

TOWN OF WINDERMERE

Lake Street Park Solution Presentation Public Workshop

July 12, 2023

PRESENT:

Town Manager Robert Smith, Town Council Member Tom Stroup, Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moore, Deputy Chief Jayson Bonk, Town Attorney Heather Ramos, and Town Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter.

1. THE WORKSHOP CALLED TO ORDER

Manager Smith called the workshop to order at 6:00pm

2. PRESENTATION – LAKE STREET PARKS SOLUTIONS PRESENTATIONS

Manager Smith commented on past workshops regarding issues at the Lake Street Parks. He commented on DEP discussions, items that the Town Council would like reviewed, and action items such as fencing/gate codes.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Manager Smith opened the meeting with public comments. A resident from 414 E 5th Avenue agreed with fencing the park and removing the dock roof. Mr. Frank Walters of 535 Ridgewood Drive commented on concerns with jet skis, purchasing key codes, and enforcement. Manager Smith commented on enforcement, the number of non-residents allowed, cost, key codes, and dates and times for park use. Mr. Walters questioned buoys. Manager Smith commented on past buoys the Town had placed which had to have removed. Mr. Paul Eastwood of 323 E 4th Avenue also agreed with fencing the park. He also commented on jet ski issues. Mr. Scott Ross of 305 Magnolia Street questioned why the police weren't more involved with enforcement. Manager Smith commented that positive interactions are needed, not negative, unless something unlawful is occurring. Discussion ensued regarding enforcement. Mr. Scott Hartog questioned the location of the fencing. Director Elliott-Moore explained the location of the fencing. Mr. Hartog questioned what enforcement could be done regarding noise. Manager Smith explained that it was hard to enforce. Discussion followed regarding noise and enforcement. Ms. Kara Barker of 525 Lake Street introduced herself. She agreed with fencing the park. Ms. Barker questioned the timeframe for repairing the dock. Manager Smith explained that the Town is working with FEMA and that it will take time. Ms. Barker commented that a few confrontations with police may help detour some actions. Resident Jeff (?) also agreed with fencing the park. He also questioned if a capacity limit will be placed at the park. Manager Smith commented on the negative enforcement of a capacity limit. Mr. and Mrs. Rick (Tracy) Mitchell stated that the park needed to be utilized by the residents. Mr. Mitchell commented on the consent final agreement and amending it to "residents only." Attorney Ramos stated that the federal funds have requirements to them. Mr. Rick Irwin of 501 Lake Street stated that he is in favor of the fence. He then questioned the location of the fence. Manager Smith explained that the fence would be placed on the Town's right of way. Ms. Amy DuBois of 336 E 5th Avenue introduced herself. She then commented on the number of people at the park and noise. She then questioned if the park could have been privatized if there had not been a grant. Manager Smith stated yes. Discussion followed regarding returning federal funds and making the park private. Mr. Hartog requested clarification regarding using the water but not the dock. Deputy Chief Bonk stated that he will clarify the requirements with his staff. Ms. Jennifer Roper questioned if an age restriction could be utilized when selling the passcodes. Manager Smith commented that clarification will be needed from the State. Ms. Roper questioned if there could be verbiage to the effect of "minors must be accompanied by an adult." Discussion followed regarding jet skis, age requirements, and parent responsibilities/enforcement. Mr. Frank Krens complimented the fence at Fernwood Park. He then questioned if the gate codes would be different from others. Manager Smith stated no; one code will grant access to both gates. Discussion followed regarding fencing and the right of way. Manager Smith then reviewed comments from the chat box (attached). Mr. Hartog questioned the length of the fencing

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from beginning to end. Manager Smith stated that he would work with Director Elliott-Moore regarding the fence length and access points. Mr. Eastwood requested that the roof be removed from the dock for safety reasons. Manager Smith stated he would talk with the Town Council regarding the roof. Mr. and Mrs. Nykamp spoke in favor of the fence and the key code. Mrs. Nykamp questioned the cost of the code for non-residents. Manager Smith stated that he will work with the State on this issue. Mr. Michell commented on "public lands." Some discussion followed.

4. ADJOURN:

The Public session adjourned at 7:27pm.



Dorothy Burkhalter, Town Clerk



Jim O'Brien, Mayor

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00:28:40 Amy's iPhone 7+😊 (2): Was the entire dock built with FRDAP funds or just the addition with the roof? I thought it was the addition.

00:29:55 Amy's iPhone 7+😊 (2): Everyone is not enjoying the parks. Mostly non residents.

00:38:53 joanfoggia: What will the repercussions be for jumping off of the roof?

00:41:40 VIDEOGRAPHER Jennifer Roper: since there is no lifeguard, could we require anyone under 18 to be accompanied by an adult?

00:42:49 BE: There Sheriff has a jet ski patrol also that goes on all butler chain lakes along with boats.

00:59:41 joanfoggia: Good question Jennifer. What is the town's liability for minors swimming or getting injured at the park.

01:01:41 Leslie's iPhone 12 Pro😊: We were on our paddle boards in the water, and Windermere police told us we couldn't be there

01:02:37 Irwin: Does it have to be publicly posted that non residents can obtain a code for a fee?

01:36:22 joanfoggia: Thanks!

01:45:32 joanfoggia: I think at some point it became public knowledge that it was public. Many of us were so blessed that we had it to ourselves for our families and children for so long!

01:45:56 Amy's iPhone 7+😊 (2): I knew it was public but the article in the west Orange times and on next door opened the floodgates.