

**MINUTES
CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

March 6, 2014

6:00 PM

**City of Ormond Beach
Training Room
22 South Beach Street
Ormond Beach, Florida**

1) Call to Order

Dr. Shapiro called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present were: Debbie Berner, Dr. Daniel Drake, Brian Nave, Kathy Page, Dr. Philip Shapiro and Betty Smith. Excused were Julianne Blanford, William Masters and Troy Railsback. Absent was Dr. Gerald Woodard.

Others present were: Leisure Services Director Robert Carolin, Recording Secretary Shá Moss.

2) Approval of Minutes – January 2, 2014

Corrections were made to pages 4 and 5.

Ms. Berner moved seconded by Dr. Drake to accept the minutes of the January 2, 2014 meeting, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Discussion Items

a. Concept of Creating a Poet Laureate Post for the City of Ormond Beach

Dr. Shapiro stated there was a Poet Laureate in the State until 2012, but that person has passed away. About 10 to 12 states have a Poet Laureate as well as the US Congress. There were some questions regarding the request such as political and/or ideological themes and noted the City was a non-partisan municipal government. He noted the City was not lacking in cultural or literary venues.

Dr. Shapiro asked if the Board decides to support the idea, he would recommend a 6 month trial basis and he would suggest the Board review the documents before they went to the Commission for approval.

Ms. Berner asked who wrote the proposal.

Mr. Carolin stated the information was from the Tomoka Poet group. The request went to the City Manager and she asked that the Board review it before it went to the Commission. He noted this was probably a sample document.

Freddie Booth, Poet Laureate, described what a poem was. He stated several cities in the state have a poet laureate. The Poet Laureate for Ormond Beach job would be to go out into the community and assist in the education and the furthering of the arts.

Mr. Nave stated he had political concerns as well and asked whether Mr. Booth would be writing the poems or just reading other's poems.

Mr. Booth stated he would not be the poet laureate. He stated that person could go to the different schools and libraries and start programs to teach literacy and art. He noted he was frustrated by not being able to start the program and this would not be an expense to the City.

Dr. Shapiro asked why it needed to be City sponsored.

Mr. Booth stated it would bring more businesses and tourist to the area.

Dr. Shapiro stated there are groups, such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society that bring money into the community through its activities, and they are not sponsored by the City. He wanted to know why the poet laureate needed to be City sponsored and noted the Board would have accountability to what was sent to the Commission.

Mr. Booth did not have an answer as to why it needed to be City sponsored. He stated he needed the City's financial support to put on programs at some venues.

Dr. Shapiro asked whether the main purpose for bringing it to the City was to avoid the fees.

Mr. Booth agreed and stated being sponsored by the City could make it easier to get into schools.

Ms. Smith stated they recently had a career event at her school wherein anyone could attend and it would have been a perfect opportunity for this cause. She asked what the poet laureate would do in the classrooms.

Mr. Booth stated depending on the grade level, that person could assist the teacher teaching the students about poetry.

Ms. Smith stated she would like Mr. Booth to visit her classroom.

Dr. Shapiro stated it was a noble endeavor but did not think it needed to be City sponsored.

Mr. Nave agreed that the Board needed to pass on the idea.

Mr. Nave moved, seconded by Ms. Page that the Quality of Life Advisory Board has decided to pass on the opportunity to have a Poet Laureate sponsored by the City.

Ms. Berner stated it would be good to have more information on how a Poet Laureate affects other areas for possible reconsideration. She asked the Tomoka Poet group to provide activities and results information in the future for the Board to review.

Mr. Nave revised his motion.

Mr. Nave moved, seconded by Ms. Page that the Quality of Life Advisory Board will take no action until we receive more information on how a Poet Laureate would benefit the City and how the City would be held safe from political and ideological input. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Shapiro thanked the Tomoka Poet group and agreed that the Board needed more information regarding the scope and content of how it would be constructed under the City.

4) Member Comments

Weekly Report

Dr. Shapiro thanked staff for sending the Weekly Reports and asked that they continue to be emailed.

Soccer

Mr. Nave stated his children have been involved in the City's soccer program for several years and noticed that the prices have continue to increase and wondered where the money was going. He recently attended a meeting noticed that the group was now taking a salary and the some of the monies were also being put into the competitive soccer program. He felt the competitive program should support itself and not use the funding from the recreation league. He asked whether the Board should get involved.

Mr. Carolin stated that would be an issue for the Leisure Services Advisory Board to review. He would bring that information to them for discussion. He noted there have been some recent changes with the soccer programs.

Mr. Nave noted if the fees were lower, more kids would probably participate.

Mr. Carolin stated he would speak with the Legal Department about the fees and the lease agreement.

Upcoming Meetings

Dr. Shapiro stated the Community Development Block Grant and Capital Improvement Program funding will be coming before the Board in the next few months and asked the Board to please be available to attend those meetings.

5) Adjournment – Next Meeting – April 3, 2014

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shá Moss, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Dr. Philip J. Shapiro, Chairman