Williams, Mandy David, Tony Davit, and Molly Rose. Also present was Town Manager Robert Smith, Police Chief Dave Ogden, Town Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter, and Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moore.

1. WORKSHOP CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor O'Brien called the workshop to order at 6:02pm. He then led everyone with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Other items for consideration

i. Lake Street Parks Presentation

Mayor O'Brien reviewed the decorum for this workshop. He then turned the floor over to Public Works Director Elliott-Moore who gave the presentation for Manager Smith. Director Elliott-Moore reviewed discussion with DEP that included not being able to return grant funds, restricting access, charging fees, hours/days restrictions, and require an acknowledgement/hold harmless agreement. She then reviewed options of; gating and fencing the area, charging of non-residents, swim area designation, acknowledgement to terminate access, set capacity at park, and possible removal of the roof from the dock. Mayor O'Brien turned the floor over to the Town Council for questions/comments. Comments were made regarding hiring options for Park Rangers/Security, size of the park area, roof concerns, jumping off the roof, noise, illegal activities, overcrowding, rude behaviors, disrespectful, enforcement, and use of cameras and trespassing. Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to the public. Ms. April Bonfanti of 414 E 5th Avenue stated that the roof needed to be removed or changed to metal. She then questioned the timeline for the park to re-open. Mayor O'Brien stated that the opening is to be determined as FEMA needed to do an inspection first due to the damages from the hurricane and reimbursements for repairs. Ms. Lisa Eastwood of 323 E 4th Avenue requested clarification regarding the use of the trail which she believes is for walking not swimming/fishing as the sign states. She commented on loud music/pot smells and the possibility of condensing all the rule signage. Mr. Bill Martini of 627 Ridgewood Drive commented on the twenty-five-year commitment requirement for the FRDAP grant. He stated that the commitment would expire in five years, in which the Town would then be able to control the park. Mr. Martini commented on the significant amount for calls of service to the park in the past. Ms. Bonnie Kellogg of 416 E 5th Avenue questioned if the FEMA clearance is needed prior to any minor repairs/landscaping. Director Elliott-Moore stated that FEMA needs to see the area first handed. Discussion followed regarding mitigation possibilities at the park, "Park Closed" signage, park enhancements, repair timelines, updates, and the roof – remove/leave and/or change of material. Mayor O'Brien closed public comments. He then requested the practicality of enforcement from Chief Ogden. Chief Ogden stated that caution is needed with enforcement. Discussion followed regarding enforcement in the past and currently. Member Davit questioned if quotes have been received for fencing and/or gates? Director Elliott Moore stated yes, approximately \$30,000.00. Discussion followed regarding swim areas, managing expectations, agreeing with the layered options, procedures (Orange County Parks), upcoming challenges, Security Guard costs, pass codes, gross numbers, crowds, sounds, boats, concern with roof material, and keep legal in the discussions. Mayor O'Brien recapped the discussion as; Council requests fence pricing/plan, determination of the high-water mark, possible swim area designation, explore fees for non-residential passes, capacity numbers, day and time restrictions for non-residents, roof – keep/material, potential costs for Security Guard, legal review of all, and mitigation/repair park. Discussion ensued. Ms. Brandi Haines commented on restriction for "residents only" on Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays, pass access and restricting those numbers, and metal roofing pricing with protective edges. Mayor O'Brien thanked everyone for their comments and input.

3. MAYOR AND COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

None

TOWN OF WINDERMERE

Town Council Lake Street Parks
Virtual Workshop Minutes

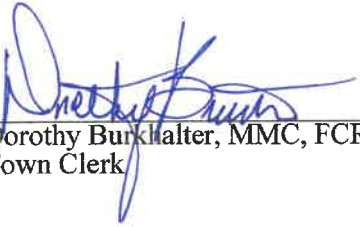
March 28, 2023

4. STAFF REPORTS

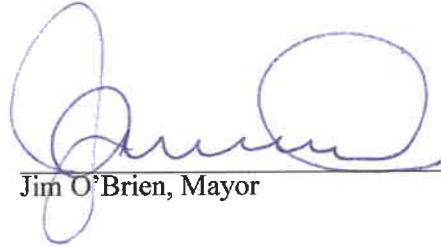
None

5. ADJOURN

Mayor O'Brien adjourned the workshop at 7:17pm



Dorothy Burkhalter, MMC, FCRM
Town Clerk



Jim O'Brien, Mayor