

MINUTES

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE/
530 CRANDON BOULEVARD WORKSHOP
KEY BISCAWAYNE, FLORIDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBER

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:00 p.m. Present were Councilmembers Enrique Garcia, Robert Gusman, Michael E. Kelly, Jorge E. Mendia, Thomas Thornton, Vice Mayor Michael Davey and Mayor Robert L. Vernon. Also present were Village Manager Genaro "Chip" Iglesias, Village Clerk Conchita H. Alvarez and Village Attorney Chad Friedman.

Mr. Richard E. Durr, Jr. ASLA, AICP with IBI Group made a presentation to Council regarding Recreation and Open Space and 530 Crandon Boulevard.

The Manager addressed the Council regarding the Park and Open Space recommendations prepared by the consultant, IBI Group. The following summarizes their recommendations: 1. Address the park deficiency in the Master Plan by including an accurate accounting of all recreation lands in the Village, including the beach; 2. Safeguard the quality of life on the Key by maintaining the current development standards and density restrictions; 3. Improve 530 Crandon Boulevard as a combined active and passive park; 4. Acquire property as opportunities arise in the future and dedicate it toward green space; 5. Improve Calusa Park to include: a. A large open space along with other improvements that are consistent with the Crandon Park Master Plan and b. A pathway from Harbor Drive to Calusa Park on an existing easement between the 7-11 Shopping Center and St. Agnes

Catholic Church and 6. Discuss with the Virginia Key Beach Trust of entering into a cooperative agreement to utilize the “great lawn” for ballfields.

The following residents addressed the Council: Dr. Robert L. Maggs, 155 Ocean Lane Drive; Angel Martin, 151 Crandon Boulevard; Charles Viscito, 141 Crandon Boulevard; Ed Meyer, 798 Crandon Boulevard; Mortimer Fried, 291 Harbor Court and Ed Stone, 145 Hampton Lane.

There was extensive discussion from Council regarding the different possible uses for this property.

Should the Council wish to proceed, the next step is to consider the adoption of the report at a subsequent meeting. At that point, there are five separate actions that would follow along different time frames: 1. Set a public hearing to formally consider the use and a site plan for 530 Crandon Boulevard; 2. Amend the Master Plan to reflect how the Village will meet the concurrency requirement for Recreation and Open Space. This would occur when the Council holds public hearings on the amendments to the Master Plan that were recommended in the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR); 3. Address the acquisition of land issue and amend the Capital Budget/Plan, if needed; 4. Include requirement improvements to Calusa Park in the FY10 Budget and Capital Plan and possible additional improvements and 5. Formally consider alternative sites for additional playing fields.

It was the consensus of Council to hold a public hearing on November 10, 2009 on the use of the property as a public park.

It was also the consensus of Council to direct staff to aggressively look for a place to store all the equipment used by the Public Works Department.

The Council also addressed the concurrency requirement for Recreation and Open Space. There was extensive discussion from Council on this issue.

The Attorney addressed the Council regarding the potential consequences of not meeting the State concurrency requirement for Recreation and Open Space.

It was the consensus of Council to schedule a workshop in January or February of 2010 regarding the concurrency requirement for Recreation and Open Space.

At this time the Council discussed the proposed improvements to Calusa Park. Staff was directed to provide the proposed improvements to Calusa Park to the Councilmembers via e-mail.

Mayor Vernon requested to add an agenda item to the November 10, 2009 Council Meeting regarding Calusa Park Improvements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Conchita H. Alvarez, MMC
Village Clerk*

Approved this 27th day of October, 2009:

*Robert L. Vernon
Mayor*

IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT A MEETING OR HEARING, THAT PERSON WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND, FOR SUCH PURPOSE, MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.