



city council minutes

MINUTES June 14, 2017 * 9:00 a.m. City Council Workshop Session

The Belle Isle City Council met in a City Council Workshop Session on June 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the City Hall Chambers located at 1600 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, FL 32809.

Present:

Mayor Pisano
Vice Mayor Readey
Commissioner Carugno
Commissioner Weinsier
Commissioner Lance
Commissioner Mosse
Commissioner Nielsen

Absent:

Commissioner Gold

Also present: Attorney Tom Callan, City Manager Bob Francis, Chief Houston, Deputy Chief Travis Grimm and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno. Meeting audio is available on the City's website at www.cityofbelleislefl.org and at City Hall.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pisano called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Comm Nielsen led the pledge to the flag.

1. OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND BOAT RAMP DISCUSSION

City Manager Bob Francis spoke to Council regarding the public parks inventory and function currently defined in the City's 1990 Comprehensive Plan. Since the last update in 2010, the City has not updated the Evaluation and Appraisal Report to include Peninsular Park and the Wallace and Matchett property. He further noted, for this discussion, he did not add the private parks managed and owned by the Home Owners Associations.

Mr. Francis addressed the Perkins Boat Ramp and stated that the City is required, by prior litigation, to have standardization of signage. In addition, he spoke of the consideration between using the NAD27 and NAVD88 to determine the lake elevation before there is required closing by the City per Resolution 03-07. He noted that he would continue to use the NAD27 until he receives further direction from Council. He reported that he would be installing a gauge by the Perkins Boat ramp measuring the current lake elevation as defined by Resolution.

Mr. Francis further provided a sample sign for the Perkins and Venetian Boat ramp. After discussion, Council agreed to the following changes,

Perkins Boat Ramp

- Parked vehicles should have a maximum boat and trailer length. Discussion ensued and the maximum length is to be determined after measuring the parking location.
- Add the word "NO" to all prohibited items
- Amoeba warning should be prominent on the sign
- Violations subject to fines of \$150 per occurrence
- Anchoring or mooring within 100 feet of ramp
- Boat launching takes priority over fishing off the ramp

Venetian Boat Ramp

Mr. Francis said both signs will be standardized and those items not germane to the Venetian Boat Ramp will be removed. Mr. Francis spoke of the concerns at the Venetian boat ramp made by some of the residents. After discussion, Council agreed to the following sign changes for the Venetian boat ramp,

- Residents will be issued a City decal for parking and use – all others will be subject to fine or tow.
- Specific ramp hours should be determined
- No picnicking or loitering
- Discussion ensued on the City providing restroom facilities. Council agreed to address at a later date.
- Consider adding curbing to the Venetian park area to limit parking

Attorney Callan said the outward appearances of both docks are different. He recommended the City to revisit the fencing surrounding the Venetian Boat dock to limit access and usage. He further recommended having Sunday hours limited to the public. Attorney Callan said before the ramps can be dedicated for residents only, the City will need to update the Comp Plan to designate the area as part of the boat ramp and not the city street to protect the Lake. Discussion ensued and Council consensus was to have the City Attorney research the possibility of designating the Perkins and Venetian boat ramp for residents only before any changes were to be made.

Wallace Property

Mr. Francis opened discussion on the Wallace and Matchett open space. Currently the property is designated R2 and asked if Council would like to consider a zoning change to open space. Discussion ensued.

Comm Carugno requested that the City install a fence around the entire property to eliminate any safety concerns until a decision can be made on the re-zoning. Council consensus was to move forward with the fence and initiate the rezoning process.

Attorney Callan disclosed that his wife represented the Meloons on the Wallace property going towards the lake. He does not know if there is an inclination to turn the area into a park or a boat ramp. If there isn't he said the City can benefit from vacating the property to the surrounding neighbors. Mr. Francis said in the meeting he attended with the residents Walt Meloon stated that he intended to purchase the property from the City in the 1970's with the intent to allow the City to lease with conditions. Discussion ensued on various options, public restrooms and easement access for the police department and first responders.

After discussion, Council consensus was to have Attorney Callan and the City Manager meet with the neighbors and have a formal conversation on development of the easement on Wallace Road. Attorney Callan recommended that the discussion include the private driveway, vacating the property on Wallace Road east of the private road going east on Matchett towards the lake and an agreement to have the property a public park with a surrounding fence. Mayor Pisano stated that she is not in agreement with vacating the property.

Mr. Francis stated until the City designates the Wallace property as open space the area would be fenced off except for City sponsored events. Attorney Callan said it is not required by Florida Law that the City have a specific formula to have a number of parks per resident in the Comp Plan. The Comp Plan should be updated to have general principles governed by Resolution. Discussion ensued on the Comp Plan requirements for open space designation, current use of the football field and the ongoing drainage issues.

Council concluded and was in agreement to erecting a surrounding fence, opening discussions on vacating the Wallace property easement and rezoning the open space.

Mayor Pisano opened for public comments.

A few residents in attendance shared their concerns with the installation of a surrounding fence, signage and the cut through traffic at the Wallace property. They further shared their views on the use of the boat docks at Perkins and Venetian and inquired if the City would be able to charge a fee for the use or trespassing. Discussion ensued.

Karl Shuck shared his concerns with the discussion on the open space at the Wallace property. He referred to a copy of the email he sent to Council, Mayor and staff. He said the property, since its purchase, has no proper signage, electrical or water connections. In his opinion the property in its current condition is not safe and needs to be addressed as soon as possible. He further noted that the ordinances should be reviewed and revised as necessary.

There being no further comment, Mayor Pisano closed public comment.

Comm Readey provided a sample fountain statue for consideration at the next meeting for the Nela roundabout. He excused himself from the meeting to attend a prior scheduled appointment.

Parks

Mr. Francis addressed and provided a sample sign for the parks with lake access. He noted that park signs will be adjusted accordingly if they do not have water access. After discussion, Council agreed to the following sign changes for the parks with lake access,

- Add the word "NO" to all prohibited items
- Pet clean up stations should be provided in all parks where pets are allowed
- Swim at your own risk – swimmers must be 18 years or older or with an adult supervision. Report any dangerous wildlife to the City for assistance.
- No camping at any time
- Remove "solicitation" and replace with no commercial vending, advertising or posting
- No Littering (strictly enforced)

Discussion ensued on safety concerns regarding swimming and non-swimming areas in City parks, boat ramps and road access areas to the lake. Attorney Callan said the City has sovereign immunity and must carry insurance for all parks and boat dock areas. After discussion, Council consensus was to allow swimming, with the appropriate signage, in all parks with water access. Mr. Francis asked if there was a need to form a parks advisory board. Council agreed that it would be beneficial however; the appointments should be made at-large and should be considered after the Comp Plan has been updated.

Comm Lance reported that his District 4 Tree Board member has resigned and would like to appoint Ruthie Harrell for his district at the next City Council meeting.

Attorney Callan gave an update on the open lawsuit and stated that the City will have to pay for all the costs per the statute. He is currently working with the developer and the court on scheduling a special magistrate. He will be filing a request today and will provide an update at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Pisano called for a motion to adjourn, unanimously approved at 12:00p.m.

Yolanda Quiceno
CMC-City Clerk