

MEETING NOTICE
SPECIAL JOINT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Leisure Services Advisory Board/Quality of Life Advisory Board

Senior Center Ballroom
351 Andrews Street, Ormond Beach, FL
Wednesday, May 18, 2011 ~ 7:00PM

Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Leisure Services Director, Robert Carolin at 7:00PM who then turned the meeting over to Beth Lemke, Zev Cohen & Associates.

In Attendance – Members

Pam Connor
Scott Edwards
Justin Gates
Tim Moore
Andy Romano
Doug Thomas
Lori Tolland
Doug Wigley

Marianne DiFiore
Dr. Daniel Drake
William Masters
Becky Montgomery
Dr. Philip Shapiro
Betty Smith

In Attendance – City Staff

Robert Carolin, Leisure Services Director
Sylvia Frost, Recording Secretary
Paul MacDonald, Landscape Architect
John Noble, Deputy City Engineer

Not in Attendance – Members

Paul Flint, Excused
Mike Mitchener, Excused
John Scotti, Excused
Harry Wendelstedt, Excused

Debbie Berner, Excused
Janet Dannehower, Excused
Troy Railsback, Excused
Dr. Gerald Woodard, Excused

Meeting Summaries – Community Meetings Attached is the summary entitled, “Community Meetings #1 & #2 – Imagine” which was used as the PowerPoint presentation by the Zev Cohen consultant team at this joint meeting.

Meeting Summary – May 18, 2011 Joint Advisory Board Meeting The meeting summary below and attached of the Joint Advisory Board meeting was provided by Beth Lemke and will serve as part of the minutes from tonight's presentation.

"The Consultant team (Dwight, Beth, Paul) conducted a PowerPoint presentation on the park. Comments and questions were taken from board members after the presentation. The following comments were received:

- Is car parking allowed on A1A? Response: It is a state roadway and something that would have to be explored with them. Bus parking/loading was also suggested in the community meetings.
- A playground is imperative. Playgrounds offer maximum entertainment for little investment.
- You stated that the information received in the questionnaire is not statistically valid. Use caution in how the information is used.
- There should be a reference or statistics on parking numbers from other beachfront parks that include the amount of usage of the park that can be used to size the parking for this park.
- Pay special attention to the design along A1A – beautification
- Heard something about 200 spaces x 2.5 persons per vehicle = 500 beach goers. Fear that this may overload the beach is not valid because there are a lot of people who will walk on the beach (vs. sit in front of the park). Consider this in parking numbers.
- Purpose of the park is parking. We can have a lot of parking and still have it look nice.
- Don't forget young parents who cannot attend meetings. Not represented at meetings.
- Provide a splash park for kids to rinse off and play in. Make it simple – less elaborate than at South Ormond.
- Beach parking may be eliminated in the future. We need non-commercialized parking.
- Need balance – park and parking
- No traffic zone in front of park is preferred.
- Need to study how much off-beach parking is being provided.
- Should the size of vehicles be limited? Response: No over-sized spaces were anticipated.
- Park was sold to voters as beachfront parking.
- As sections of the beach close to driving, parking will become the issue.

- Parking is important, but needs to be aesthetic.
- Security should be considered. Park hours – will it be open at night?
Response: We don't know yet.

The following questions were asked by the audience:

- What are the site restrictions? Seawall? Where is the coastal construction control line? Response: Shown on the concepts. We are currently doing survey. Will this go through the City's site plan review committee? Response: We anticipate following normal procedures for the review and permitting. What is the budget for site improvements? The entire report of dollars spent throughout the project should be transparent. Response: Bond was \$5.0 million and County contribution is \$3.5 million for a total \$8.5 million. The site cost \$5.5 million and with closing costs leaves just under \$3.0 million for site development.
- The attached statement was read by a citizen."

Zev Cohen consultants will present the summary of their "Imagine" portion of the project to the City Commission at the June 1st City Commission meeting to be held at noon in the City Commission chambers.

Following that meeting the consultants will present their "Choose" portion of the project at a Community Meeting on July 12, 2011, followed by another Joint Leisure Services Advisory Board/Quality of Life Advisory Board meeting on July 14, 2011 for the "Choose" presentation.

Having reached the end of the agenda and with no further comments from the audience or board members, the meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Sylvia Frost, Recording Secretary

Ormond Beach's Andy Romano Beachfront Park

In the fall of 2010 voters approved a referendum that enabled the City to acquire property for a beachfront park at 839 S. Atlantic Avenue. The 4-acre property has 600' of beach frontage.

In the spring of 2011, the City selected a local engineering firm, Zev Cohen & Associates, Inc. (ZCA), to design the park.

The first three steps of the design process are about engaging the community in the design of the park so that when the park is constructed it will reflect the desires of the community. The community will **Discover, Imagine, & Choose** with the design team as a conceptual plan for the park is developed. Four (4) major community meetings will occur during the spring and summer of 2011. For additional information, see the Community Engagement Plan in the Project Information Notebook and posted on the City's Website.

Mission Statement

"To create a public beachfront park with beach access and ample off-beach parking to maximize access and enjoyment to all that will provide ocean views and restoration of natural dunes. The park will become a special place in the City, leaving a lasting impression, and will further define Ormond Beach as an exceptional place to live, work and play."

How do I get involved?

Come to the Community Meetings – the 1st two meetings are scheduled for May 10th and May 11th.

Get information from the City's website at www.ormondbeach.org

Sign up for e-mail updates on the City's website.

Review information in the Project Information Notebook. Notebooks are placed for review at the following locations:

- Ormond Beach Public Library – reference desk - 30 S. Beach Street, Ormond Beach
- City Manager's Office – City Hall – 22 S. Beach Street, Ormond Beach

Contact Information

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Ormond Beach's Andy Romano Beachfront Park Community Engagement Schedule

Task	Discover				Imagine				Choose				Create			
	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12			
Sign Unveiling & Official Naming Ceremony (4/5/11)																
City Commission Meeting #1 Sign-off - CEP & Mission (4/20/11)																
Major Community Meeting #1 <i>Imagine</i> (5/10/11)																
Major Community Meeting #2 <i>Imagine</i> (5/11/11)																
Joint LSAB & QLB Meeting #1 <i>Imagine</i> (5/18/11)																
Deadline for Written Comments <i>Imagine</i> (5/18/11)																
City Commission Meeting #2 Summary of <i>Imagine</i> (6/1/11 @ NOON)																
Major Community Meeting #3 Choose Concepts (7/12/11)																
Joint LSAB & QLB Meeting #2 Choose (7/14/11)																
Deadline for Written Comments Choose (7/19/11)																
City Commission Meeting #3 Sign-off - Choose Concepts (8/3/11)																
City Commission Meeting #4 Sign-off - Choose Preferred Concept (9/6/11)																
Major Community Meeting #4 Present Preferred Concept (9/15/11)																
City Commission Monthly Updates <i>Create</i> (10/11 - 4/12)																
Website & Project Notebook Updates <i>Imagine through Create</i> (4/11 - 4/12)																

LEGEND

	Meetings
	Commission Sign-off
	Information Updates
	Input Deadline

LSAB = Leisure Services Advisory Board
QLB = Quality of Life Advisory Board

05/10/2011 & 5/11/2011

6:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Community Meetings #1 & #2

Imagine

Casements & Sr. Center

Meeting called by: City of Ormond Beach **Type of meeting:** Major Community Meeting
Attendees: Dwight DuRant, Paul Momberger, Brett Kuzoian, Randy Hudak & Beth Lemke (ZCA Team), Heidi Carhide (DJ Design), Joyce Shanahan and numerous City Staff Members

Meeting Summary

The Consultant team (Dwight, Beth, Paul & Heidi) conducted a PowerPoint presentation on the park.

Comments and questions were taken from the audience after the presentation. Approximately 60 citizens attended the meetings.

The following comments were received on May 10, 2011:

- Lives close to the park. Plenty of parking at Harvard and Milsap most of the time. Not necessary to dominate with parking. Need more park than parking.
- Restaurant owner – will beachgoers park in my lot?
- Disabled park user. More parking – no landscaping. Buildings off to side.
- How to determine parking? Holding capacity of how many people on beach at one time.
- Need safe place to store surf boards

The following comments were received on May 11, 2011:

- Have we coordinated with County regarding lessons learned?
- Separate DEP lighting permit from storm water permit
- Go Green
- Dunes conflict with beach driving. No driving on beach.
- Provide parking for motorcycles/scooters, bicycles
- Provide natural signage and historical monuments

After the comment and response period, the Consultant team moved to 4 "stations" to obtain input from the Community.

Three of the stations consisted of 2 sets of concept plans for the park that the City had received during the Consultant selection process. Participants were given 12 green dots to indicate things they liked on the concepts and 12 red dots to indicate things they didn't like. A scribe was located at each of these stations to note any verbal explanation provided.

The fourth station was manned by Heidi Carhide of DJ Design, the project architect and consisted of the architectural styles board. Comments were received on architectural preferences.

A table was also available for people to sit at and complete the questionnaires.

A summary of specific input received at the stations (as categorized by the Consultant team) is attached.

Each meeting lasted approximately 2 hours.

Verbal Comments from *Imagine* Community Meetings

May 10, 2011 & May 11, 2011

Maintenance

- Maintenance, stainless steel hardware (2)
- Minimize maintenance (2)
- Impact on beach due to increased visitors, etc.
- Concerned about landscape maintenance
- Reduced landscape maintenance
- Proper materials
- No structures/pavilions that don't last
- Design with respect to mother nature – wind, salt, erosion
- Build to last
- Cost-conscious in long-run

Ocean Views

- Railing system to allow views
- Ocean views are important - too many shrubs blocking views
- Views! Priority 1
- Provide visual access to Ocean from vehicle when parked (3)
- Dune plants ok, but need to see beach
- Handicapped friendly vistas
- Concern that landscaping cuts off vistas to the ocean
- Open the views to the ocean – push to the sides
- Visibility from A1A to the beach
- Ocean views from A1A (2)
- Views (2)

Circulation/Access – Safety, Pedestrian, Vehicular, A1A & Beach

- Crosswalks needed
- A1A medians for pedestrian safety
- Need 3-4 accesses to A1A to eliminate bottlenecks
- Drive aisles as pavement and spaces as shell
- Will Milsap be open?
- Need a traffic light
- A1A median landscaping creates visibility issues
- Add more beach access-ways
- Milsap approach going through park is not a good idea
- Maximize pedestrian beach access
- Open Milsap approach
- Provide safe access across A1A
- More than normal accessibility for disabled
- Safe crossing A1A – flashing signal for pedestrian use
- Maximize access points to A1A (vehicular)

Verbal Comments from *Imagine* Community Meetings

May 10, 2011 & May 11, 2011

- Provide multiple (4) access points to park
- More access points to the beach
- Wide promenade without vehicle access across
- More medians along A1A
- More steps/access
- Improve Milsap approach
- Traffic calming devices
- Pedestrian cut-through in middle – split the parking
- Convert Milsap ramp to pedestrian corridor with drop-off area
- Too many amenities may draw too much congestion from users on the beach
- No cars on the beach in front of the park
- No traffic zone – how would it work
- Incorporate Milsap approach but as driveway to the park/pedestrian way to the Ocean
- Pedestrian access across A1A
- Safe crossing of A1A
- No-drive zone in front of park
- Traffic at beach – contradicts dune restoration – no beach driving
- Bicycle access
- Connection to Milsap important

Dunes

- Mimic a natural dune west of seawall
- Educational natural dune from A1A to beach
- Primary and secondary dunes
- Natural dune section- interpretive areas with primary and secondary dunes
- Dune restoration (3)
- Re-establish dunes
- Bring dune restoration into park
- Dune/beach compatible restoration

Parking

- 200 spaces is too dense for the O.B. look (quiet part of beach)
- 200 spaces contradicts Ormond Beach personality
- More pedestrian experience/less vehicles
- Too much parking is shown
- 100 spaces better than 200
- Bus parking on A1A
- Parking – is 200 too much? Parking is available at Milsap and Harvard (2)
- Provide as much parking as possible – limit landscaping, benches, etc.
- Too many parking spaces (2)
- Provide short-term parking for just viewing the beach

Verbal Comments from *Imagine* Community Meetings

May 10, 2011 & May 11, 2011

- Prohibit high school parking during class times (2)
- Too much parking (2)
- Half the parking
- Less parking (5)
- Need to design for typical day – not special days. Need more function/activities – not 200 cars
- Scooter zone
- Reduce parking
- 50/50 – ½ of the space for parking/ ½ of the space for a park
- Motorcycle/scooter parking (smaller spaces – allows for better utilization)
- No parking near dunes
- 200 spaces – way too many (should be at least 100)
- Car parking along A1A
- Incorporate motorcycle and bicycle parking
- Motorcycle parking
- More entertainment/less parking

(21 say less parking/1 say more parking)

Program – activities, amenities

- Winding trail for instruction
- No concessions in park – vending maybe ok
- Public gathering spaces
- No skateboarding
- Provide drop-off (2)
- Picnic benches
- More benches
- Lots of trees
- Buffer along A1A
- Shaded picnic tables
- No volleyball
- Small splash pad instead of water playground
- No concession – will compete with restaurants across street
- Picnic area mixed with vegetation is nice
- Provide numerous restrooms
- Will it be open past sundown? If not, lighting not needed.
- Reduce cost of this park so additional beach parks more feasible
- Surfboard locks
- Changing tables in restrooms
- Operating hours
- Security signs – patrol
- Large pavilions for gathering
- Ample bike racks

Verbal Comments from *Imagine* Community Meetings

May 10, 2011 & May 11, 2011

- Add concession area
- Surfboard storage
- No water park
- Provide a “Dune park” on a portion of the site – 1 acre
- Bar-B-Que under pavilions
- Large pavilion for bands
- Water feature = waste
- Outdoor shower
- Information boards
- Need shaded seating areas
- Low water drinking fountains for small kids
- History – shipwrecks; where on the racetrack is the park
- Need to have RR
- Need to have kids facilities
- Need a promenade
- More nature
- Art in the park
- Large covered area with seating under it for rain and sun protection
- Is room/space needed for public safety in the park?
- Recognize historical significance – model cars on sand/statutes for kids to climb on
- Pavilion – shade structures area
- Shade
- Volleyball/beach sports
- Games for teens/all ages - like corn-holing
- No playground – beach is playground
- More shade – better
- Interpretative signage
- Headquarters for turtle patrol
- No volley-ball – put on beach, not in park
- Have fire pits, picnic areas, family areas
- Splash park – something for young kids/parents
- Changing rooms
- Restrooms
- Informational/natural/historical signage
- Include foot wash with showers
- No concessions

Design – layout, materials

- Impervious parking/shell (4)
- Don't like asphalt
- Place restrooms to the side – not centered in park

Verbal Comments from *Imagine* Community Meetings

May 10, 2011 & May 11, 2011

- More natural – less urban
- Pedestrian-oriented parking lot
- Provided distributed smaller restrooms
- Put dumpster in southwest corner
- Wood boardwalk – or recycled wood
- Walkways between parking bays
- Roundabout in parking lot
- Design for future expansion to N & S pedestrian promenade
- Showers close to beach
- Wooden promenade
- Children's area/restrooms/showers close together to help parents manage kids
- Condense activities and separate for passive uses
- Porous pavement for drainage & reduce heat – no blacktop (3)
- Minimize asphalt. Use alternate surfaces. Park in Winter Haven as example (3)
- Alternate paving material (crushed shell) (2)
- Shade in parking area
- Lots of shade
- Move dumpster to SW corner
- No asphalt
- Like coquina and modern architecture
- No east boardwalk
- Coquinarock.com – quarry in Ormond Beach – no cut stone
- Sustainable building materials
- Coquina walls
- Coquina/Build old-style with no mortar – less maintenance
- River rock or other impervious (go look at Woodhaven)
- Design to look like a park when empty – not an empty parking lot
- Hard-surface pedestrian path/promenade along beach good for strollers, etc.
- Design/expand to include beach area – volleyball, etc. on beach
- Photovoltaic solar – adds to cost but is appropriate for the park
- Recyclable materials for playground surface
- Green strategies – take green to max – other Cities to follow
- County involvement regarding lessons learned
- Pervious paving

Landscaping

- Native landscaping
- No St. Augustine grass – use native
- Softscape in lieu of concrete for promenade
- No lawn grass – bad for Ocean and beach
- No permanent irrigation

Verbal Comments from *Imagine* Community Meetings

May 10, 2011 & May 11, 2011

- Xeriscape and natural landscape materials
- More native landscape
- Eliminate trees along the beach front
- Too many trees
- More landscaping near water
- Native landscaping (2)
- Emphasize xeriscape – not hard
- No grass – not St. Augustine
- Xeriscape – native plants
- Profuse greenery – not sparse
- Native landscaping

Ormond Beach's Andy Romano Beachfront Park Community Desires Questionnaire

Community Meetings #1 & #2 – May 10 & 11, 2011

The first 3 steps of the design process - discover, imagine and choose – are about engaging the community in the design of the park. Your input is important and will help ensure that the park becomes a new special place in Ormond Beach.

Project Mission Statement

"To create a public beachfront park with beach access and ample off-beach parking to maximize access and enjoyment to all that will provide ocean views and restoration of natural dunes. The park will become a special place in the City, leaving a lasting impression, and will further define Ormond Beach as an exceptional place to live, work and play."

	Top five things that will help make this park a special place.
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Things you like about other beachfront parks that you would like to see here.	Things you don't like about other beachfront parks that you think could be improved on with this design.

Please answer the following:

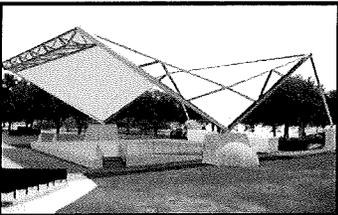
1. The mission statement identifies some specific uses (beach access, parking, ocean views, and restoration of natural dunes) for the park. What else would you like to see?

2. What types of activities (if any), uses, or qualities would you like to see at the park?

<u>Rate how strongly you agree or disagree, on a scale of 1 to 5, with these uses for the park.</u>	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
The following uses were listed in the RFP:					
• Minimum 200 Parking Spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Children’s Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Pedestrian Plaza with covered pavilions	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Dune Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Restroom / Concession area	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Include adjacent Milsap approach into overall design	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Safe pedestrian access from A1A	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Safe ADA-compliant beach access	<input type="checkbox"/>				
More emphasis should be placed on passive than active uses.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The mission statement accurately describes the park we want.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Indicate which architectural style you prefer:

The photos below provide some examples of various architectural styles. Which do you feel will best make Ormond Beach's Andy Romano Beachfront Park a special place?

What architectural style do you prefer for the park?	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida Vernacular – Cracker Style
	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Ormond – Cut Coquina Stone
	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Modern – Contemporary Style
	

Indicate if you have ideas for evaluation criteria to be used to evaluate concepts that the team will present to the Community on July 12?

The project team will summarize input received from community meetings on May 10 and May 11, the website and this questionnaire, and will develop concepts that fulfill the community's desires for the park.

Input from the community will have a strong influence on the various concepts for the park design. These concepts will be brought to the Community to obtain feedback on July 12.

Other factors that will influence the design of the park include things like: on-going cost and the ability to maintain the park in a high-quality manner. As a member of this community, *besides community input*, what do you think are the most important evaluation measures for selecting the best concept for our park?

Please answer the following questions about yourself:

<p>If you are completing this survey on behalf of an organization or stakeholder group, please list the name of the organization at right:</p>	
<p>What are the age range of you and other adults in your household? (check all that apply)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 0-17 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-34 <input type="checkbox"/> 35-54 <input type="checkbox"/> 55-65 <input type="checkbox"/> 65+</p>
<p>If you have children at home, what are their age ranges? (check all that apply)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 0-2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-13 <input type="checkbox"/> 14-18 <input type="checkbox"/> 19+</p>
<p>How will you arrive at the park on most days?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Walk <input type="checkbox"/> Bike <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Bus</p>
<p>How far away do you live from the park?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Within ½ mile <input type="checkbox"/> Between ½ mile and 1 mile <input type="checkbox"/> More than 1 mile <input type="checkbox"/> I don't live in Ormond Beach</p>
<p>How often do you think you would use this park?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Daily <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally</p>
<p>Where do you get most of your information about the Community?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Internet</p>

Leisure Services Advisory Board & Quality of Life Advisory Board

Imagine

5/18/2011

Senior Center - 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called by: City of Ormond Beach **Type of meeting:** Joint Advisory Board Meeting

Consultant Team - Dwight DuRant, Paul Momberger, & Beth Lemke (ZCA Team), Dana Smith (DJ Design)
Ormond Beach Staff - Robert Carolin, Sylvia Frost, John Noble, Paul MacDonald
Attendees: Leisure Services Advisory Board – Scott Edwards, Tim Moore, Andy Romano, Doug Thomas, Lori Tolland,
Doug Wigley, Justin Gates, Pam Connor
Quality of Life Advisory Board – Dr. Philip Shapiro, Betty Smith, Marianne DiFiore, William Masters, Becky Montgomery
Citizens – Frieda Landsman, Alan Burton, Norman Lane, Charles Wilkes

Meeting Summary

The Consultant team (Dwight, Beth, Paul) conducted a PowerPoint presentation on the park. Comments and questions were taken from board members after the presentation. The following comments were received:

- Is car parking allowed on A1A? Response: It is a state roadway and something that would have to be explored with them. Bus parking/loading was also suggested in the community meetings.
- A playground is imperative. Playgrounds offer maximum entertainment for little investment.
- You stated that the information received in the questionnaire is not statistically valid. Use caution in how the information is used.
- There should be a reference or statistics on parking numbers from other beachfront parks that include the amount of usage of the park that can be used to size the parking for this park.
- Pay special attention to the design along A1A – beautification
- Heard something about 200 spaces x 2.5 persons per vehicle = 500 beach goers. Fear that this may overload the beach is not valid because there are a lot of people who will walk on the beach (vs. sit in front of the park). Consider this in parking numbers.
- Purpose of the park is parking. We can have a lot of parking and still have it look nice.
- Don't forget young parents who cannot attend meetings. Not represented at meetings.
- Provide a splash park for kids to rinse off and play in. Make it simple – less elaborate than at South Ormond.
- Beach parking may be eliminated in the future. We need non-commercialized parking.
- Need balance – park and parking
- No traffic zone in front of park is preferred.
- Need to study how much off-beach parking is being provided.
- Should the size of vehicles be limited? Response: No over-sized spaces were anticipated.
- Park was sold to voters as beachfront parking.
- As sections of the beach close to driving, parking will become the issue.
- Parking is important, but needs to be aesthetic.
- Security should be considered. Park hours – will it be open at night? Response: We don't know yet.

The following questions were asked by the audience:

- What are the site restrictions? Seawall? Where is the coastal construction control line? Response: Shown on the concepts. We are currently doing survey. Will this go through the City's site plan review committee? Response: We anticipate following normal procedures for the review and permitting. What is the budget for site improvements? The entire report of dollars spent throughout the project should be transparent. Response: Bond was \$5.0 million and County contribution is \$3.5 million for a total \$8.5 million. The site cost \$5.5 million and with closing costs leaves just under \$3.0 million for site development.
- The attached statement was read by a citizen.

The meeting lasted approximately 1-½ hours.

Meeting Summary - *Imagine* Joint Advisory Board Meeting

May 18, 2011

"A vision for Ormond Beach's Andy Romano Beachfront Park

The city of Ormond Beach has an opportunity to create a beachfront park that is an expression of how special our city is. The park will serve as our southeast gateway to let people know they have arrived in beautiful Ormond Beach.

Most of the beachfront parks in our area are very similar in style; a lot of asphalt-paved parking, some plantings separated by St. Augustine grass, a cracker-style bathhouse, and some picnic tables, showers, and maybe a small playground. It is a functional design, but not inspiring.

While the primary purpose of the park is to provide parking so that people can have safe and convenient access to the beach, there are additional priorities to consider. A statistically valid survey of citizens of Ormond Beach was conducted prior to the bond referendum. As part of that survey, people were asked to rank how important certain features were to them. The three highest ranked items were:

- Protect natural areas
- preserve scenic views of the Atlantic Ocean
- restore the natural sand dunes

The referendum and all the legal language about the park have reflected these priorities.

It has been proposed to interpret "dune restoration" as simply using plants and other means to encourage sand to build up on the east side of the seawall. Certainly this is a very good idea, and will add to the beauty and functionality of the park. But a small dune east of the seawall will be very vulnerable erosion in even moderate storms. Why not set aside a portion of the park where we could extend that dune right over the seawall and all the way to A1A, the way it was before the hotels arrived? It would be covered with natural dune vegetation to stabilize the sand. An elevated walkway with small turnouts could wind through the area, giving people a view of the habitat as well as the ocean. Just imagine the excitement of kids when they spy an ancient gopher tortoise emerging from its burrow! Many people have never seen the beautiful, natural dune habitat even though it once covered our entire coastline.

An area of approximately one acre could be devoted to this dune and still leave sufficient space for the other amenities that we all want, including a bath house, picnic pavilions, showers, and parking equal to or greater than any other beachfront park in Volusia County. More parking than that would overload the beach in that area and force people to walk way down the beach to find a place to put their towel down.

The rest of the park can also be a model for sustainable development. Using native plants, we can greatly reduce the use of water and maintenance. A shell surface for the parking area will make the whole park cooler and more pleasant, especially when walking with bare feet. At the same time, it will improve water retention and make it easier for plants to grow.

There are many successful shell parking areas nearby, especially in New Smyrna Beach. One notable design is the Winter Haven Park in Ponce Inlet. There, the main traffic areas are paved to minimize damage from heavy traffic, but the parking areas are shell. This also serves to help keep parking organized, which can be a problem in unmarked parking lots. In that park, grass has grown in the parking areas, further stabilizing the shell and making it nicer to walk on.

All of these elements can make our park a valuable resource for education. People want to use water wise landscaping, but many do not know how. Our park could be a living example. And the dune area could be utilized by schools for studying the natural dune habitat.

This park alone cannot satisfy our area's need for off-beach parking. We need to install multiple parks along the beach, spreading people out rather than concentrating too many in one spot. But it is unlikely that we will build another park as large as this one. If we are ever to have a real park on the beach as opposed to a parking lot, it will have to be this one. Please make our park special.

Norman Lane"