

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

November 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, Julianne Blanford, Kathy Page, Troy Railsback, Dr. Philip Shapiro and Betty Smith. Excused were William Masters and Brian Nave.

Others present were: Leisure Services Director Robert Carolin, City Engineer John Nobel and Recording Secretary Shá Moss.

Dr. Shapiro introduced City Engineer John Nobel and Mark Dowst.

2) Approval of Minutes – August 7, 2014

Corrections were made to the minutes by Dr. Shapiro and Ms. Berner.

Ms. Berner moved seconded by Mr. Railsback to accept the minutes of the August 7, 2014 meeting, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Discussion Items

City Engineer John Noble stated several years the City Commission expressed a desire to see an Environmental Learning Center developed within the City and the City Manager directed the Engineering Department to move forward with the development of the Center. A preliminary design plan was presented to the Commission at a workshop a couple years ago with several options, and identified ECHO as grant funding. Cost estimates were presented with total costs of about \$800,000. The ECHO grant was approved at \$400,000 and Mark Dowst & Associates has worked at the final design. The building should be complete around the end of next year.

a. Ormond Beach's Environmental Learning Center

Mark Dowst of Mark Dowst & Associates, Inc., introduced himself and gave a power point presentation.

Agenda

1. Who Are We?
2. What is the Project?
3. Where is the Project?
4. What is the project Approach?
5. What does the Community Want?

Who Are We?

Mark Dowst & Associates, Inc

- Established in 1986
- 28 Years of Experience
 - Engineering
 - Planning & Surveying
 - Landscape Design
- Experience
 - Rockefeller Gardens
 - Granada Beach Approach
 - Ormond Downtown Streetscape
 - Ormond Police Department
 - Ormond Harley Davidson
 - Raydon Corporation
 - Florida Hospital
 - Hard Rock Hotel
 - New Smyrna Beach Marina

What is the Project?

Mission Statement – The City of Ormond Beach's Environmental Learning Center mission is to foster an awareness and appreciation of the natural environment by providing stimulating environmental education programs that inspire participants to be active stewards of their surrounding natural resources.

Where is the Project?

- Central Park on Division Avenue

Why Central Park?

- 149 Total Acres
- 75 Acres of connected lakes
- 3 miles of multi-use trails
- 8 wooden scenic overlooks
- Recreation Activities
 - Fishing
 - Canoeing

Picnicking
Walking
Tennis Court
Basketball Court
Playgrounds
Fitness Stations

Existing Site Features

- Centrally located within Central Park
- Sweeping views of entire lake
- Native vegetation and natural buffers
- Retention pond for stormwater
- Sidewalk connectivity to Trail System

Architectural style is an Old Florida Cracker Architecture, as selected by the City Commission on November 13, 2012. There is a conceptual floor plan outlined.

What is the Project Approach?

- To utilize cost effective green building and low impact design principles

What is the Project Approach?

Educational programming will focus on:
Central Park history
Ecosystems
Natural environment

What does the Community Want?

We would like your ideas to help us develop educational programming.
What would you like to see and/or do during a visit to the Environmental Learning Center?

The Public Participation Questionnaire is attached to the minutes.

Dr. Shapiro asked what type of material the structure would be made of.

Mr. Dowst stated it would have a metal roof, a wooden pier, but the final material for the structure has not been determined. He noted the structure is being designed to be low maintenance.

Dr. Shapiro asked about the canoe launches and where they would be.

Mr. Dowst stated the area was selected because of the water on both sides, and there will be a parking area up front to accommodate cars as well as one school bus. He pointed out the area for the canoe launch.

Mr. Noble stated the canoe launch would be ADA accessible.

Mr. Carolin stated his goal would be to have a group of volunteers to work the facility. His hope is to not have to use City staff. A Request For Proposals will go out for someone that will rent kayaks, canoes and paddleboards and also manage the opening and closing of the building. The group of volunteers would help with offering programs for children and adults. Staff will be available for special events and the City is bound by ECHO to have four events for the first year and add one every year thereafter so that there is an event every month. The events could be centered around events like Earth Day for example. Mr. Carolin stated the goal is to figure out what the community envisions for the Center. He noted there is currently an Enviro-Camp during the summer at The Casements and it is hoped that it will move to the Center. The questionnaire will help figure out what is desired at the facility.

Mr. Railsback asked whether there would be a fee schedule for using the facility.

Mr. Carolin stated they have not made any decisions regarding a fee schedule. He noted it is common because of materials to have a fee for programs and rentals. The vendor will have to have knowledge about the ecosystem for the State of Florida and knowledge about the amenities in Central Park. Mr. Carolin noted throughout Central Park there were now tree identification markers from working with the students at Pine Trail Elementary School. An arborist also worked with the students and the City created identification markers for the trees. The students also identified some birds and there are identification markers for them as well. Looking and identifying the different trees and birds was an example of a self-guided tour. There would be brochures available showing the markers.

Ms. Page asked about the fitness station.

Mr. Carolin stated that there were fitness stations at Central Park 1 and 4. He noted that they were exercise stations that should give you a workout as you go through the park.

Dr. Shapiro stated in the questionnaire where it asks "How often do you think you would use this center?" there wasn't a place to answer that they would not use the Center. There needed to be a place for "Seldom" or "Not at All".

Ms. Smith asked whether you would be able to rent out the facility to use as a place for banquets or family gatherings.

Mr. Carolin stated it was not really designed for that type of activity. He didn't want to have a building and it not be used for the original purpose. He noted there was not going to be a kitchen preparation area. The most that would be offered would be light snacks and water.

Ms. Blanford stated her husband that was an environmental scientist and would be willing to help out especially with the fishing guides. There could also be a class for

stay at home moms during the day. Maybe there could be a class to help property owners understand the environment.

Mr. Carolin stated that the surrounding community environmental centers are willing to assist with the classes and one of the centers offered the use of telescopes. He also mentioned that the City's Community Garden will be starting soon.

Mr. Noble stated they would also be in contact with the schools to see what type of projects they are looking for, for the students. He noted the questionnaire is also on the website and the Community Meeting was scheduled for November 12 at The Casements.

Dr. Shapiro stated the Board has been in support of the concept of an Environmental Learning Center for several years.

Ms. Smith stated she could let the teachers at Tomoka Elementary School know about the project and questionnaire.

Ms. Blanford stated she is willing to pass out the questionnaire to the teachers she knows as well. She asked if there were any incentives for the volunteers and whether more staff would be needed.

Mr. Carolin stated that he does not plan to hire more staff to run the facility and desires it to be staffed by volunteer like at The Casements. Their incentive would be to share something that the love such as their knowledge of the environment.

Ms. Blanford stated that there could be some type of sponsorship for advertisers involved in the environment.

Mr. Carolin stated that was a good idea for the pamphlets.

4) Member Comments

Board Service

Dr. Shapiro thanked the Board members for their service throughout the year and hope that everyone signed up again for next year.

Movies

Mr. Carolin stated they were showing the Happy Feet movie at The Casements tomorrow evening.

Art in Public Places

Mr. Carolin stated Commissioner Stowers was interested in revisiting Art in Public Places.

Board Duties

Mr. Carolin stated that he has been commissioned by Ms. Shanahan to work with the other departments to bring more information to the Board for review. He stated that those projects would probably be in the beginning stages, but the Board would have more input.

Board Service

Ms. Smith stated that she enjoyed serving on the Board but would not be able to continue to serve next year.

5) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shá Moss, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Dr. Philip J. Shapiro, Chairman



ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please take a moment to complete this questionnaire as your input is important and will assist with design and program development.

The Project Mission Statement:

"The City of Ormond Beach's Environmental Learning Center mission is to foster an awareness and appreciation of the natural environment by providing stimulating environmental education programs that inspire participants to be active stewards of their surrounding natural resources".

Top Five Educational Programming Interests	
	(Example - Plant Identification)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Top Five Activity/ Use Interests	
	(Example - Canoeing)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Rate how strongly you agree or disagree with these educational programming categories and/or user groups. Place a check mark in the desired column	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Scout Programs					
2. Homeschool Programs					
3. Adult Programs					
4. Teen Programs					
5. Young Adult Programs					
6. Preschool Programs					
7. Hands-On-Learning					
8. Guided Tours					
9. Self Guided Tours					
10. Wildlife Education					
11. Guest Speaker Series					
12. Special Events					
13. School Field Trips					
14. Green Programs					
15. Other Suggestions:					

What types of activities uses, programs or qualities **DON'T** you like about other Environmental Learning Centers that you think could be improved upon?

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 the right.</p>	<p>_____</p>												
<p>What are the age range of you and other adults in your household? (check all that apply) Total # of Adults = _____</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>18-24</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>25-34</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>35-44</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>45-54</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>55-64</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>65+</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-34	<input type="checkbox"/>	35-44	<input type="checkbox"/>	45-54	<input type="checkbox"/>	55-64	<input type="checkbox"/>	65+
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<p>If you have children at home, what are their age ranges? (check all that apply) Total # of Children = _____</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>0-2</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>3-6</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>7-10</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>11-14</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>15-17</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3-6	<input type="checkbox"/>	7-10	<input type="checkbox"/>	11-14	<input type="checkbox"/>	15-17		
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<p>How will you arrive at the center on most days?</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Walk</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Bike</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Car</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Bus</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bike	<input type="checkbox"/>	Car	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bus				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walk												
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<p>How far away do you live from the center?</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Within 1/2 mile</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Between 1/2 mile and 1 mile</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>More than 1 mile</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>I don't live in Ormond Beach</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within 1/2 mile	<input type="checkbox"/>	Between 1/2 mile and 1 mile	<input type="checkbox"/>	More than 1 mile	<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't live in Ormond Beach				
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<input type="checkbox"/>	More than 1 mile												
<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't live in Ormond Beach												
<p>How often do you think you would use this center?</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Weekly</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Monthly</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Occasionally</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Daily	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Occasionally				
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly												
<input type="checkbox"/>	Occasionally												

Thank you for participating. Your comments and opinions will be used to shape the future of Ormond's Environmental Learning Center.

All forms must be received by **January 1, 2015**. Forms to be returned as follows:

- Hand in at today's community meeting.
- Mail to: City of Ormond Beach, 22 South Beach Street, Ormond Beach, Florida 32174
- Bring to City Hall - Engineering Division: 22 South Beach Street, Ormond Beach, Florida
- Email to: cculliver@mdaeng.com