

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING TO APPOINT THE BAY PARK
FOCUS GROUP FOR THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBER
AT CITY HALL, January 22, 2013, at 5:00 P.M.**

The following were present: Mayor Magidson, Commissioners Buzzett, McCroan, Patterson and Kennedy. City Manager Jim Anderson and City Clerk Charlotte Pierce were also present. Attorney Tom Gibson was absent.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to discuss the Bay Park Focus Group. This Committee will be appointed and approved by the City Commission; they will be tasked to come up with a plan for the area of Core Park and the environs. Mayor Magidson noted that there is no intent to change the name from Core Park.

Mayor Magidson stressed that the public would have an opportunity for input and will not be kept in the dark. He also emphasized that all stakeholders in the project will be given a voice and workshops will continue to be held on this project.

The list of names was given to the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Association for their review and approval of the Bay Park Focus Group. Mayor Magidson asked if the PSJRA had approved the proposed committee members and Ms. Alsobrook responded, "Not specifically the names but in theory the Focus Group." Ms. Alsobrook stressed that nothing had been done in the dark, meetings have been held with City staff and discussion has been held with various individuals in the community. By contract, the PSJRA is required to have two public meetings and the Focus Group is invited to attend the second workshop on January 31, 2013.

Commissioner Buzzett felt that we should have a formal focus group, appointed by the City Commission to work with the consulting group and the PSJRA. He also expressed that the Commission should have a representative on the focus group. Commissioner Kennedy was asked to serve on the focus group and he agreed to serve.

Bo Spring, a PSJRA Director, stated that the names were not voted on by their committee. The PSJRA Board felt that they were the focus group as they were appointed to these positions to make these decisions, their meetings are always open to the public and special invitations have been extended specifically for this project. A consulting group has been retained to work with the PSJRA and a concern was how many times the general public would have opportunity for input as the consulting group would be continually accepting input. There are two public workshops scheduled and everyone is invited to attend. The Committee felt that a special focus group is above and beyond what the PSJRA is already spending time doing and it was another layer of bureaucracy. The PSJRA welcomes the comments of the public but there was some confusion as to what specifically the authority of the special focus group would be in relation to the PSJRA.

Mayor Magidson shared that the Commission did not feel that this was another layer of bureaucracy as they do not look at it that way. The public stakeholders have input. This is not to usurp the PSJRA's job but to give our stakeholders some say in the project. We are not trying to slow the process down but make it more inclusive. The park should be something that we can be proud of, afford and maintain. It should be a magnet for people to come to our town and help our economy. We have a responsibility to the citizens of this City who own the property to be good stewards of it.

Commissioner McCroan stated that he agreed with what Mayor Magidson had said.

Commissioner Buzzett shared that, "It was almost like the PSJRA has endorsed what the consulting group has done in its entirety. If we try to change it, then it is in conflict with the contract you have with them. It appears almost like you do not want us to change anything that is in here." Commissioner Buzzett asked if he was wrong in this and Mr. Spring replied "Yes." He questioned if we could add or subtract; he is looking at this as a great start but there are a few things that he does not particularly think would work. He would like to see the plan used as a road map.

Commissioner Kennedy stated that he was extremely upset at the last Workshop as the Commission was never presented what this plan was before it was on paper, not even in concept, or theory until the presentation. He noted that he did not appreciate that and he was only one Commissioner. He shared that he has a lot personally at stake in the park and he wants to keep the park as natural as possible. We are in dire need of boat trailer parking, there is no plan for that and it should be a priority for the Commission.

Ms. Alsobrook noted that she had sent e-mails to each Commissioner inviting them to attend the first meeting where some things were presented. She also offered to meet individually with anyone who requested it and no one asked for additional meetings.

Commissioner Kennedy expressed that the PSJRA should come to the Commission in a public meeting rather than the Commission go to the PSJRA.

Mayor Magidson did not have a problem with them starting to work on something like this so long as the City is going to put their eyes on it at some time.

Mr. Anderson reminded the Commission that the first focal point is to get the lighthouse moved to the City. It will be necessary to raise the funds and get the move accomplished as soon as possible.

Mayor Magidson noted that the lighthouse is a totally separate issue and is the responsibility of the City not the PSJRA.

Christy McElroy was asked to share the presentation that she made earlier today to the Gulf County Commissioners about her position on the park. Ms. McElroy stated, "It was a beautiful asset that we have, it is one of the few places that we have that beautiful Maddox Historic Building and it is one of the few places that you can go and park and enjoy nature at its finest. I believe that there are enhancements that need to be made to the area. We need to make sure that we are keeping our historical buildings up to snuff, we have a Centennial Building, the Maddox Building, if we get a lighthouse we need to make sure that we are able to take care of our assets." Her concern is that by adding more structures are we going to be able to take care of those structures.

Ms. Alsobrook asked how we were going to set this up.

Commissioner Buzzett responded that in his mind, it is basically to make sure that we have a good mix of people to give public input. They are to talk to people, it is not just their ideas but they talk to people in the community. This is a very long term plan unless we receive major money for the project.

Mayor Magidson shared that his idea of a focus group is a group that you present things to and get their impression of what you are presenting. The PSJRA will still come up with the plans, present them to the focus group to see how they feel about them and they will give you their thoughts to help you refine your plans to be presented to the City and to roll out to the public.

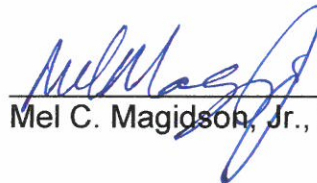
The facilitator will be decided by the group. The PSJRA has been tasked to come up with a plan and the focus group needs to be available to review that plan. They are not to make policy, the Commissioners are responsible for that.

Dr. Tim Nelson addressed the Commission and felt that planners should have some input from the community before they start determining what the community wants. Community input is critical. This little park needs to be incorporate into the big time plans and parameters need to be established. Crossing Highway 98 is an issue that needs attention if our guests are going to visit the waterfront.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Buzzett, second by Commissioner Patterson, for the following individuals to serve on the Bay Park Focus Group: Dewey Blaylock, Joanna Bryan, Lois Byrd, Lorinda Gingell, Jennifer Jenkins, Christy McElroy, Steve Newman, Charlotte Pierce, Danny Raffield, Ralph Rish, Barry Sellers, Clay Smallwood, Jr., and Trish Warriner. Commissioner Bill Kennedy will represent the City Commission on the Committee. All in Favor; Motion carried 5-0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, second by Commissioner McCroan, to adjourn the Meeting at 5:49 P.M.

Approved this 5th day of February 2013.



Mel C. Magidson, Jr., Mayor



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk